



The King's

Business

Grace Lutheran

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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.

But Let Us Press On ...

We will not forget this long March, when life was changed by a virus that we could not see but which was a real and present danger to the lives of many in the world. Limits were placed on gatherings of 250, then of 50, then of 10. On the word of the authorities, schools were closed, along with places where people gather, like restaurants, coffee shops, gyms, hair salons, clinics, and churches. Therefore, Grace also shut down.

People stepped forward in new and innovative ways. Schools had a crash course on "distance learning"

and churches found ways that they could share the faith with one another. The Gospel entered homes by way of the internet or by way of radio and television. Despite the world's panic and confusion, Christians knew that God was in control.

We look to God for hope and direction. As His people, we encourage and help each other, awaiting the time when we will meet again.

The Apostle Paul suffered many things and knew this to be true: **"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us"** (Romans 8:18). Paul did not dwell on his sufferings. **"But one thing I do: forgetting**

what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

The Christian faith does not shrivel up and die. It cannot. The Word of God is active; it is the presence of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God. The Word revives the soul. The Word awakens sleepy hearts and brings joy. The Word of God cuts out the sin and pain and trouble and worry and brings healing. The Word is the work of the living Lord, God's Holy Spirit that inspires our lives.

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Our season of Lent is ending and Holy Week will be upon us. The imposed quarantine runs through all of Holy Week. If President Trump is right, quarantine may end as early as Easter. If so, the Lent that required cleanliness and isolation will give way to an Easter that will be all the more joyous. Re-

gardless, where the Gospel is preached, there is joy.

That is the goal of Lent: To see Jesus more clearly. Sickness and worry and fear and death are the dark margins of our lives; but Easter is on its way. As Christ is in the world, He is the Light of the World. In contrast to the death of

Jesus Christ there is the Resurrection and His very Presence that brings us peace.

We wait to see what the future holds and as we wait we know we are safe in the arms of our Lord. May that peace sustain you.

Pastor Herring

Count your Blessings in the Midst of a Virus Pandemic

For many of us the Coronavirus national emergency is perhaps the biggest life-changing event that as a country we will face. Fortunately, our generation has missed the great depression and world wars which caused even greater lifestyle changes than what we are facing today. As we all know, this virus pandemic has caused the closing of schools and colleges, the cancellations of sporting events, and the job loss for many people. Many churches are no longer holding services, concerts cancelled, restaurants closed, vacations postponed, etc. The coronavirus has caused significant declines in the world's financial markets, decreasing the value of people's investments and retirement funds.

It is easy for people to become bitter and frightened in these circumstances and many will blame God. God's Word tells us of a better way. **"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17). These verses give us actions that will enable us to overcome the worst circumstances. We aren't told just to "feel better" but to **"rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks ..."**

There's a lot to give thanks for, too, when we're going through difficult times. God is with us, and He is control. What a joy we have knowing that we have God's presence and protection. We have God's strong and abiding presence through His Word and Sacrament. Each and every day, we have the opportunity to turn to God in His Word to be uplifted and refreshed even when the world around us seems to be closing down. Through the faith that God gives us, we know it is God's will that we rejoice in Him and seek His peace in the midst of this virus pandemic.

In the midst of this crisis, the church still continues its vital mission and ministry. Jesus tells us **"I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"** (Matthew 16:18). God promises us that nothing will overcome the Church because it rests on Jesus. The church is here to minister to the bitter, frightened, and doubtful. We encourage your prayers and ask you to continue your generous giving. The fear of catching the virus will keep many away from church, but we do ask that you continue your faithful giving as you are able. May God help us all during these challenging times be the light that He wants us to be.

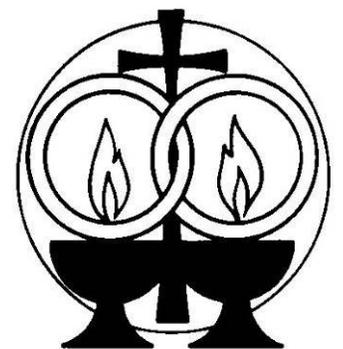
Pastor Herring



April

Birthdays

Dean Bennett	7
Joan Schardl	11
Sherry Steichen	13
Bruce Bleser	18
Ron Bjork	19
Ramona Koch	20



April

Anniversaries

None listed