



March 2025

the VINE

Hello Grand Avenue Family and Friends,

We now enter March and the Christian Season of Lent. Lent, of course, is the 40 days leading up to Easter. This important Christian Season is a time for repentance, reflection, and spiritual rededication to the principles of our faith in light of Jesus' sacrificial death for our salvation. As we embark on this Lenten season it's important to understand that we are carrying on an ancient Christian observance.

Historians generally agree that the formal formation of Lent as a 40-day season emerged shortly after the first ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 AD. However, we know from the ancient writings of the Patristic Fathers (leaders of the early church) that a period of fasting and self-denial leading up to the celebration of Easter has existed since the earliest days of the Christian movement. That being said, we as Christians can't ignore the significance of a Christian practice that has survived two millennia of changes and upheaval in our Christian Church. This begs the question, what significance does it hold for us today?

The importance of Lent in the life of the believer is timeless, being as applicable to a disciple today as it was in the first century. Its timeless value lies in its ability to restore the purity of our faith. This restoration of purity is achieved by living these 40 days in complete devotion to God. Historically this has meant that believers seek to engage in practices of self-denial such as fasting. This practice of self-denial is accompanied by an increased focus on prayer, Bible study, and commitment to Christian living. All of this is designed to create a condition of mindfulness, intended to re-center the believer on the truth of our faith. The value of this goal is as spiritually essential today as it was at any other time in human history.

In our modern practice, we need to be mindful of the purpose of Lent. All too often today Christian engagement in self-denial practice is more about self-improvement and less about spiritual re-centering. We must remember that self-denial is only valuable if it draws us closer to God. The best form of Lenten self-denial is removing something that stands between God and us. While this will be different for each person the purpose must be to live a more God-centered life. To pursue a Lent that matters means appropriate self-denial coupled with an increased focus on prayer, consistent dedicated time in the Word, and a renewed commitment to living each day in the manner prescribed by our Lord. So as we enter this Lenten Season let us honor the ancient tradition we have received and seek to gain the intended benefit of a rejuvenation of our faith.

Romans 12:1-2, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Vince

CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday

Brian Mc Garry	March 2	Edna Koskamp	March 14
Erica Lentz	March 3	Cathy Smith	March 16
Tim Paulson	March 3	Mark Flack	March 23
Grace Prom	March 4	Ava Johnson	March 26
Madison Zwicker	March 5	Valerie Nichols	March 28
Jan Griesmeyer	March 10	Mary Young	March 31
Jennifer Davis	March 14		

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearer	Coffee Host	AV
3/2	Larry Maechtle	Cathy Guse	Cathy Guse	Gwen, Ed, & Netta	Scott Penkivech
3/9	Larry Maechtle	Mary Downing	n/a	Mary Kae, Grace, Et al.	Scott Penkivech
3/16	Larry Maechtle	Bruce McCullum	n/a	Judy, Deb, & Vickie	Scott Penkivech
3/23	Larry Maechtle	Nancy Haacke	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech
3/30	Larry Maechtle	Marc Eernisse	n/a	<i>Needed*</i>	Scott Penkivech

*Please see sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board.

Audio / Visual Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping run our projector and recording our worship service for those that can't attend in person? Audio/video help is needed on a regular basis and training is provided. Please call or text Dan Benning at 414-207-3487 or contact the at office@portumc.org or 262-284-9478 if interested.

Six Week Lenten Study Group

11am - Noon Fridays

March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th and April 4th & 11th

We will be studying the book "The Final Days" by Matt Rawle.

Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The books are \$14 each and available on the counter in the narthex.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Current Shelter Needs

Zippered Pillow Protectors, O-Cedar One Sweep Broom/Dustpan Sets, Kitchen towels, Pillows, 13 Gallon Garbage Bags, 30 Gallon Garbage Bags, Paper Towels, Baby Wipes, and Disinfecting Wipes.

[Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List](#)

Thank You!

Thanks to recent generous donations to the Family Promise Urgent Needs fund, we were able to purchase and deliver the following in January:

36 rolls of paper toweling
360 rolls of toilet paper
180 boxes of facial tissue
15 containers of disinfecting
wipes

120 washcloths
12 gallons of bleach
12 sticks deodorant
12 shaving cream
3,500 Q-tips



Non-Perishable Donation Needs

Cereal
Soup
Canned Chicken
Granola Bars
Oatmeal packets

Peanut Butter
Spam
Beef Stew
Pudding
Canned fruit

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



March Events

March 2nd from 7:00-8:00 pm - Lighthouse Life Night

Come hang out at Lighthouse HQ for snacks and conversation. The focus will be planning the midweek Lenten service we'll be hosting on March 19th!



March 9th from 6:00-8:30 pm - Skateland

Grab a friend and join us for a skate party at Ozaukee Skateland! We'll meet at Lighthouse and carpool to Cedarburg together. Admission and skate rental is included, but feel free to bring some money for snacks if you would like. Please RSVP by March 5th.

Sat. March 15th from 12:00-2:00 pm - FMSC Packing Event

Come help pack meals for kids around the world with Feed My Starving Children. First Lutheran Church in Sheboygan is hosting this mobile packing event, and it is open to Lighthouse youth, siblings, parents, congregation members, etc. Please talk to Christin by March 8th if you're interested in participating!



Wed. March 19th from 6:00-7:30 pm - Lighthouse Lent Service

We are so excited that Lighthouse will be hosting one of this year's ecumenical mid-week Lenten services! Come join us for dinner over at GAUMC at 6:00, and then walk next door to Lighthouse HQ for a time of worship and conversation centered around the theme "Enough" and led by our Lighthouse youth. All are welcome!

Finally, we wanted to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies to help us assemble 150 birthday kits! They were distributed to both the Port Washington and Saukville Food Pantries and were received with great appreciation.



Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12

Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved?

Contact Director Christin Flucke at 262-483-9582 or christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to the Van Ells-Schanen American Legion Post 82 for paying tribute to Gordon Dionne at his funeral service at Grand Avenue Church on February 6th. Gordon received Military Honors consisting of two uniformed service members folding and presenting a U.S. burial flag to the family, the playing of Taps, and a gun salute to signify a final farewell.

