

The Pipeliner Newsletter of
Grace Lutheran Church
422 Valhi Blvd.
Houma, LA 70360
Pastor Rich Rudnik
Phone: 985-879-1865
Email:
Pastor@gracehouma.org
www.gracehouma.org

Grace To Go



Our church building held up well during the rare Louisiana blizzard. We were blessed to not have any damage or busted water pipes. Thanks be to God!

Lord Over the Broken

With the Hurricane Ida reconstruction and litigation behind us, I was really looking forward to a fresh start in 2025 and getting back to a normal pastoral routine. Three weeks in we were hit by a historic snowstorm that destroyed the routine for a whole week! So much for getting back to normal.

After much teaching and making wonderful promises the night before His crucifixion Jesus tells His followers, *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”* And then Jesus begins to pray.

This world is broken by sin. Putting your hope in it all working out wonderfully is a fool’s errand. Our snowstorm punctuated that for me. Yet even in that disruptive meteorological event, God’s hand was evident in the power and beauty therein. He blessed us also with good times and memories and keeping us safe. The world is broken, but God is always good.

If you find yourself getting exasperated and disillusioned with the world, look away from the world. It is broken. Look to the Savior who was broken for you, but now reigns in triumph over the broken world. While the world will always frustrate and disappoint, the Savior is bringing you through it all to paradise.

Go to Him. Pray to Him. Ponder Him. Know that as you turn back to face the world His words stand true. *“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

(Bible references: John 16:33, Matthew 28:20)

Lectionary Readings:

February 2, 2025 —(White) Purification of Mary	Samuel 1:21-28; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-32
February 9, 2025—(Green) 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20; Luke 5:1-11
February 16, 2025—(Green) 6 th Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
February 23, 2025 —(Green) 7 th Sunday after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-15; 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-38

2025 Board of Directors

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Treasurer: Jeannie Thalheim

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March 2025 Newsletter articles should be turned in to the church office by Thursday, February 20th. You may email these to secretary@gracehouma.org

GLC BULLET NEW & NOTES

Bible study is at 6pm on Mondays in the conference room

Bible study is at 1:00pm on Tuesdays in the conference room

6pm Wednesday Night Prayer & Praise devotions are based on hard sayings in the Bible.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Luther excised many prayers from the mass which he felt exuded works-righteousness. This prayer recalls all of Christ's works for our salvation and begs Him to bless, forgive, deliver and preserve us in the Sacrament of the Altar and bring together with all saints into the Church Triumphant.

"Christ's Life, and Love, and Light"

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would "Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height."

Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

In the palm of God's Hands...

PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS: Elijah Thalheim, Ike McDavitt, Rana DaSilva and Richard Hauser.

BATTLING CANCER: Annick George Matherne, Eldon Authement, Helen Duplantis, Isla Granger, Jenny Ford, Lance Griffin, Laura Robson and Michael Hamilton.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY/INJURY: Brigitte Kinsella, Donna Elke, Jacqui Kaplan and Kim Cape.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Connie Oswalt, DeAnn Barrios, Elaine Waswick, Ellen DeSoto, Frank Alessio, Gloria Ashley, Jackie Webb, James Hillman, Jaxon Greene, Joe Deane, John Wegner, Kim Cape, Lyle Souther, Marilyn Beach, Mary Jane Schouest, Mike Wallace, Patsy Wegner, Rhonda Roan, Richard LaCour, and Toni St. Amant

MOURNING A LOSS: The families of Betty Melancon, Rev. David Green andfreen and Sue Ackett

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Allyssa Andrews & Owen

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Avery St. Amant, Chandler Crawford, Haily Crawford, Haize Shroyer, Jason Reid-O'neill, Julia Shroyer, Justin Scherf, Katie Cahill, Kyle Turcott, Lei'Lyn Hebert, Noah Scheufens, and Todd Mueller.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alyssah Kinsella, Donovan Domangue, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Norman, Jacob Harding, Nicholas Scott, Peyton Kraus, Shelby Giroir and Victoria Thalheim.

Grace's Mission

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