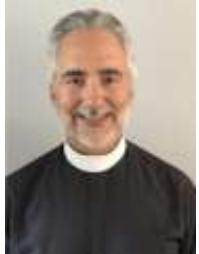


Episcopal Thoughts From Minneapolis



We have all heard about and seen video reports from Minneapolis in the past few weeks about the killing of two American citizens by ICE agents and the subsequent protests and governmental responses. There are many different people across the country giving their versions of what is happening and rather than add my own thoughts, I decided to share the words of the Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota. He released this statement the day 37-year-old Alex Pretti was shot and killed.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve



Craig Loya
Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota
Saturday, January 24, 2026

Fellow Americans,
 Things are impossibly hard in Minnesota right now. We are a state that feels under siege, and the people of this place are doing everything possible to resist. The campaign of reckless brutality being waged by the federal government has been well documented, including today's killing of a citizen who was restrained and immobilized. The clear evidence of what's happening exposes cartoonish lies from federal agencies that echo the most cynical propaganda machines in human history. The images are clear, and we are told, don't believe what you see.

But there is also something much more powerful, and not as widely reported, happening. We are mobilizing for revolutionary love. Vast networks of care, compassion, and solidarity, organized by churches to deliver food and supplies to those who cannot leave their homes. People are documenting the violence being used against us in a way that puts their own lives at risk. People are standing guard outside schools and daycares, and at bus stops to protect our children from real risks of harm. Others are taking turns watching others kids stuck in online learning because some schools aren't safe. Health care workers are bravely caring for people in hospitals that also are no longer safe, and risking being targets of arrest and detention for protecting the patients. A rich web of under-

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE
 VIA ZOOM, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND
 FOLLOW THE LINKS**

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY
 PHONE VIA ZOOM:**

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799
 Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300
 Password: 246040

10:30 Service: See YouTube link
 on Website

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM in Guild Room

*Worship resources are available
 on our Website 24/7/365.*



ground care and hidden love is taking deep root, and it's amazing to think what fruit that might bear when this occupation ends.

Minnesotans cannot do more than we are doing. Here are a few ways you can help.

- 1) Please flood your US senators with appeals to not to further fund ICE, by rejecting a bill the US House has already passed. Please flood all your members of congress with calls for de-escalation in Minnesota; for ICE, Customs and Border Patrol, and other federal agents to leave Minnesota now; and to write and pass legislation that requires proper and extensive training for all those working for the federal government in our states and local communities.
- 2) Organize peaceful demonstrations in your cities and communities. We live in a very big country, and it's possible what's happening in Minnesota feels removed. What is happening to us here is happening to all of America, and it is eroding the last remaining threads of our democracy. Minneapolis and Minnesota have been a model for the entire country over these past two weeks, with tens of thousands standing together in deep cold to peacefully protest the violence being used against us.
- 3) You can help nurture the Diocese of Minnesota's primary engine of underground care and subversive love by donating to Casa Maria, which is providing much-needed food, supplies, and community to those rightfully afraid to go about their daily lives amidst the violence. Some of Casa Maria's leaders are also working with a diocesan team to help families locate and access members who have been taken by ICE. Donations do real and immediate work to help people in Minnesota that are in real need of help.

The greatest danger we face right now is not the very real threat to our safety. It's not even the erosion of democracy. The greatest threat we face as a nation is the assault being waged on hope. We must not give in to despair. We must not be consumed by the very justified anger we feel. **The only way hatred can be effectively resisted is doubling down on love. The only way darkness can be defeated is light. The only way the forces of death can be overcome is by embracing, every moment of every day, God's unstoppable life.**

Book Club at Grace

The next book club meeting will be at **6 PM on March 12** at Grace Church. The book to be discussed is *The Feather Detective* by Chris Sweeney. We look forward to meeting newcomers as well as regular members for a fun evening. Call Ann Strevel with any questions or concerns.

Job Search Skills Ministry



Kris Eckert is looking to start a job search skills ministry. If you have experience looking at resumes and applications and/or conducting interviews, please get in touch with him at kejhncena@gmail.com.

Bring Your Palms!

Please bring in your old palms by **Sunday, February 15** to be burned for Ash Wednesday. See the weekly bulletin for more details.

