



## The Angelus

March 2026

### From the Rector's Desk

One wonders what one can do when the world is less secure or sane than we think it should be or has been. I'll spare you the litany of all the things that worry us these days. And many of us come from backgrounds that value effectiveness, achievement, relevance as proof of living right. What do we need to accomplish now to "make the world a better place?"

There are many things we can imagine to do as Christians. There are even some things we actually should do. Most of all, the world needs us to be one with Christ. To be, with Christ by virtue of our one-ing with Him in Baptism and Eucharist, the connective tissue between heaven and earth, God and humanity, healing and sinful brokenness. This is how the world can be reconciled to God, through our being the Priesthood of God.

Now more than ever, we need to be this life-giving connection by constantly turning back to God, again and again and again, constantly acknowledging our and the world's need for the Savior, confessing it, presenting to God our deathly distortions and willful wanderings to be set right.

This turning back to the God Who is always waiting to receive us (Luke 15:11-32) has a specific word in the Bible. It's called repentance. Turning back around, transformation of the deepest self, etc. That's what that word actually means. And the life given to ongoing repentance is called the penitent life. A life in which we let ourselves groan sorrowfully for the healing we need, ask for the healing we need, and empty ourselves to receive it. This world and our own souls that can seem so far from life these days, captured by the forces of death and anxiety, need us to empty ourselves as a Lenten people.

By the time you read this, Lent will already have begun. If we haven't started any Lenten practices, we're not off the hook—our lateness does not diminish how salutary our repentance is for the life of the world or for ourselves. And even if we don't "feel like it," which many of us often deal with, we remember what Jesus taught and as we heard in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday: what we take the effort to invest in is what we truly start to care about. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

What will we do this Lent? Our Tradition and the Sermon on the Mount teach three primary spiritual practices, and that we renew in Lent: **prayer, fasting, and the works of mercy**. How will we live into these practices this Lent and in all our lives?

One of the most important things to remember is to do these practices so that we feel stretched and challenged. Not to the point of breaking, but always to the point that we know we ourselves are achieving nothing and can do nothing. We are being opened to new life through these practices by the lavish favor of Christ as we depend totally on Him and His life-giving Spirit. We empty ourselves to turn back to the only One Who can satisfy and heal the world and us.

**Prayer.** This is nothing less than turning to God in spirit, mind, and body, alone or together, in order to give our real selves to God. We do this in word and deed. We sit still with all we can't anesthetize of our pain and let it roil before God. We pray Morning and Evening Prayer from the Prayer Book. We make confession with our priest and ask God again and again to forgive us. We reconcile with those we find it hard to love. We give thanks for the smallest things and the greatest miracles. We encounter the Holy One as we ponder the Scriptures. We are fully present in the given moment to our work, to the people with us, and to God—empty of self. We turn to God and meet Christ our God in the Mass, in the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Fasting.** The kind that actually involves how we eat and don't eat food. It's true that we need to fast from other things, too. We are told by our holy ancestors that if we keep the fasts perfectly but have a sharp tongue or sin against charity, our fasting is worthless. But these same ancestors, the saints, insist that the first tumbler to fall in the lock that imprisons our hearts from loving, will fall because of fasting. In a time and culture that depends on its wealth by stoking every possible desire in us, how will we empty ourselves in order to receive the One Whom we really desire? The One for Whom all other substitutes are false? By fasting, we often mean not eating certain foods (abstaining), which often means not eating meat on the weekdays of Lent (excluding Sundays). Fasting also means reducing the amount we eat. Given the realities of our health and life, how do we abstain and reduce the amount we eat this Lent? Are we willing to struggle a bit to make ourselves available for the only real Satisfaction there is?

