

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor - Richard D. Rudnik
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President - Mike Cape
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Church Secretary - Lorie Souther
secretary@gracehouma.org
Accompanist - David West

Today

Service Elder - John Wegner
Scripture Reader - Debra Shevlin
Offering Stewards - Lisa Giroir
Altar Guild -Pastor Rich & Bridgette

Next Sunday

Joey Souther
Bonnie Dupre
Lisa Giroir
Mary Lou & Lorie

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

Welcome to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

Altar Flowers are placed today to the glory of God by Stacie Bauman in remembrance of her daughter Kamber Triche on what would have been her birthday today.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus our Savior, in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "*Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.*"

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with pastor.

Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.

Introit

Psalm 22:27-31; antiphon: v. 22

Pastor: I will tell of your name to my brothers;

People: in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Pastor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

People: and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

Pastor: For kingship belongs to the Lord,

People: and he rules over the nations.

Pastor: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

People: before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

Pastor: Posterity shall serve him;

People: it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

Pastor: they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,

People: that he has done it.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

People: and to the Holy Spirit;

Pastor: as it was in the beginning,

People: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: I will tell of your name to my brothers;

People: in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON SERIES...
Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to a series of interviews with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, author of the new book "Finally Free: Three Lessons in the Parable of the Prodigal Son" at issuesetc.org/prodigalson.

Divine Service

Fourth Setting

Lutheran Service Book, Page 203

Pre-Service Music

1. Opening Hymn	# 839
2. Confession and Absolution	p. 203
3. Introit	Bulletin
4. Kyrie	p. 204
5. Gloria In Excelsis	p. 204
6. Salutation	p. 205
7. Collect of the Day	Bulletin
8. Old Testament	Bulletin
9. Epistle Reading	Bulletin
10. Alleluia and Verse	p. 205
11. Glory to You, O Lord.	p. 206
12. Holy Gospel	Bulletin
13. Praise to You, O Christ	p. 206
14. Apostles' Creed	p. 207
15. The Word for Children	
16. Sermon Hymn	# 688
17. Sermon	
18. Meditation	
19. Prayer of the Church	p. 207
Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy;	
People: hear our prayer.	
20. Preface	p. 208
21. Sanctus	p. 208
22. Prayer of Thanksgiving	p. 209
23. The Lord's Prayer	p. 209
24. The Words of Our Lord	p. 209
25. Pax Domini	p. 209
26. Agnus Dei	p. 210
27. Communion	
28. Distribution Hymn	# 836
Distribution Hymn	# 825
Distribution Hymn	# 601
29. Nunc Dimittis	p. 211
30. Post Communion Collect	p. 212
31. Benediction	p. 212
32. Closing Hymn	# 849

Postlude

Offering boxes are on each side of the doors exiting the sanctuary.

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:1–4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12–25

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

QUESTION: How can we be sure the biblical accounts of Jesus' death are accurate? I understand the books of the Bible were used for basis of fact for the movie, "The Passion."

If so, were not they taken from the biblical author's best recollections "decades" after the event? Even if these recollections were the "inspired" word of God, how then do we know for sure these biblical accounts were not "skewed" because of the author's cultural/spiritual prejudices of his time or simply subject to error because of the length of time after the fact?

ANSWER: First, it is important to recognize that belief in the Scriptures as God's Word and the certain conviction that they do not lie to us come to an individual only when the Holy Spirit works in that person's heart as a result of faith in Jesus Christ created through the Gospel.

No amount of reasonable, historical arguments — however helpful they may be — will ultimately convince anyone of the truth of the scriptural writings.

Skeptics, whatever their intellectual or personal presuppositions may be, will never be convinced on the basis of reason. We need to remember that in Jesus' time even the religious authorities, who always sought "signs" to prove everything, would not be convinced even "if someone should rise from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

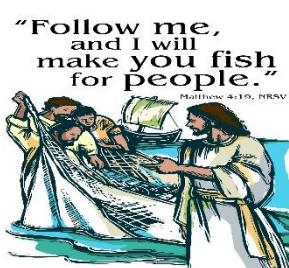
This being said, anyone who has carefully looked at the history of the biblical canon will quickly discover that the biblical writings were not mere "recollections" that came into being decades after the events recorded in the sacred text.

Those who want to disparage the Bible have long used this argument, which is easily discounted even with casual familiarity with the way the biblical writers approached their task. Take for example, the first four verses of Luke's Gospel. They reveal a careful and meticulous historian at work.

It will always be mystifying to Christians why the skeptics among us are far more ready to accept as historical other ancient documents, the texts of which date centuries — not mere years — from the date of their purported happening.

All this said, however, in the end the conviction that the Bible is God's truthful Word is a faith — conviction arrived at apart from merely intellectual endeavor.

From the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod website



This Week at Grace

Today	9:00 a.m. Worship Coffee & LWML Baked Goods 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
Monday	6:00 p.m. Bible Study
Wednesday	1:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Potluck Fellowship 6:45 p.m. Prayer & Praise
Saturday	2:00 p.m. New Member's Class

For the week January 25 - 31, 2026

Birthday
01/26 Tom Kinsella

Baptismal Anniversaries
01/26 Pastor Rich Rudnik
01/28 Jerrie Fitzgerald

In the palm of God's Hands...

PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS: Josephine Hebert, Juanita Blanchard and Sofie Arceneaux.

BATTLING CANCER: Charlene Shroyer.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Betty Hummel, Connie Oswalt, Donna Bass, Donna Von Burgsdorff, Elroy Ledet, Frank Alessio, Harla Lemmerman, James Hillman, Jackie Webb, Jim Lemmerman, John Partain, John Wegner, Kim Cape, Marilyn Beach, Mike Wallace, Richard LaCour and Toni St. Amant.



MOURNING A LOSS: The family of Tommy Hebert.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Karoline and Khyler Anthony, Nikki and baby Boudreax and Sierra and baby Thalheim.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Haize Shroyer, Jason Reid-O'Neill, Jaxx Dardar, Julia Shroyer, Kyle Turcott, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Noah Scheufens.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alyssah Kinsella, Jonathan Dahl, Nicholas Scott, Niyah Shroyer, Victoria (Shroyer) Alcantara and Victoria Thalheim.

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Grace's Mission

Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness, Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship