



Faith, Culver



First, Meadowlands



St. John's, Saginaw



St. Peter's, Canyon



MINISTER’S MESSAGE FROM DAVE’S DESK

What do we mean or what is the definition of GRACE? We hear it used in church settings and in scripture, but it often sounds like something that only God can grant. I had a mentoring Pastor during my years of school while I was preparing to enter the ministry. It seemed that no matter how often I used the word GRACE and tried to apply it to my message, I knew I would hear, "Where's the Grace?" It always reminded me of the old Wendy's commercial with the little elderly woman asking, "Where's the beef." Grace is simply something we don't deserve but we receive it anyway as a gift. Some may accept that when we're talking about God dying on a cross, but how does it apply to daily life? I'll share a story to help understand.

One icy winter afternoon when Ashley was in high school, a carload of teenage boys was on their way to a basketball game. Ashley was a cheerleader and had already arrived at the game along with most of the other basketball players and cheerleaders who rode in the bus. But these four junior varsity boys chose to carpool together rather than taking the bus. They never made it to the game. On the way, a garbage truck slid through an intersection on a patch of black ice and broadsided the boy's car. One suffered a broken arm; another was in a coma for a week. And one boy was killed instantly.

The garbage truck driver wasn't injured. He wasn't the devil, just a guy trying to do his job. Maybe he was driving a little too fast. But in the blink of an eye, he had the injuries of 3 young men and the death of another on his hands and in his heart. I can only imagine the pain he lived with.

Not long after the funeral, the young boy's parents called the man responsible for killing their son and

wanted to meet him. I'm sure he had no desire to look these parents in the eye but decided to go anyways. His hand trembled as he knocked on the door. What would he see in their eyes? Hatred? Anger? Worst of all, pain?

But when the door opened, he saw nothing but compassion. They hugged him and welcomed him into their home. They served him dinner and with tears in their eyes, the parents assured this garbage truck driver, he was forgiven.

Put into this same situation, is this how we would react? It was only by the Grace of this young man's parents that this garbage truck driver was forgiven and finally had peace in his heart. Grace was the gift given, even though he didn't feel he deserved it. Sound familiar? Jesus died in a cross that our sins may be forgiven, even though we didn't deserve it. What a gift!!! Now let us all share this free gift and experience the peace you will feel in your heart.

**In God's peace, Invite a friend –**

**Minister Dave**

~CLERGY SCHEDULE & CONTACT INFO~

**Dave Erdmann, SAM** (Synodically Authorized Minister), is our worship & faith life leader.

**Days off: Mon & Sat.**

**He is always available for emergencies.**

**First contact: 218-391-7951 (cell)**

**Secondary number: 218-348-9720**

**Email: [dwerdmann@gmail.com](mailto:dwerdmann@gmail.com)**

~S.A.L.T. PARISH MEETING~

Next meeting: Jan. 4th, 6:30p at St. Peter's  
All are welcome!

**SALT Parish December Meeting Summary**

SALT Parish budget meeting was held before the regular meeting to go over the 2024 Minister payroll and benefits and cost per church. Each church council will bring back their decisions from the options discussed. The annual cookie and quilt sale was held December 2<sup>nd</sup> and brought in \$1,800 for the Parish. The pancake breakfast was new this year and went over well too. Thank you, Cheryl Lamb, and all who helped put this together. There were a few cookies left that were given to NERC for their Holiday Celebration. WELCA's had their holiday luncheons in December which we will try to get in the newsletter early next year. St. John's has two new furnaces that they are working on the temperature settings so that the church is warmed up before services. Health and Wellness meeting will be in January. Would like to focus on stewardship this next year. We all have talents to share. Also discussed having a sign-up sheet for representation from every church at each SALT Parish meeting. Minister Dave will be on vacation 12/25/23 to 01/01/2024. Annual Church meetings are coming soon, watch for the dates. There were a few calendar adjustments made in 2024, Christmas Eve will be 4p @ First, 7p @ St. John's. December 29<sup>th</sup> SALT Sunday will be at St. Peter's.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



St. Peter's - February 11<sup>th</sup>, after 10:30  
am Worship Service

**Examples of Stewardship from the Bible**

**Noah's Ark**

After being called on by God in the face of the great flood, Noah became the steward of all animals. He was called to build his ark to help every species on Earth survive the great flood. Noah was responsible not only to God, for answering his call – but to all creatures on Earth to steward them through the flood. This story teaches us that we must accept the responsibilities God tasks us with. And one of those responsibilities is to be good stewards of the people and creatures around us.

