

**Jesus**  
was in the  
**wilderness**  
forty days

MARK 1:13

# **Welcome to Worship**

*at*

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

**The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.**

*Welcome! Please sign the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the Welcome Center, and please join us for coffee and education hour activities between services.*

*Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.*

*The nursery is available for newborns - age 3. The nursery is staffed by Grace Kids Care staff members for children who become restless during the service. If there is no one in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is broadcast in the Gathering Hall. To entertain your children during the service there are purple busy-bags with books and coloring materials for children just outside the sanctuary.*

***Communion** – We welcome all people to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. Children ages 3 and above are welcome at the parents' discretion, after meeting for instruction with the pastor. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastor will commune you in your pew.*

***When by intinction:** Receive the host (wafer), then dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).*

***Stephen Ministry** is a one-to-one care giving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the office for assistance.*

# First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2015

8:15 a.m

**Prelude**           “Forty Days and Forty Nights” by Lyndell Leatherman

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Gracious God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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 of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**    “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me”

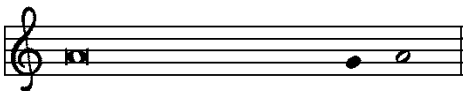
#325

## Greeting

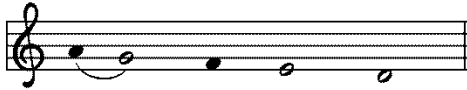
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

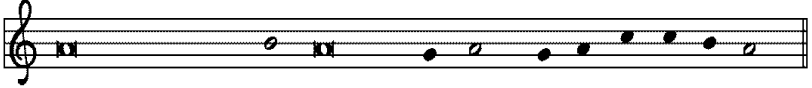
## Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



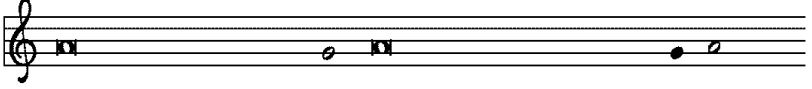
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



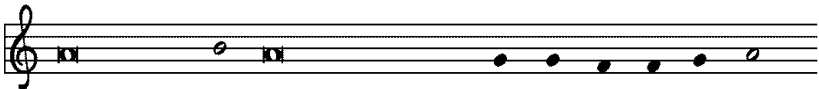
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

### Prayer of the Day

**C:** Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your

**Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Lenten Litany**

P: In this season of desert pilgrimage, let us call to mind the prophet's vision: If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

**C: The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your need in parched places, and make your bones strong.**

P: Let us pray. Holy God, whose loving kindness is everlasting: Lift the burden of all who are weary from the search for food and refresh those who are parched from thirst. Lord, in mercy,

**C: As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.**

P: O God, source of all consolation: Comfort with the sure sense in your presence all who feel forsaken, whose hope is dried up. Lord, in mercy,

**C: As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.**

P: Lord Jesus, who cried out in thirst upon the cross: open our ears to all cries of affliction, and through us provide food and drink. Lord, in mercy,

**C: As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.**

P: God our creator, who makes our bones strong: through our prayers and gifts heal the ravages of poverty and disease, that those now suffering may one day leap for joy. Lord, in mercy,

**C: As you sent manna in days of old, grant living bread in our wilderness.**

P: Merciful God, you ask us to cleanse our hearts, to lose the bonds of oppression, and to repair the ancient ruins. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, that we might pour ourselves out for the hungry and offer refreshment to those who thirst. In the name of Jesus we pray;

**Amen**

*Please be seated*

**Drama**

"Lifting the Burden of Hunger"

by Carl H. Billings, Jr., ELCA World Hunger resource  
*Brad Lint, Maya Lint, Carol Woodruff, Rich Snyder,  
Jamie Briggs, Drake Carney, Catherine Lewis*

**First Reading: Genesis 9:8–17**

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 25:1–10**

**R:**  Your paths, O LORD, are stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness.

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,**

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way. R**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R**

### Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel: Mark 1:9–15

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

<sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

**Sermon** "Spring Cleaning: Commitment"

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day** "My Life Flows On In Endless Song"

