



GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021
8:30 a.m.**

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

In Numbers the people of God have grown impatient with wilderness wandering. In judgement God sends poisonous serpents in their midst. This judgement turns out to also be their healing. Moses lifts up a bronze serpent and those who look upon it live. In facing what they are most afraid of they find healing. From there we hear the familiar words of John chapter 3. When Jesus is lifted on the cross for all to see, humanity comes face to face with all the forces of sin and death and all that we are most afraid of. If we do not look away, we will see that Jesus has transformed this instrument of death into the very means of life. From the throne of the cross the judge of the cosmos does not condemn but offers himself as salvation for all. Those who look upon it live.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: *Christe, aller Welt Trost*, BWV 670
Christ, all the world's consolation

Johann Sebastian Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit

that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,

and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you

and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,

things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.



(L) Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris-te e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son.



Ky - ri - e! God, Fa - ther in heav'n a - bove,



you a - bound in gra - cious love, of all things the mak - er



and pre - serv - er. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!



Ky - ri - e! O Christ, our king, sal - va - tion for



all you came to bring. O Lord Je - sus, God's own Son, our me -



di - a - tor at the heav'n-ly throne: hear our cry and grant our sup -



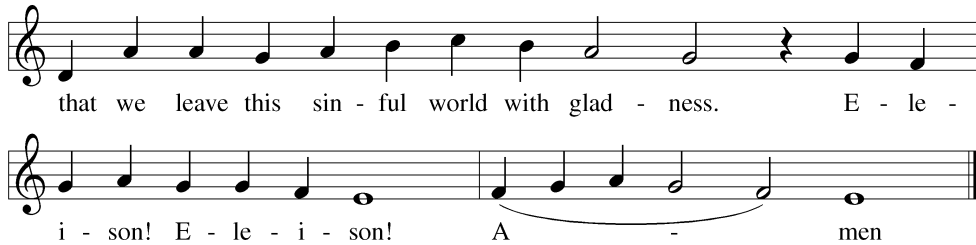
pli - ca - tion. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!



Ky - ri - e! O God the Ho - ly Ghost, guard our



faith, the gift we need the most. And bless our life's last hour,



Text: Latin, c. 1100; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
 Music: KYRIE, GOTT VATER, "Kyrie fons bonitatis," c. 800, adapt.

Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy,

by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world
 and rescued us from the hopelessness of death.

Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4–9

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1–3, 17–22

ANTIPHON: The Lord delivered them from their distress.

Lorraine Brugh

- L** Give thanks to the Lord, for | he is good,*
and his mercy en- | dures forever.
- C** **Let all those whom the Lord has re- | deemed proclaim***
that he redeemed them from the hand | of the foe.
- L** He gathered them out | of the lands;*,
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
- C** **Some were fools and took to re- | bellious ways;***
they were afflicted because | of their sins.
- L** They abhorred all man- | ner of food*
and drew near | to death's door.
- C** **Then they cried to the Lord | in their trouble;***
and he delivered them from | their distress.
- L** He sent forth his | word and healed them*
and saved them | from the grave.
- C** **Let them give thanks to the Lord | for his mercy***
and the wonders he does | for his children.
- L** Let them offer a sacrifice | of thanksgiving*
and tell of his acts with | shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1–10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

- L** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE: John 3:16

Aaron David Miller

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:14–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.


CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON: Do Not Look Away

Pastor Troy E. Medlin

Numbers 21:4–9; John 3:14–21

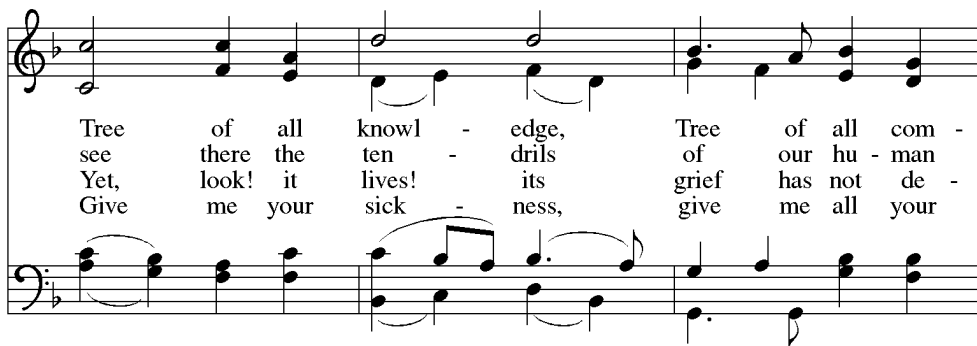





1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING/ANTHEM: Fight the Good Fight

