

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.com



February 2024

We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Grace Family,

I've always found the name of this second month of the year, "February", to have an interesting etymology.

The last month of the ancient (pre-450 B.C) Roman calendar, so named in reference to the Roman feast of purification. ultimately from Latin *februarius mensis* "month of purification."

English first borrowed the Roman name from Old French *Feverier*, which yielded Middle English *Feverer*, *Feoverel*, etc. (c. 1200) before the 14c. respelling to conform to Latin. It is said that the etymology can be traced back to a word meaning "the smoking" or "the

burning" (thus possibly connected with [fume](#) (n.). The sense then could be either purification by smoke or a burnt offering.

All of this to say I find it interesting that the Season of Lent begins in February. As you know, the season of Lent is the Season of Penitence and Repentance beginning with Ash Wednesday and ashes placed upon the foreheads of repentant Christians.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on [Ash Wednesday](#) (This year it's February 14th) and ends on Holy Saturday. [Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*](#), meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring

the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, [fasting](#) and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

From the perspective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, "giving something up for Lent" is entirely a matter of Christian freedom. It would be wrong, from our perspective, for the church to make some sort of "law" requiring its members to "give something up for Lent," since the Scriptures themselves do not require this.

If, on the other hand, a Christian wants to give something up for Lent as a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then that Christian is certainly free to do so — as long as he or she does not "judge" or "look down on" other Christians who do not choose to do this.

As already mentioned, our Lenten Midweek Services will begin on Wednesday, February 14th, with Ash Wednesday beginning at 5:00 p.m.. The theme for this year's Lenten Services will find its source in the hymn "*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.*" (See more elsewhere in this Newsletter)

I'm looking forward to making the Lenten Journey with you as we gather together each Sunday and Wednesday on our way to Holy Week, and Easter.

See you in Divine Service, and
Midweek Lenten Services,

In His Service and Yours
Pastor Schultz

Since we are about to enter into the Penitential Season of Lent I thought it worthwhile to be reminded about why we confess our sins.

Pastor Schultz

Why Confess Your Sins?



After the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in Luther's Small Catechism we

find the section on Confession. Pastors get the question from time to time, "Why do we keep confessing our sins? Especially if we are baptized?" Confession is the natural extension of our Baptism because in Confession and Absolution we are brought back to the promises of our Baptism. Think back to the 3rd and 4th parts of Baptism. While we did die with Christ in Baptism, we still live in the body of sinful flesh. Only when we die do we stop sinning.

Sin is a fearful thing. And continuing to sin even after our Bap-

tism can catch up to us. Continuing to sin without sign of contrition/repentance can lead a person to walk away from their Baptismal Identity and lose their faith. Confessing our sins is needed, even after Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith.

In Confession we hear plainly God's two words: Law and Gospel. He is the One who has given us the 10 commandments. He is the one who tells that we have fallen short of his glory due to our sins. But, He is also the One who promises us that even though we are sinners He does love us and forgives us on account of the only begotten Son. He made that clear at our Baptism, but if we don't hear the words of absolution spoken by Pastor in the stead and mandate of Christ we tend to forget God's love for us in Christ.

There are some Christians who say that the Pastor cannot say, "You are forgiven." But Christ our Lord commands his apostles to speak the forgiveness of sins to those men and women who repent of their sins. Confession of sins leads us to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastors are in the unique situation to be the very people that God uses to speak this truth to the repentant sinner. They are also the ones who are called to retain the sins of the unrepentant.

Our Lord searches us out, and calls us to the promise He made at our Baptism again. He does not want us to forget our baptism, so he speaks tenderly the same word to us each time we come to Him to confess our sins.

Rev. Jacob Hercamp
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
La Grange, MO

Blog Post Series

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Reports from the Mission Field

Dear Grace Family,

As a means to help us better connect to the work that goes on in the Mission Field, and the work of our LCMS Missionaries, I've asked the Rev. Christian Tiews permission to reprint some of his reports in our monthly newsletter. This month, I submit the following.

Pastor Schultz

“For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink” (Jn 6:55) ***
What if you were forced to live solely on junk food because you were not able or perhaps not allowed to consume true food like meat, vegetables, or potatoes, and fruit? Do you think this might have a slight impact your physical health? I am a few days late with my post this week because I am traveling in the Middle East with my colleague Rev. Jerrald Lawson—a fellow LCMS missionary and theological instructor at Riga Luther Academy. A small flock of Lutherans living in this country has requested us to provide them with pastoral care. For security reasons, I can't share the location with you, nor provide a picture of these dear

brothers and sisters in Christ. The best I can do is share with you the tabby cat who lives in the building where we are staying. *** All over the world millions of Christians are not able to access the basics of Christianity—Holy Baptism (once during one's lifetime), Holy Scripture (daily), and Holy Communion (ideally, weekly). They might have access to physical food, but they are starving spiritually because they are being kept from Christ's true food. At the same time, there are also many Christians around the world who have easy access to the Lord's gifts—yet are not using them. Have they perhaps never been taught how vital it is for our faith to receive the Lord's gifts of Word and Sacrament on a regular

basis? I wish they could meet the people to whom we are privileged to minister here. These isolated sheep would implore their brothers and sisters in the faith to not ignore the gifts Jesus wants us all to have, gifts that the little flock here so desperately craves yet is being kept from. On this Lord's Day I pray that you are able to receive the true food of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that our Lord provides for you only from the pulpit and the altar—true food for your spiritual health.



**Rev. Christian C. Tiews
Hamburg, Germany**

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES



Our Lenten Midweek Services will begin on Wednesday, February 14th, with Ash Wednesday beginning at 5:00 p.m.. The theme for this year's Lenten Services will find its source in the hymn “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.” The season of Lent is marked by penitential reflection, catechetical formation, the Lord's Passion, and trust in the Easter Victory.



As we gather each Wednesday we will explore the wounds we inflict upon our Lord through our acts of betrayal, apathy, denial, mockery, abandonment, and the like. Yet the ultimate message is one of healing and joy we will be reminded that in Jesus' wounds we have forgiveness and healing.

Please Note

The midweek Bible Study on Thursdays will not meet until after Easter – March 31st.

Still to come – Dates to Remember

Ash Wednesday – February 14; Palm Sunday – March 24
Maundy Thursday – March 28; Good Friday – March 29

EASTER – MARCH 31

WOMEN'S GUILD

ATTENDEES: S. Garrett, V. Garrett, T. Herman, R. Wegener, B. Haydon, J. Goline, J. Bleser, S. Schultz, G. Cates

OPENING PRAYER by Stephanie Garrett

DEVOTION by Glenna Cates, *What They Need to Hear by Iemet Preus - worshipping something other than God is idolatry*

Secretary's Report

Minutes from November were printed in December's Newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mite Box - Box will be located near the last pew for best attention.

Cookbook - tabled until Barbara Herring gives report at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

New Alter Veil purchase vote - tabled when Dianna Mancuso returns.

Valentine's Dinner -

February 11th after church service, will be catered.

✂ \$10 per person - Sign-up sheet located in Narthex for attending, desserts, and salad fixings. Table decorations meeting at 3:00PM,

✂ February 10th. Backdrop for photos planned.

Ash Wednesday Taco Bar Dinner

February 14th after church service.

✂ Sign-up sheet located in Narthex for attending / toppings / dessert.

✂ Meet at 4:00PM for set-up (leaving decorations out from Valentine's.)

Spring Outing -

Considering ideas and when.

Lee Knuth's Funeral Luncheon

Meet at 12:00PM on Saturday, January 27th for table set-up, decorations, silverware wrapped in napkins preparations. Plans for 50 in attendance.

OTHER

✂ Celebrate Anniversaries along with monthly birthday cakes.

✂ Begin Sign-up sheet for kitchen and table clean-up for all full church functions including the men.

Next Meeting Date:

February 20th, 2024

Devotion: Terri Herman

Fellowship: Bernie Haydon

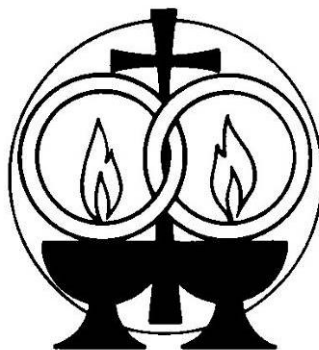
Mites collected - \$10.55

CLOSING PRAYER: Stephanie Garrett, Luther's Evening Prayer



February
Birthdays

Ella Goline	1
LaVerne Herman	16
Jessie Goline	25
Terry Quon	28



February
Anniversaries

None Listed

Elder Thoughts on giving up Something for Lent.

As Pastor rightly noted, there is not 'rule' or requirement in this regard among Lutherans. There are some who like to voluntarily engage in this. Consider 'giving' something most precious to all of us - some of your time. Do this by joining us for Lenten Services on Wednesdays and during Holy Week. Also, by giving a little more of your time to prayer for God's guidance to you and to others as well. We can all use all the help we can get - especially from the true and best helper. Don't wait for troubles to come, seek God's help and guidance at all times and places, starting now. God bless us all this Lent.