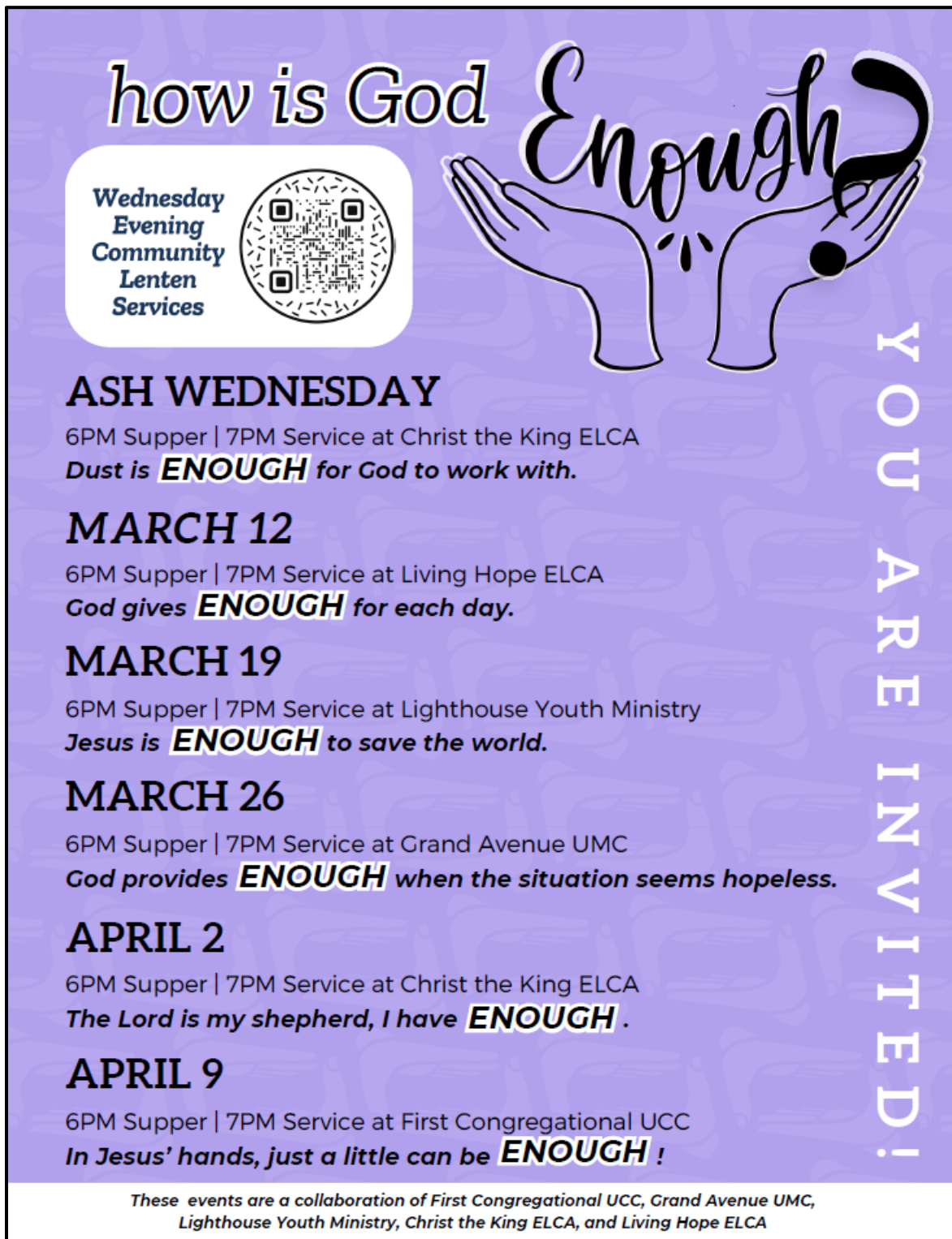


Thank you so much to Jon Meins for your generosity in bringing in eggs to share with the congregation. Your kindness and willingness to bless others with what you have is truly appreciated. May God continue to bless you abundantly for your giving spirit. -Your Grand Avenue Church Family.

CHURCH NEWS

Lenten Worship Schedule

Our Ash Wednesday service this year will be a joint worship service with Christ the King at their church. We are also doing an ecumenical Lent worship series again this year each Wednesday evening during Lent. **GAUMC is hosting the March 26th Supper & Service.** There are plenty of opportunities to get involved as a reader, greeter, special music, food donation, kitchen helper, etc. See the sign-ups at church for more information.



The graphic features a purple background with a faint, repeating pattern of the word "ENOUGH". At the top, the text "how is God Enough?" is written in a mix of serif and cursive fonts. Below this, on the left, is a white rounded rectangle containing the text "Wednesday Evening Community Lenten Services" and a QR code. To the right of the QR code is an illustration of two hands cupped together, holding the word "Enough?" in a cursive font. On the far right, the words "YOU ARE INVITED!" are written vertically in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a white banner with black text.

how is God Enough?