**Works of mercy.** St James of Jerusalem, the "brother of our Lord," writes in his letter in the New Testament that faith without works is dead. Truly turning back to God and being the connective tissue between heaven and earth will naturally lead to response to the suffering of humanity. If we take on Christ in baptism, we will have compassion ("com-""with;" "-passion""suffering.") like Christ did in His incarnation and crucifixion, the signs of which were miracles and healing during the earthly ministry. Traditionally, the corporal works of mercy are: To feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the imprisoned, to visit the sick, to bury the dead. These are nothing less than the righteous practices Jesus insists on in Matthew 25. The spiritual works of mercy are: to admonish the sinner, to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to comfort the sorrowful, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive all injuries, to pray for the living and the dead. These are throughout the teachings of the Apostles in the New Testament, the lives of the saints, and in the ongoing ministry of Mary the Mother of God as she guides, prays, and cares for us.

Peace,  
WLB+

## Congratulations and welcome to the new Vestry Members!

### Clayton Spray



1. *How long have you been a member of Grace Church?* - I have been attending Grace Church since August 2023.
2. *What activities or ministries have you been involved with at Grace Church?* - I am most heavily involved in our choir!
3. *What are some of your favorite things about Grace Church?* - My favorite thing about Grace Church is that it feels like a haven from the busyness and unceasing change of the world. I am also very fond of our vibrant common life, the dedication to our various ministries, and of course our music!
4. *As a newly elected vestry member, what is your hope for our parish?* - I hope our parish will continue to be a lasting presence in this community, faithfully serving God and welcoming those who will carry its mission forward.
5. *What are your hobbies?* - In my free time I enjoy reading, playing the piano, and strategy games.
6. *What is your favorite hymn?* - My favorite hymn is "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord" by B. Mansell Ramsey.
7. *Is there anything else you want us to know about you?* - My election to the vestry marks the fourth generation of my family to serve in church leadership, a legacy that I'm very proud to continue here at Grace!

### Leslie Kohler



1. *How long have you been a member of Grace Church?* - Since 2012.
2. *What activities or ministries have you been involved with at Grace Church?* - Adult Sunday school. Sunday school, Vestry, & fellowship hour.
3. *What are some of your favorite things about Grace Church?* - The People
4. *What are your hobbies?* - Sailing
5. *What is your favorite hymn?* - The Strife is Over
6. *Is there anything else you want us to know about you?* - I actually like teaching adults.



## Stations of the Cross on Fridays @6:00 PM followed by Simple Suppers

Lent has begun. Join us and sign up on the Narthex table. Please stop by and sign up if you are planning to attend or willing to provide the supper (it can be one or more hosts). Please indicate on top of the page. Remember, this is Lent so keep the suppers simple and meatless. Thank you.



### Grace Church

## “REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT” forms UPDATED!

Please be advised that the Grace Payment/Reimbursement form, for services performed/goods purchased, has been updated and has new fields that will need to be filled out with each request. Details regarding charges need to be itemized by requestor and signed only by authorized staff. Please be sure to read the new terms and fill form in its entirety, before processing can occur, and to ensure efficient record keeping. Partially completed forms will be returned and may delay your request. Payments/Reimbursement forms are readily available at the Grace Reception desk and can also be requested via email by the Administrator.



If, at any time, you have a question regarding how to fill any of the fields, please reach out to the Parish Administrator or the Financial/Treasury department. You may call Grace reception or email at: [parishadministrator@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:parishadministrator@gracesheboygan.com) or [lmassbruch@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:lmassbruch@gracesheboygan.com)

## An update from St Auburn’s Guild

### Warming Center

From Saturday, Feb 28th and continuing through Sunday, Apr 12th, Lakeshore CAP and community volunteers will begin St Nicholas Hall as a day warming center, each Saturday and Sunday afternoon, from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm, for a maximum of 20 unhoused members of the Sheboygan community. Spaces will be monitored to ensure access is handled accordingly. There will be paid Lakeshore staff on hand to manage the use of our hall, along with other volunteers from the community. Grace members are encouraged to volunteer.

Building use for this ministry will be restricted to the hall and bathrooms of the hall, as well as the coat area. Please contact Dcn Paul Aparicio with any questions or concerns or to volunteer to serve.