H. Leroy Baumgartner

Giving is one of the ways we participate in all that God is doing through Grace.

[Click here](#) to give online, or visit [GraceRiverForest.org](#).

Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek his face;
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.

Cast care aside; upon thy Guide
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its Life and Christ its Love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is All in all to thee.

John S. B. Monsell (1863)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

✝ SENDING ✝

BENEDICTION

☐ Almighty God: Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ Amen.

SENDING HYMN: What Wondrous Love Is This

(green) LBW #385



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Wondrous Love

Rebecca Kleintop Owens

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister
Rich Schubkegel, assisting minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Douglas Anderson, baritone
Eunice Eifert, videographer
Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY. . .

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson	Anne-Marie Bogdan	Patricia Herendeen	Paul Nelson
Tina Baird	Ed Borg	Joan Koerber	Tim Sandvoss
Annalise Balock	Rosemary Cheatem	Jerry Koenig	Pat Scala
Cathy Barker	Marilyn Gotsch	Beth Smoots McClanahan	Rich and Bonnie Stasack
Jim Barker	Carl & Donna Gruendler	Karen McMahon	
Len Berghaus	David Gruendler	Jennifer Murtoff	
Felipe Altamirano (<i>friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker</i>)		Lily (<i>friend of Carrie Douma</i>)	
Mardie Anderson (<i>friend of Christie Nelson</i>)		Karen Luebbe (<i>mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel</i>)	
Valerie Anderson (<i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke</i>)		Joyce and John Lunde (<i>friends of Susan Messerli</i>)	
Vera Leora Barnett (<i>friend of Paul Eichwedel</i>)		Anne Matthys (<i>mother of Susan Curran</i>)	
James Beglin (<i>cousin of Cathy Schnittker</i>)		Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (<i>cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell</i>)	
Tony Beneventi (<i>friend of Evelyn Grams</i>)		Nancy Molitor (<i>friend of Kathryn Jandeska</i>)	
Karen Berglund (<i>friend of Carol Stanger</i>)		Julie Novak (<i>daughter of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	
Stephanie Bogue and Elva (<i>friends of Pat Anderson</i>)		Stormy River Pendleton (<i>granddaughter of Teri and Robert Daily</i>)	
Florence Breed (<i>cousin of Irmgard Swanson</i>)		Elaine Pierce (<i>friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i>)	
Ken Briggs (<i>friend of many at Grace</i>)		Jacob Pletan (<i>great-nephew of Ruth Rehnwaldt & Gick Schmidt</i>)	
Family of Jim Cozzi (<i>friends of Diana Sicuro</i>)		James Powers (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)	
Linda DeMeyere (<i>friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack</i>)		Susan Prather (<i>cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott</i>)	
Peggy Dickenson (<i>mother of Paul Eichwedel</i>)		Phillip Rice III (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	
Clara Dorsey (<i>mother of Jo-Ellyn Dorsey</i>)		Ronald Riley (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)	
David Eastman and family (<i>brother of Pat Anderson</i>)		John Rohleder (<i>friend of Sandy Grams</i>)	
Patti and Neal Enslin (<i>friends of Marilyn Heppner</i>)		Florence Saeger (<i>friend of Karl and Ruth Reko</i>)	
Emily Ford (<i>daughter-in-law of Cynthia Hill</i>)		John Schuurman (<i>friend of Timothy Douma</i>)	
Benjamin Galihier (<i>nephew of Paul May</i>)		Lindsay Shaner (<i>brother of Bob Shaner</i>)	
Luke Gawencka (<i>friend of Eunice Spurgat</i>)		Mary Lu Shipstad (<i>friend of Marilyn Heppner</i>)	
Ann Gesme (<i>mother of Karen Brunssen and Martha Nielsen</i>)		Huxley Shoup and family (<i>friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner</i>)	
Stacy Gibb and family (<i>friends of Kristin Vogen</i>)		Nancy Stelling (<i>friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten</i>)	
Thomas Griffith (<i>son-in-law of Cathy and Paul Schnittker</i>)		Lee Stephens (<i>brother of Tony</i>)	
Mike Guss (<i>friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening</i>)		Jennifer Sylvester (<i>daughter of Janet Sylvester</i>)	
Jerry Haase (<i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke</i>)		Martin A. Thieme (<i>brother of Susan Franzone</i>)	
Jill Hanssen (<i>niece of Ann Mason</i>)		Jan Thomson (<i>sister-in-law of Christine Phillips</i>)	
Harry Heppner (<i>brother of Ken Heppner</i>)		Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (<i>friend of Karl and Ruth Reko</i>)	
Alice Hollis (<i>friend of Marge Sanger</i>)		Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (<i>sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel</i>)	
John Hunt (<i>friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner</i>)		Kim Walsh (<i>niece of Cathy Schnittker</i>)	
Mia Rose Jones (<i>granddaughter of John and Loretta Lattyak</i>)		Verna Walsh (<i>aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz</i>)	
Doug Kelner (<i>friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson</i>)		Bob Weaver (<i>husband of Gretchen</i>)	
Ken Kennedy (<i>friend of Marilyn Moehlenkamp</i>)		Lucy White (<i>friend of Mary Beth Logas</i>)	
Don Kersten (<i>brother of Phyllis Kersten</i>)		Tim White (<i>brother of Beverly White</i>)	
Andrew Korcek (<i>friend of Eunice Spurgat</i>)		Elise Wojack (<i>niece of Pat Gulik</i>)	
George Kozuchowski (<i>friend of Timothy Douma</i>)		Randi Woodworth (<i>sister of Tammy Bretscher</i>)	
Arnold Krubsack (<i>brother of Irmgard Swanson</i>)		Veronica Zurowski (<i>mother of Tom</i>)	
Kathryn Krubsack (<i>niece of Irmgard Swanson</i>)			
Maxx Kuser (<i>friend of Deb Maxwell</i>)			
Alyssa Kutak (<i>granddaughter-in-law of Galen Gockel</i>)			