Wednesday Evening Community Lenten Services

ASH WEDNESDAY
6PM Supper | 7PM Service at Christ the King ELCA
*Dust is **ENOUGH** for God to work with.*

MARCH 12
6PM Supper | 7PM Service at Living Hope ELCA
*God gives **ENOUGH** for each day.*

MARCH 19
6PM Supper | 7PM Service at Lighthouse Youth Ministry
*Jesus is **ENOUGH** to save the world.*

MARCH 26
6PM Supper | 7PM Service at Grand Avenue UMC
*God provides **ENOUGH** when the situation seems hopeless.*

APRIL 2
6PM Supper | 7PM Service at Christ the King ELCA
*The Lord is my shepherd, I have **ENOUGH**.*

APRIL 9
6PM Supper | 7PM Service at First Congregational UCC
*In Jesus' hands, just a little can be **ENOUGH**!*

YOU ARE INVITED!

These events are a collaboration of First Congregational UCC, Grand Avenue UMC, Lighthouse Youth Ministry, Christ the King ELCA, and Living Hope ELCA

CHURCH NEWS, cont.

Easter Flowers

Help decorate our church for Easter morning!

Please complete this form and place it in the offering box with cash or check payable to Grand Ave UMC.

Orders due by Sunday, March 23rd

	Qty		Total
Lilies	_____	@\$10.00/plant	\$_____
Tulips	_____	@\$9.00/plant	\$_____
Daffodils	_____	@\$9.00/plant	\$_____
Hyacinths	_____	@\$9.00/plant	\$_____
		Total enclosed	\$_____

Your Name: _____

EASTER SUNDAY IS APRIL 20th

Please plan to take your flowers home after Easter service.
Contact Larry Maechtle at 262-692-2390 with any questions.



Craft Booth Donations

A reminder that you can donate handmade crafts and new or very gently used items to our Craft Booth at Port's Artisan Market in downtown Port. Popular items include puzzles, best selling books, jewelry, art, brand new or like-new high quality home decor. No clothing please.



United Methodist Corner

In last month's column, I described Wesley's understanding of grace as the undeserved love, mercy and forgiveness of God. Wesley believed that the working of God's grace is expressed in three primary ways. Prevenient grace, which is the grace that goes before us, gives us the impulse to live rightly and to do good. Wesley likened prevenient grace as the porch of a house. The Holy Spirit, even when we are unaware of God presence, is what draws us to the house of God. If we look at another metaphor of our spiritual life being a journey that we embark on, the Holy Spirit gives us the impulse to travel and a road map. But it's not enough that we have the desire to travel, we have to actually embark on the journey.

This is where Wesley's understanding of justifying grace comes into play. Wesley understood justification as God's pardoning and forgiving of our sins. We cannot make things right on our end in our relationship with God because of our brokenness and sin. So, God took the initiative. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:18 "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

Going back to Wesley's analogy of the house, Christ is the door or doorway leading to salvation in God. The door is welcoming us and inviting us to come through and be changed and transformed by Christ into new creatures. Our going through the door is embarking on a spiritual journey in Christ Jesus. This journey is made possible by what Christ did for us in his sacrifice on the cross.

We need to remember Christ's sacrifice is not just a thing of the past. We are still receiving spiritual benefits of what Christ did. Unless we remember and reflect upon that sacrifice, we are in danger of trying to justify ourselves before God and others. Our ego and pride often deceive us into thinking that we are better than we actually are. Paul warned the Roman house churches not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think, but according to the grace that God has assigned to them. One of my daily devotional prayers begins, "O loving Christ who died upon the tree. Each day and each night I remember your love." Christ is the doorway to being reconciled and in the full presence of God. Just as we go in and out of the doors of our homes each day, we are served well if we remember Christ's loving sacrifice for us each morning and night. Our remembrance will go a long way to help us, by the grace of God, to live humble lives as the people of God. Next month we will explore Wesley's understanding of sanctifying grace.