#763

**Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**



**All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: **And also with you!**

*Please be seated*

**Announcements**

**The Offering**

**Offertory**

“Adagio”

by J.S. Bach

*Please stand as you are able*

**Offering Prayer**

P: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

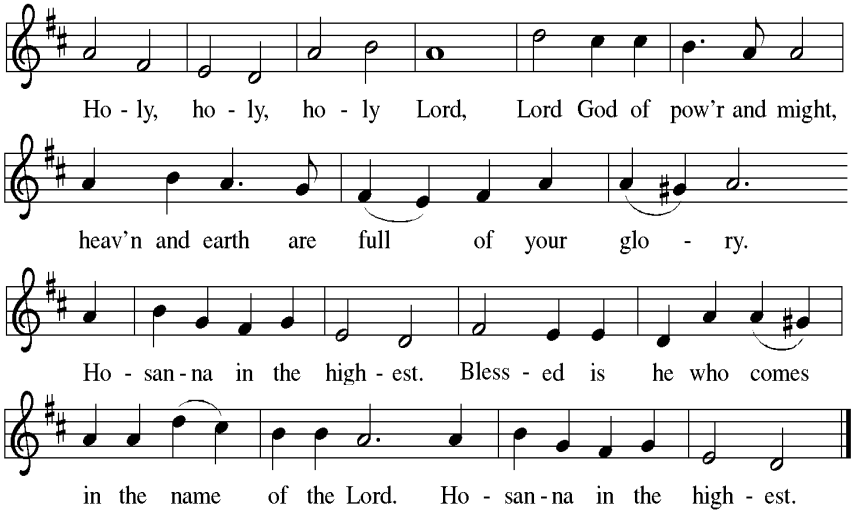
C: **Amen**

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Preface**

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

**P:** Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

### Lord's Prayer

**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**

### Invitation to Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

*Please be seated*

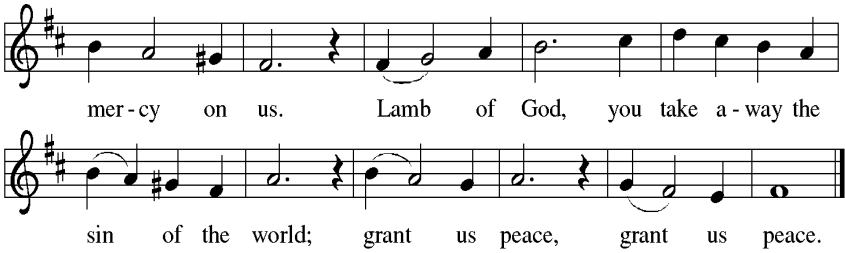
### Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Distribution Hymns:** 542, 471, 496

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **Sending of Communion**

P: Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** "Remember and Rejoice"

#454

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" by Ithamar Conkey,  
arr. by Jan Sanborn

# Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

## Announcements

### February 22, 2015

**In our prayers:** Bill Henderson, Betty Hirschauer, Bill Jensen, Diane Jessen, Dorothy Singh, and the others we name before you...

*Praying for one another is an important part of the life of a community of faith. In order to do this it is important that the prayer list be as current as possible. If you or a relative would like to be included in the prayers please contact the church office. Thank you.*

**Quarters** placed in the offering plate this and every fourth Sunday of the month are for Msindo.

**Lenten Hunger Appeal** Special offering envelopes for the Lenten Hunger Appeal can be found in the pews during Lent. Please make your checks out to Grace Lutheran Church and write Hunger Appeal in the memo line. Thank you!



**Happy Birthday!** Barb Kallestad, Julie Stuckle, Barry Briggs, Jenie Schmidt, Barbara Burley, Leigh Harmon, Sharyn Nelson, Jonathan Rudisill, Shane Artzer, Melissa Young, Angela Collins, Gayle Olson, Elayne Palmer, Jerry Westercamp, Dana Johnson



**Happy Anniversary!** Marlin and Charlotte Nielsen, Paul and Sally Thielking, Harold and Karen Mann

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## Education Opportunities

**Sunday School classes** meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings: Preschool and elementary both start in room 101, with preschool ending in room 105.

**Adult Bible Study** meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads.

**Upcoming Sunday morning adult faith enrichment opportunities:**  
**9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Grace Hall**

**Feb. 22** *Hunger in the Heartland* video and discussion, Session 1

**Mar. 1** *Hunger in the Heartland* video and discussion, Session 2

**Lenten Devotionals** are being sent twice a week through e-mail. If you aren't already receiving them, you can sign up by emailing Michelle at [rvoelker1@mchsi.com](mailto:rvoelker1@mchsi.com). They will also be available on the Grace website, and in the Gathering Hall.