**Moses Giving the Land a Break**

God advised Moses to let his people farm their land for six years. However, he advised that they should take a break in the seventh year to give the land time to recover. His word helped Moses steward the land and keep it from being overfarmed. If we care for the resources the Lord provides, we can have them forever – but if we let greed get in our way, we might lose them forever.

~CULVER QUILTERS~

If you would like to support our quilt ministry, our supply needs list includes Cotton Fabric (any sized pieces) Thread, Batting, Flat sheets (Dbl., Q or K size), Cash donations can be given to Faith's WELCA. Thank you!  
Culver Quilter's Meet Mondays at Faith 10:30am

~NEWSLETTER DEADLINE~ **Deadline for the Feb. issue: 2nd Sun of Month: Jan. 14th**

**To mail information to Misty: 1236 County Rd 4 Wrenshall MN 55797 Or email to: [Bergman.misty22@gmail.com](mailto:Bergman.misty22@gmail.com)**

~~RUBY'S PANTRY~~

**5577 Cromwell Park Dr, Cromwell, MN**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month, Jan. 11th, 2024  
 9:00 – 10:30 am

**5007 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 5:00 – 6:30 pm

**2300 E Skyline Blvd (Copper Top Church)**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month, Jan. 18th, 2024  
 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Bring your own boxes/baskets for food. (\$25) cash donation at the door is appreciated. Everyone is welcome!!! For more information call 651-674-0009 or visit [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

Would you like to learn more about quilting? Join the Culver Quilters on Monday mornings to learn from the best. They always need helpers too. It is a wonderful Mission to see in action and they are there to help you learn.

**Men's Breakfast, January 19th, 8am**  
 Country Corner, Hwy 2, Brookston



**Sunday Morning Livestream**

SALT Parish Facebook Page  
 10:30 am



Bulletins will now be available for The Livestream. The link will be posted on the Parish Facebook page or the bulletin can be accessed at [saltparish.org/bulletins](http://saltparish.org/bulletins)

**S.A.L.T. COUNCIL**

President	Stan Lamb	451-8328
Vice President	Ginny Richmond	
Secretary	Amber Schwartz	
Treasurer	Misty Bergman	

**Church Contact People**

Church	President	Phone
Faith	Dale Neuman	729-1062
First	Ginny Richmond	742-1724
St. John's	Carolyn Collum	729-6008
St. Peter's	Fred Zorn	591-0978

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**



Meeting January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at Faith.

From the survey conducted previously we will be discussing options to address the issues that were discovered and how our group can help in those areas.

Please join us and all ideas are welcome.

**What is WELCA?**

It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our Mission is to Mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Our purpose As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Women of the ELCA are called "to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ." Boldness comes in many forms; its basis, in whatever form, is right action by an individual or group. Some boldness is bright and loud. Some is firm and quiet. Women of the ELCA celebrates this range of voices, knowing that the avenues for bold self-expression are limitless. Come and be a part of the WELCA and share in your boldness or to find it!! To find out more please see the Church Contact person to get you in contact with WELCA. Women helping women and their community is something that we all can be proud to be a part of.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

**Editor:** Misty Bergman **Website:** Beth Erdmann  
**Circulation / Mailing Coordinator:** Christine Wolvin  
**Thank you to our volunteer mailers!!!**

## What does the Word say?

Find each verse listed below and write these out in the spaces provided.

Example: 2 Cor 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Leviticus 27:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Malachi 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Find the following words in the puzzle:

BLESSED	GRAIN
BOUNTIFUL	LORD
CHEERFUL	REAP
CHURCH	RECEIVE
FRUIT	SAVING
FUNDING	SOW
GIFT	TENTH
GIVING	TITHE

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L T F N Y J Q F I
B R I N P Y E H X
H L X T F I G Y G
N U E R H I E N N
T F U S G E I C I
X I W O S D O H V
T T Q K N E T U I
N N G U R N D R G
L U F R E E H C N
T O Q T A E R H I
K B R Q P I S R V
X N Z D Z H N B A
R E C E I V E L S
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## Reflection Questions

Looking at all the verses above, answer the following questions:

1. Did you learn anything new?
2. What surprises you?
3. Is there anything you do not understand?
4. What will you obey/apply?
5. What will you share with someone this week?

**"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35**