In Christ's Love,

Dave

CALENDAR

March Events

Worship Service	Weekly Sunday at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
AA Meeting	Weekly Wednesday at 8:00 pm	FAC
Private Meeting	Weekly Thursday at 5:30 pm	FAC
ADRC Meal Distribution	Mon – Fri from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
Ash Wednesday Supper/Service	Wednesday Mar. 5, 6 pm/7 pm	Christ the King
Lenten Study Group	Friday Mar. 7, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Port Wash. Woman's Club	Monday Mar 10, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Social Principles Group	Tuesday Mar. 11 at 1:00 pm	Gathering Area
Lenten Supper/Service	Wednesday Mar. 12, 6:00 pm/7:00 pm	Living Hope ELCA
Finance & Admin Council	Thursday Mar. 13 at 7:00 pm	via Zoom
Lenten Study Group	Friday Mar. 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday Mar. 18 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
Lenten Supper/Service	Wednesday Mar. 19, 6:00 pm/7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall/Lighthouse
Lenten Study Group	Friday Mar. 21, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Newsletter Article Deadline	Friday Mar. 21	Office
Lenten Supper/Service	Wednesday Mar. 26, 6:00 pm/7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall / GAUMC
Lenten Study Group	Friday Mar. 28, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com
 Pastor: Vince Pepin pastor@portumc.org
 Pastoral Assistant: Dave Guse senegaldave1@gmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: Stacy Peters office@portumc.org
 Lay Leader: Dan Benning bennida01@att.net
 Admin Council Chair: Mark Grams mgrams@wi.rr.com
 Bishop: Dan Schwerin / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Inzor

Remember Our Endowment Fund

Did you know you can help support our church through the fundraisers below?

- **Aluminum Can Collection** – Put your aluminum cans in the barrels at the back entrance into church and we'll recycle them for you.
- **Craft Booth at Port's Artisan Market** – You can donate crafts, books, puzzles, or gently used quality items for us to sell at our church craft booth in downtown Port.
- **RaiseRight Scrip (Gift Card) Program** – You can order gift cards for stores you already shop at and the church gets a donation. Forms are on the counter in the narthex or go to www.raiseright.com and use our enrollment code of 45F776D958L66.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

Orders are due in the church office on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please remember to include your payment. You can also order on-line at www.raiseright.com Your order of gift cards will be ready for pick-up at church on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Questions? Contact the Kay Hamann at 262-284-3168 or khamann530@yahoo.com

*Each retailer makes a donation to the church for every gift card purchased.
For a complete list of over 700 participating retailers, go to www.raiseright.com*

RETAILER	QTY	TOTAL
Amazon \$25		
Amazon \$100		
Arby's \$10		
AutoZone \$25		
Barnes & Noble \$10		
Barnes & Noble \$25		
Bath & Body Works \$10		
Bath & Body Works \$25		
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25		
BP \$50		
BP \$100		
Burger King \$10		
Cousins Subs \$10		
CVS Pharmacy \$25		
CVS Pharmacy \$100		
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25		
Dick's Sporting Goods \$100		
Exxon \$50		
Fleet Farm \$25		
Fleet Farm \$100		
Home Depot \$25		
Home Depot \$100		
Jiffy Lube \$30		
Kohl's \$25		
Kohl's \$100		
Kwik Trip \$25		
Kwik Trip \$50		
Kwik Trip \$100		

RETAILER	QTY	TOTAL
Meijer \$25		
Meijer \$50		
Meijer \$100		
Mobil \$50		
Noodles & Company \$10		
Panera Bread \$10		
Panera Bread \$25		
Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10		
Pick'n Save(WI) \$25		
Pick'n Save(WI) \$50		
Pick'n Save(WI) \$100		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) \$25		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) \$50		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) \$100		
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25		
Sendik's Food Market \$25		
Sendik's Food Market \$50		
Sendik's Food Market \$100		
Speedway \$25		
Speedway \$50		
Starbucks \$10		
Starbucks \$25		
Subway Restaurants \$10		
Target \$25		
Target \$50		
Walgreens \$25		
Walmart \$25		
Walmart \$50		
Walmart \$100		

Total number of gift cards ordered: _____

Total amount due: _____

Name _____ Date: _____

*Make checks payable to
Grand Ave Church*