Wave Project at Grace

It's been a year since we have invited volunteers and guests from the Wave project into our hall. Every Saturday, a mobile shower truck and essentials van sets up in our parking lot. People sign up to take showers and can get clothes and other needed items from the van.

Each week a different group of volunteers from churches around the county bring a hot meal to our guests. I am in awe of how smoothly this rotation of groups works. Before they came to Grace, they would set up outside so they are very happy to be in our warm hall.

Todd Gordon, the director of the Wave Project has been very involved during the year, often stopping in to check to make sure things are running smoothly.

We should be proud to be a part of this amazing ministry that brings people together to show God's love for our community.

I would like to thank all of our Grace folks for helping out by showing up early on Saturday mornings to open the hall and clean up after. We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers!

Ann and Dave Farrell

Macomb Warming Center Partnership

Last month, our church partnered with First United Methodist Church to actively support the Macomb County Warming Shelter program, which is housed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Warren. The shelter began its seasonal operations on December 21, 2025, providing essential services to homeless individuals in our community. Each evening, guests are welcomed into a safe and warm environment, where they have the opportunity to spend the night, enjoy a hot meal, and receive care and support from compassionate volunteers representing various churches throughout the county. Each church involved in the program dedicates one week of service during the shelter's operating season.

During our assigned week, our congregation was fortunate to have 28 dedicated volunteers who generously contributed their time and energy over three Grace days. Among these volunteers, six were members of American Lutheran Church, exemplifying the strong spirit and commitment within our faith community. Their involvement played a crucial role in the success of our efforts and highlighted the collaborative nature of our service.

Kirsten Blackburn, serving as our chef and kitchen manager, took charge of planning, shopping, and preparing delicious and nutritious meals with assistance from her cooking crew. All meal preparation and cooking took place at Grace, after which the food was packed and transported to the shelter. Meals were served from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and grab-and-go breakfasts were prepared for guests to take with them in the morning.

A dedicated group of volunteers managed the registration and check-in process for guests, while also organizing coats and personal belongings. At the end of each night, volunteers ensured that the kitchen and dining rooms were thoroughly cleaned and ready for use the following day.

This initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our volunteers and the broader church community. The generosity and compassion demonstrated by everyone involved made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we served. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the success of this program.

Sincerely, Ann Farrell, Church Coordinator

February Birthdays

Marchea Brown	2/03
Suzanne LaMontagne	2/06
Janet Poucher	2/08
Tish Germain	2/08
Susan Fox	2/15
Helen Fitzgibbon	2/28
Ulrike Lamb	2/28

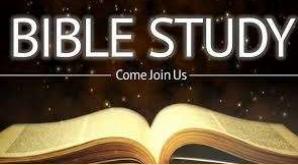
**Monthly Bible Study**

Did you know that Grace also hosts monthly Bible study sessions in addition to our regular Sunday meet-ups? Join us on **Friday, February 13 at 6:30 PM** as we go through the book of Hebrews to learn of God's love for us.

*For Love*

O Lord, you whose love is unfailing, flood our hearts with your love, we pray, and where our hearts may be empty or hard, help us to feel afresh our belovedness this day, so that we may be freed to love you and our neighbor with the fearless love of God and thereby fulfill the greatest of all commandments. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the One who has loved us to the end. Amen.

—Adapted from *Prayers for the Pilgrimage*,
W. David O. Taylor



Join us in the Guild Room for Bible study, every **Sunday at 9:30 AM**.



"F" Dollars for Fueling Kids' Futures
If your wallet has any dollar bills with **F** on them, please pass them along to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.

**COMMUNITY SUPPERS**

Wednesdays at 4 PM
Sundays (Nov.-Mar.) at 4 PM

GRACE FOOD PANTRY
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 AM to 12 PM
Curbside distribution

**Recommended Food Pantry Donations**

Canned soups, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna/chicken, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, canned applesauce

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Pastor Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Cell: 203-641-2068

Email: pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org

Music Director: Josh Dulin

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan

2025 Vestry

Martha Houser	Ernie Simon	Dash Heath
Mike Oakley	Lucy Smith	Mike Zubas
Don Siefkes	Bill Siewert	Sharon Potter