## Sweet Blessings for the Community Café

If you've ever wandered past the Grace Church kitchen on a "decorating" day, you may have noticed two things: (1) an impressive amount of sprinkles on small fingers, and (2) a level of concentration usually reserved for LEGO masterpieces.

Several times throughout the year, our Sunday School children take on the joyful (and very serious!) task of decorating close to 100 sweets for the Community Café free meal. Armed with icing bags, colorful candies, and an abundance of enthusiasm, they transform simple baked treats into tiny works of edible art.

There are monsters and bats near Halloween. There are snowflakes and santa faces close to Christmas. And most recently there was a wide array of pink and red sprinkles of various amounts to celebrate Valentine's Day.

While it's easy to see this as a fun craft activity — and it certainly is that — it's also something much more meaningful.

For many of our unhoused neighbors and others who attend the Community Café, these sweets are more than dessert. They are a visible reminder that someone thought of them. Someone took time. Someone cared enough to add sprinkles.

In a world that can often feel hurried or indifferent, a carefully decorated brownie or cupcake sends a quiet but powerful message: You matter. You are seen. You are valued.

We've heard again and again how much these small touches lift spirits. A colorful treat can spark a smile, start a conversation, or simply brighten an otherwise difficult day. And when that decoration has clearly been created by a child — with joyful creativity and no holding back on the frosting — it carries a special warmth that can't be manufactured.

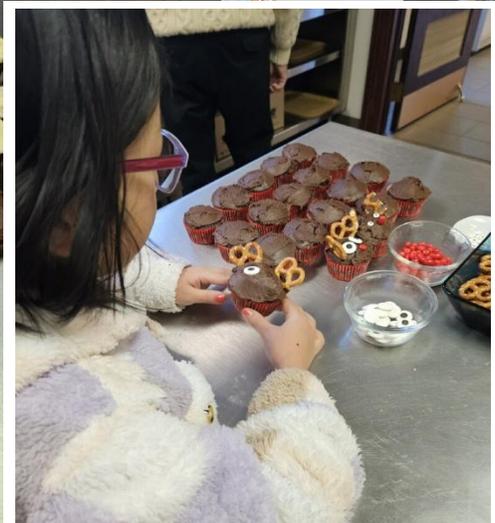
For our Sunday School kids, the impact goes both ways. They learn that kindness can be practical. That service can be sweet. That even small hands can make a big difference. They beam with pride knowing that their creations will be shared at the Community Café, and they decorate with remarkable care because they understand these treats are for real people in our community.

None of this would be possible without a very special thank you.

Jessica Ambelang faithfully bakes the sweets, dreams up the creative decorating ideas, and generously supplies all the decorating materials. From icing and sprinkles to clever themes that inspire the children's imaginations, she makes the entire project not only possible but delightful. Her behind-the-scenes work ensures that the children can focus on what they do best — pouring love (and sometimes just a bit too many sprinkles!) into every single treat.

Jessica, thank you for your time, your creativity, and your generous spirit. Your dedication blesses not only the guests at the Community Café, but also the children who are learning what it means to serve with joy.

The next time you see a swirl of icing or a trail of sprinkles in the church hallway, know that something beautiful is happening. Nearly 100 little reminders of hope are being prepared — one sweet act of kindness at a time.



## Love INC update

*Love INC National Inspiration for the Season of Lent*

Some people give something up during Lent—a small sacrifice that reminds us of Christ’s self-giving love. But this Lenten season, I want to ask: not what are you willing to give up, but what are you willing to take on?

To take something on is not about adding guilt or striving harder. It is about engagement instead of withdrawal, generosity instead of scarcity, and service instead of distance. It is a willingness to step toward the needs around us with open hands and attentive hearts, trusting that God supplies what we offer. Here is a story of just that:

When Melissa stood at the base of her mother Elizabeth’s front porch steps, she was overwhelmed—navigating thoughts about discharge paperwork, wheelchairs, and the reality that her mom couldn’t come home unless those steps somehow became a ramp.

