

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

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March 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,

As March arrives, we find ourselves nearing the halfway point of Lent. And as we know, Lent is all about preparing for Holy Week, and Especially Easter.

As you know, Holy Week begins on [Palm/Passion Sunday](#) and ends on Easter Sunday. With the arrival of Holy Week, we find numerous biblical prophesies being fulfilled.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. This year Palm Sunday falls on March 24th. On this, the Sunday before His crucifixion Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem

knowing full well He was making His way to the cross; laying down His life for our sins.

He sends a couple disciples into Jerusalem to find a donkey and its colt, and to bring them to Him. He then mounts the colt and rides it through the gate into Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

He rides through the streets of Jerusalem to the shouts of, ***"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"***

On Monday Jesus returned with his disciples to Jerusalem. When Jesus arrived at the Temple, he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, ***"The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves"*** (Luke 19:46).

On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. Where the religious leaders were angry with Jesus for claiming to be a spiritual authority. They organized an ambush with the intent to place him under arrest. But Jesus evaded their traps and pronounced harsh judgment on them, saying:

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"Blind guides!...For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness... Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?"
(Matthew 23:24-33)

Scripture indicates that this Tuesday was also the day Judas Iscariot negotiated with the Sanhedrin, the rabbinical court of ancient Israel, to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16).

Scripture doesn't tell us what Jesus did on Holy Wednesday, it is likely to have been mostly a day of rest in preparation of the Passover on Thursday.

On Thursday, Maundy Thursday, having spent the night in Bethany, Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover Feast.

"Maundy" is the shortened for of "Mandatum", the Latin for "command." Christ's Maundy Thursday command is found in John 13:34: ***"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"***.

During this Feast, the last supper Jesus shared with His disciples He established the Lord's Supper distributing the bread and wine with the Words; "Take eat, this is My Body...., take drink, this is My Blood."

Later, Jesus and the disciples left the Upper Room and went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony to God the Father. Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin. Early in the

morning hours Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed.

On Friday, Good Friday, we find Christ's final hours before His death. According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning. As the third hour (9 a.m.) drew near, Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment, and sentenced to death by crucifixion.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where nails pierced His hands and feet as was lifted on the cross.

Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were, ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*** (Luke 23:34, NIV). His last words were, ***"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."*** (Luke 23:46)

Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last breath and died. By 6 p.m. Friday evening, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and lay it in a tomb.

Jesus' body laid in the tomb all of Saturday as it was guarded by Roman soldiers. At 6 p.m., the Sabbath now ended his body was treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus: ***"He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth."*** (John 19: 39-40)

While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the

penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation: ***"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God."*** (1 Peter 1:18-19)

On Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, come the climax of Holy Week. The resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our very faith is established in the reality of this event.

Early Sunday morning, several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away.

An angel announced: ***"Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen."*** (Matthew 28:5-6)

On the day of His resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.

See you in Divine Service, and
Midweek Lenten, and
Holy Week 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 Baptism 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 us 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 be 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

"Love is patient and kind" (1 Cor 13:4). I am currently coaching four Iranian parishioners requesting asylum here in Germany, trying to make sure they are prepared to defend their Christian faith (1 Pe 3:15) in court. A few days ago, I met with one of them whom I had not seen for a while. He had grown a thick black beard, which, I must

admit, immediately reminded me of Osama Bin Laden. We were joined by Saman, one of our Iranian Luther Academy students, whose greatest wish is to become a Lutheran pastor. After working through the long catalogue of questions, I was quite pleased with "Osama's" responses. We also talked about Christian love, which

includes being kind to one another, even in the little things of life. At one point, I noticed the two of them chuckling. Saman shared that about half a year ago he had been having a really bad day. He was angry at everyone because of what he thought was their lack of love.

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Frustrated, he took a walk, stopping at an Iranian newspaper stand to buy some cigarettes. With a smile, the salesclerk handed him his smokes—along with a free lighter. At that moment, Saman said, his heart burst with joy because he recognized that there is love in the world after all. To his surprise, as it later turned out, not only was the salesclerk a Christian but he had even joined the very church in which we were sitting. In fact, the salesclerk was none other than “Osama.” After our coaching session, Saman put his hand on

“Osama’s” shoulder and whispered, “By the way, you might want to lose that beard before your trial. You look like a radical Muslim.” Gulp... “Sorry to get personal, but Sam is right,” I added. “It will probably help your case if you shave it off.” The next morning Saman sent me a picture that “Osama” had sent him the night before—with a beaming and cleanly shaven face as smooth as that of a newborn baby. *** Love is indeed patient and kind. Sometimes we’re the giver, sometimes we’re the recipient; but the Lord will al-

ways work through us if we let him.

(Illustration: Saman and his lighter).



Rev.
Christian
C. Tiews
Hamburg,
Germany

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES CONTINUE



Our Lenten Midweek Services continue each Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. through March 20. The theme for this year’s Lenten Services finds 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 are exploring 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. JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY AS WE CONTINUE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY!

The following is from the LCMS Stewardship Ministry (lcms.org/stewardship)

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do,

and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC D).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

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This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God's fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes.

All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God's purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a

brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

Women's Guild

ATTENDEES: S. Garrett, V. Garrett, T. Herman, R. Wegener, S. Fenske, J. Smith, B. Herring, S. Schultz, G. Cates

OPENING PRAYER by Stephanie Garrett

DEVOTION by Terri Herman, Take Time to Pray from One Minute Devotions by Christian Art Gifts. Also read from poet Charles Garrison of New Orleans, "The Strength to Face the Day."

REPORTS: Secretary's Report - Minutes from January were printed in February's Newsletter (proofed by J. Bleser and B. Haydon.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mite Box - \$ 10.55 deposited in January.

Cookbook - Barbara Herring is organizing the 127 pages and plan-

ning to print. Goal: timeframe is finished product by Mother's Day.

Spring Outing - Thursday, May 2, Ozark Botanical Gardens and The Mermaid Restaurant in Fayetteville for lunch. Meet at 8:00AM and carpool.

New Alter Veil - Terri Herman moved that Barbara Herring provide information at the next meeting. Glenna Cates seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Into the Light - Barbara Herring moved that the WG purchase and gift six Easter Baskets. Ruth Wegener seconded the motion. Vote was taken and approved by members. Members are bringing a variety of gifts for the baskets. Baskets to be completed next Sunday, February 25th. Any additional monetary donations can be used for purchases that are more than expected (baskets, books, etc).

Easter, March 31 - Breakfast Sign-up sheet started and will be placed in Narthex for the congregation. Saturday, March 30th, meet at church 3:00PM for table set-up.

OTHER

Begin Sign-up sheet for kitchen and table clean-up after Easter breakfast.

Next Meeting Date:

March 19, 2024

Devotion : Vicki Garrett

Fellowship : Jane Smith and Sherry Fenske

CLOSING PRAYER: Stephanie Garrett led in Lord's Prayer

ADJOURNMENT - 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Herman

Women's' Bible Study

"Promised Rest"

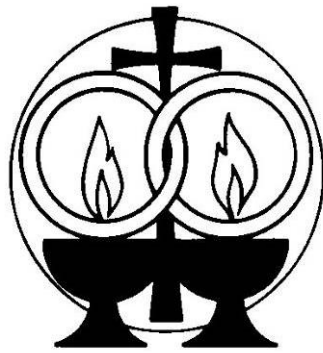
We have had a hard time meeting for Bible study with weather, illnesses and people gone. My hope is to get us back on schedule in March. **Please watch** for text messages and listen for announcements about dates we will be meeting. Thank you! Sharon



March

Birthdays

Mike Quinly	6
Tom Mancuso	11
Sharon Schultz	16
Chris Hardgrove	17
Deana Moore	18
Ramona Koch	19
Lisa Bennett	21
Ariella Garrett	25
Myles Schultz	26



March

Anniversaries

Tom & Dianna Mancuso	18
Bruce & Jane Bleser	20

Ash Wednesday