**Soup Supper** Wednesdays 5-6:00 p.m. in Grace Hall.  
**Wednesday services** 6:30 p.m. beginning Ash  
Wednesday, February 18

### **Music Rehearsal Schedule**

Grace Bells: Wednesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.  
Grace Brass: Wednesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m.  
Chancel Choir: Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning February 19



### **Lenten Sermon Series**

Have you ever wanted to learn more about people from the Bible? This year's Midweek services are a great opportunity. We will hear from Judas, the man born blind, Mary Magdalene, Martha, Nicodemus, and Pilate!

Does your spiritual home feel a little cluttered? Or that of someone else you know? It is time for "Spring Cleaning." Lent, which initially meant "Spring", is a great time to "clean" your spiritual home. We will spend the 6 Sundays in Lent diving into a sermon series called "Spring Cleaning." Come, check it out!



### **Grace Kids Care is having a "SOUP"er fundraiser"!**

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at noon, after second service, the friendly staff and parents of Grace Kids Care will be hosting a soup luncheon. We thought what a better way to promote this ministry of Grace! We have been open for 12 years and it is time to update you on what's been going on in our busy daycare and preschool. We will have some informative posters and craft displays. Hope to see you there!

### **Hunger Facts**

In 2013, federal funding that helps poor families heat their homes fell by \$600 million. That means “more families facing that choice: **heat or eat.**”

Through the ELCA World Hunger domestic grant program, we have supported 350 different congregations and nonprofit organizations working to respond to hunger and poverty in the United States.

**Grace Fellowship Meeting** March 1 @ 5:00 PM which includes a light supper and entertainment from Merle Hay Mall advising us on activities and changes at the Mall.

**Faithful People, Holy Lands 2015.** Be a part of a pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine on September 11-25, 2015! See the sites, smells, and sounds of the Holy Land first-hand. Pastor Dan Kuckuck (St. Stephen, Urbandale) leads this Southeastern Iowa Synod trip along with Monte Luker, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. For more information, contact Pastor Dan Kuckuck ([515-276-4628](tel:515-276-4628) /[dan@ststephenlutheran.org](mailto:dan@ststephenlutheran.org)).

### **Lenten Slow Cooker Drive to help alleviate hunger**

As part of our fight to alleviate hunger in the Des Moines area, remember that we will be having another slow cooker drive (new pots please) here at Grace during Lent. The pots are for nutrition classes that are taught by a specialist at Iowa State Extension in coordination with the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children. You may drop them off on the table that will be available in the entrance area beginning on Ash Wednesday. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Johnson in the church office. Thanks for your part in the fight to end hunger.

### **Pet Project of the Midwest accepting donations through the end of February!**

We are looking for donations of pet food, kitty litter, or any other pet related article. Their typical clients would be families with children, people with mental or physical challenges, the homeless, those who are retired and living on a fixed income, or terminally ill. Thank you for supporting this organization.

## **Called Together in Mission (CTIM)**

Called Together in Mission is an annual event sponsored by the Southeastern Iowa Synod. It is a day long conference that brings inspiring speakers and informative workshops together for a day of renewal and connection for attendees. This year CTIM will be on Saturday, March 14 at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, and the theme is “People of the Spirit.” Keynote speaker Dr. Troy Troftgruben, assistant professor at Wartburg Theological Seminary, will speak about what it means to be people of the Spirit – ignited and empowered people reclaiming Pentecost. Registration is \$20, and you may register at [www.seiasynod.org/ctim](http://www.seiasynod.org/ctim) by March 9. A list of workshops can be found at Volunteer Central. If you are planning to go, please contact Stephanie Johnson in the church office so that carpooling can be arranged among members if desired.

### **Welcome to Grace!**

**Ministers** – The People of God

**Pastor** – The Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Director of Laity Ministries** - Stephanie Johnson

**Director of Music Ministries** – Emma Stammer

**Organist** - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

**Grace Kids Care Director** - Heather Nelson

**Church Administrator** - Jacquelyn Holmes

**Director of Communications** - Michelle Voelker

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – 8:15 – Larry Nordeen, Dave Gronert, Bruce Bergman, Len Ringgenberg

**Acolytes** – 8:15 Maya Lint

**Liturgist** – 8:15 Paul Kallenbach

**Lector** – 8:15 Ro Zimany

**Altar Guild** – Diane Jessen, Alice Kulzer, Marion Nehmer

**Counters** – 8:15 Alex Davik and Mike Carney

**Coffee** –





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