The cost felt overwhelming, and the timeline was urgent.

Then Love INC of Cowlitz County stepped in.

One of their teams—skilled volunteers from local churches—arrived with lumber, tools, and willing hands. They built what Melissa could not—at no cost.

That is what generosity looks like in the Body of Christ:

Lent reminds us that Christ gave everything for us—not to burden us with guilt, but to invite us into a different way of living. A way marked by grace-filled generosity, attentive presence, and willingness to step toward the needs of others.

So as you reflect this season, consider:

Because somewhere, someone is standing at the bottom of a steep set of stairs—waiting to take a step forward with hope. If you’re wondering how you might offer your time, skills, or prayers more directly in your own community, we invite you to look up the Love INC location nearest you and explore how you can be part of building bridges right in your own community.

Whether your “yes” is financial, practical, or prayerful, you are helping strengthen a movement that turns obstacles into pathways home.

Written by Kirk Vander Molen, Executive Director of Love INC National

## Ladies of Grace Gathering! Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>



Next Ladies of Grace Gathering is set for **Tuesday, March 10, 2026** in the home of **Jennifer Pawlus**. Please sign up on the Narthex. Ladies of Grace meet once a month for Rosary prayer, singing, a bible reading, and to share needs of family/friends, and the sick. Tea, coffee, & bites to follow. If you have not attended before, please know all ladies are welcome each month.

## January Financial Focus

|                       |                   |                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>January Income</u> | <u>YTD Income</u> | <u>Annual Budget 2026</u> |
| \$ 40,283             | \$ 40,283         | \$ 302,100                |

|                         |                     |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>January Expenses</u> | <u>YTD Expenses</u> | <u>Annual Budget 2026</u> |
| \$ 30,393               | \$ 30,393           | \$ 366,021                |



- **Fridays in Lent** Stations of the Cross, & Simple Suppers (6pm)
- **March 29<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
- **March 30<sup>th</sup>** Monday in Holy Week
- **March 31<sup>st</sup>** Tuesday in Holy Week
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>** Wednesday in Holy Week
- **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Maundy Thursday – 6pm
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Good Friday – Mass (12pm & 6pm)
- **April 4<sup>th</sup>** Holy Saturday, Service in Columbarium 9am  
Easter Eve – Great Vigil, Mass 6pm
- **April 5<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Resurrection – Easter Day

### March Birthdays

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Colleen Darling  | 3/1  |
| Tah Kwa.         | 3/3  |
| Nancy Gosse      | 3/4  |
| John Davis       | 3/10 |
| EhDoh Htoo       | 3/10 |
| Wendy Lynas      | 3/11 |
| Fynley Bouck     | 3/11 |
| Don Beeck        | 3/15 |
| Paul Aparicio    | 3/15 |
| Maya McMillan    | 3/16 |
| Martha Shad      | 3/19 |
| Scott Lubbers    | 3/19 |
| Cindy Ford       | 3/24 |
| Jessica Ambelang | 3/25 |
| Jim Gardner      | 3/26 |
| Chase Beeck      | 3/29 |

### March Anniversary

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Jeff & Wendy Lynas | 3/11 |
|--------------------|------|

### Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Matthew A Gunter, *Bishop*  
 The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Rector*  
 The Reverend Paul D. Aparicio, *Deacon*  
 Clayton Logue, *Organist-Choirmaster*  
 Crystal Lopez, *Parish Administrator*  
 Greg Allen, *Sexton*

### The Vestry

The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Chair*  
 Robert McMillan, *Senior Warden*  
 Tom Wright, *Junior Warden*  
 Brian Heck, *Treasurer*  
 Crystal Lopez, *Secretary*  
*Vestry:* Sarah Bernhardt, Jack Britton,  
 Fr. Jack Connelly, Doug Jenkins,  
 Leslie Kohler, Clayton Spray,  
 and Steve Weinert



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