Benevolence ministries

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

For those who mourn

Tura Angsten (*relative of Susan and Dave Franzone*)

Denese Penner-Smith (*friend of many at Grace*)

Kathie Wolff (*friend of Tim Duoma and Case and Pat Hoogendoorn*)

Those serving in the armed services

Daniel Behrens (*relative of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)

Timothy Berghaus (*grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus*)

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Reid Beveridge (*son-in-law of the Schnacks*)

David Danford (*son of John and Karen*)

E. Michael Garcia Goetting (*son of Mary Goetting*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

Bradley Larson (*cousin of Rhea Sprecher*)

Sonny Putman (*nephew of Susan Franzone*)

Rusty Robb (*grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/ Roberta Gillespie*)

Jason Brown (*nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss*)

Matthew Shinkwin (*friend of Eunice Spurgat*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (*friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher*)

Kari Paetzold (*niece of Jim and Sharman Galezenski*)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (*Germany*)

Drew Krueger (*England*)

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes

Christopher Davis

Marie Gierke

Ronald Gresens

Gloria Hillert

Carolyn Martin

Joanne Nelson

Barbara Rinnan

Kathleen Wrobel

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (*friend of Bob and Margaret Burke*) in Oakhill Correctional Center

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- ☐ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace’s weekly e-mail,
Sunday Is Coming.
- ☐ I would like one of the pastors to contact me
via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.

GRACE
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CHURCH
& SCHOOL

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Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor
William Koehne, Principal
Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus
Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse
Julie Modrich, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager