

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

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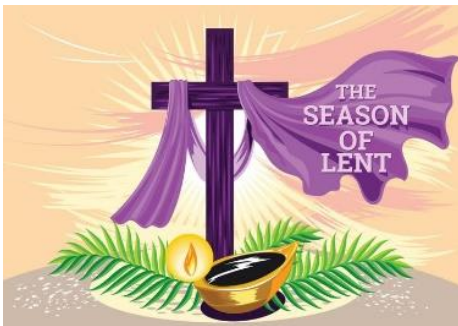


March 2023

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.

Dear Grace Family,

As you read this we are now in the Season of Lent.



Historically the Church has celebrated the major events in the life of Christ. His Incarnation, His baptism, His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension were marked

and observed as Feast Days on the Churches Liturgical Calendar.

As is common today a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

Lent is the period of time leading up to Easter. The Season of Lent takes on a penitential character. It is a time through which we not only consider the suffering and death of our Lord but we also consider the reason He came to suffering and die; our sin.

The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy, and the

word "Alleluia" is omitted as well. By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias return and ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday.

This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism as we are taught in Rom. 6:1-11; *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a

resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect

upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God. We also hear about "Give something up" for Lent. Giving up something for Lent is a matter of Christian freedom. For the church to require its members to give something up for Lent would be counter to the Gospel since the practice is not found to be a requirement of faithfulness in the Scriptures.

However, if you want to give something up for Lent as an act of personal piety, and a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then you are free to do so. This would be as long as you do not judge others for not doing the same.

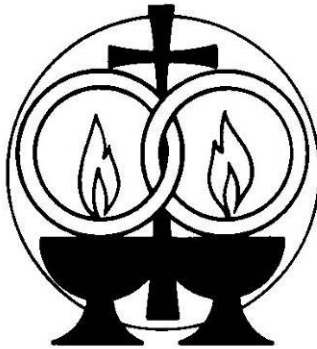
*In Christ,
Pastor Schultz*



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



Men's Fellowship

We invite all our men to join us on the second Monday of the month – march 12th this year – for a time of fellowship beginning at 8:30am. A time to share and get better acquainted. Following this we will have breakfast. We will have a short business meeting and a program.

Church Words: Justification



In February's Newsletter I shared an article about Sanctification. Each month I plan to share another article addressing "Church Words" we often hear in Bible Classes and sermons. This month I submit the following concerning the word **"Justification:"**

When you talk to people about what they believe, you hear a bunch of ideas that sometimes do not seem to fit together. More often than not, they tell you more about what they *do* and not *why* they do it. A catholic might tell you they go to mass every Sunday and do not eat meat on Friday. A Seventh-Day Adventist might tell you they go to church on Saturday or a Muslim that they pray five times a day facing Mecca. If they

do get to what they believe, the teaching might seem random. What you need to know is their most important teaching — the one on which all the rest are built.

For Lutherans, the teaching on justification is the doctrine on which the faith stands or falls. The question is how does God make a sinner a saint. We believe that justification is a legal proceeding, a *foresnsic* action. From his throne God declares sinners not guilty, even though he knows full well that we are guilty. He does this because there is no longer a penalty to pay for our sin. Jesus took the sins of the whole world and paid the full price for them. In our place, God declared him guilty and sentenced him to death. When he said, "it is finished" the debt we owed was stamped "paid in full."

Yet justification does more than grant us forgiveness. When God said, "Let there be light" it was created by the power of his word. When he says, "not guilty" we are recreated. A new Adam or Eve is born in us. So it is not simply a legal fiction. We really are righteous because God says so. And that changes everything.

When we use a computer to write something, we can chose to right, left or fully justify the document. What we mean is that all the letters will line up at the left, right or both margins. In theological terms, God lines up our actions with his will and the law by a process called sanctification. It is not completed in us before we die. God completes it when we enter his presence at the end of our mortal life. But that is another post. It is on this point that we differ with Roman Catholics, Methodists, and Holiness denominations among others.

Yet God's word clearly teaches the truth of the Lutheran teaching of Justification. The gospel is really true — we are justified only because God is gracious to us, that we believe and trust that it is true, all because Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, suffered, died and rose again for our sake. It is what makes the gospel such sweet, good news.

Rev. Robert E. Smith
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana
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LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

The Detroit Lions—a largely hapless NFL franchise—have as one of their cheers, "Restore the Roar!" The Book of Amos has this as its singular goal: to restore the rightful roar from *the* Lion, Lord Yahweh, the God of Israel. The temptation is to put our hands over our ears to drown out His roar. The world, the devil, and our old Adam tempt us to clip the claws on the Lion and clean up His bloody Passion we are called to follow. But the Bride of Christ is called to holy reverence before the LORD, the King of the universe. Beginning with Ash Wednesday we will listen and learn from the Lion using the Book of Amos.

On Ash Wednesday we considered Amos 1:1-2 under the title; **"Rescued From the Rubble"**

Titles and Texts for the rest of Lent:

Midweek Lent 1: **"Upside Down"** Text: Amos 5:1-2

Midweek Lent 2: **"This is the Night The Lord Has Made"** Text: Amos 5:18

Midweek Lent 3: **"Grieving for Joseph"** Text: Amos 6:6

Midweek Lent 4: **"Locust Seem to be Everywhere"** Text: Amos 7:1-3

Midweek Lent 5: **"Lion Alert!"** Text: Amos 7:14

Grace Lutheran Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on **February 21, 2023. 10:00 AM**

There were 13 women present along with 3 children. President Terri Herman opened the meeting with prayer and a short Fellowship Devotion from "Destination, Your Journey with God"; about Wherever you go represent God.

Devotion by Jessie Goline from "Lady Like" reminding us that everyday repetitive task like washing dishes etc., are part of your Calling from God. Be thankful for them. Often you are serving others with these tasks.

January Minutes – approved as presented.

Treasurers Report approved as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- We remain on the CS Bank Parking Lot list. Do not have dates yet.

- Missions- Sharon Suggested distributing Pamphlets or other Christian materials to locations near us ie: Flint Street Food Bank, Lives Under Construction, Cup of Love. We are checking into these.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Women's Devotion** – Sharon Schultz suggested WG sponsor a Group Women's Devotion. The Devotions, open to all women of the congregation, would be completed privately. However, since everyone involved would be studying the same devotions. Sharing with one another would help with understanding and communication with one another. The Group may gather occasionally for group devotion. This will also build up our community of 'Sisters in Christ'. Please consider this opportunity.
- **Spring Outing-** WG Spring outing is rescheduled for Friday **April 14th** at Keeter Center. Watch for the sign-up sheet in mid to late March.

- **Easter Sunday** – April 9, 2023. – Mark your Calendars.

REMINDERS:

Next Meeting. March 21, 2023
10:00 am Fellowship & 11:00 am Meeting

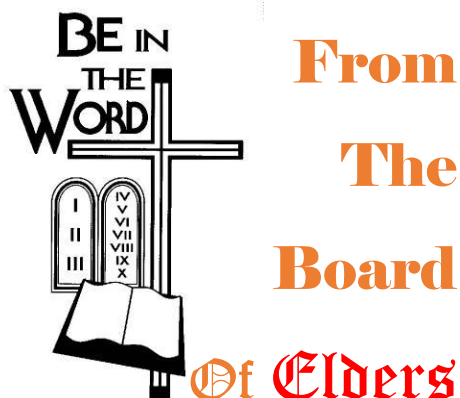
Pull together your favorite recipes to be included in the "WG Sharing Cookbook".

Mite Box Collection: \$ 136.40.
Thank you to everyone that dropped your change and bills into the Women's Guild, Mite Box. These Mites will be utilized for Mission projects in the future. May God Bless you for your generosity. What a great way to share your love with those in need and reduce the load of all that change.

All women of the congregation are invited to attend the Guild Fellowship & Meetings. Our meetings are normally held the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Fellowship at 10:00 with the Meeting starting at 11:00. If you have questions, please ask a Guild member.

Respectfully Submitted:
Barbara Herring, Secretary

Thoughts



This month we go back onto Daylight Savings time. We do not

save anything, we just reset our clocks and pretend we are gaining some time in the evening. Actually, of course, all our daylight is a gift from God. Remember the promise made after the flood in Noah's day: ²² "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (Genesis 8)

Now, of course, we have lots of folks out there diligently proclaiming that the earth is about to end with global warming. One thing I

find interesting about all this is the assumption that we know all the facts and are in control of them. But Scripture assures us that this world is not an accident but was purposefully designed by and is controlled by a loving and involved God who has sent His beloved Son to redeem our fallen world. We are now in another Lenten season where we see again what God has done and want to do for us. Join the celebration!

Kenneth Haydon, Elder