



The King's

Business

Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.org



February 2020

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.

Places of the Passion Lent, 2020

I realize you will not see this article until after Lent has started with Ash Wednesday, but an explanation might be helpful to you to deepen your understanding of our Lenten theme.

Our Lenten series is drawn from Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, a different sec-

tion of the Gospel is read; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place—the *Places of the Passion*. However, the focus will not be on those physical places. Instead, throughout the series, you are invited to gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does in those places. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. When Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them. Week after week, we will enter the places of

the Passion, only to discover our Lord ... waiting for us ... willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Come and be part of our journey to the Places of the Passion and see the grace of God at work. Our midweek services begin at 4:00 pm every Wednesday afternoon.

Please join us!

Pastor Herring

Jesus Is Most Important

In his book, *The Best Is Yet to Come*, John Kieschnick tells the story of Bob Buford. He writes, "Bob Buford owned a cable television company, and God richly blessed his business. Wealth and power, however, didn't fill the hole in Bob's life. He had a nagging sense of emptiness, so he went to a psychiatrist. Bob shared his dilemma, and the psychiatrist told him, 'Bob, I want you to go home and take out a piece of paper and a pen. Draw a box, and in that box write the words that describe the most important thing in your life.'

What do you suppose Bob wrote in His box?



What would you write in your box?

What is your highest priority in life?

Before we put our answers in the box, let's reflect on our thoughts in relation to Bob's emptiness. As Christians, we understand that wealth and power do not fill our emptiness nor give us the security and happiness that Bob was seeking. As our faith grows, we learn that true riches have nothing to do with money. We can have very little money and be very rich or be very wealthy and be impoverished. True riches have to do with a right relationship with Jesus Who, through His death and resurrection, brings us happiness, contentment, joy, love, peace, and life everlasting. Material possessions do not constitute real riches.

Material things are transitory. What we possess materially is subject to loss in a variety of ways. Our wealth can be lost in the stock market or through rust, obsolescence, and thievery. No matter

how much money we may have, we have no way of guaranteeing that it can be kept safe and secure. Money can be lost, stolen, or its purchasing power lost through inflation. Investments can decline in value and businesses can fail. Our property can be burned or robbed. All material things can be gone quickly. Even if our material things stay with us, we will eventually leave them, because, at the end, we can take nothing with us.

God had blessed Bob materially, but he was still feeling empty with no purpose. Through faith, we understand that what we need most is a relationship with Jesus Who is the only Person Whose love and forgiveness can give us all that we need. So, in response to the psychiatrist's question as to what the most important thing in our life is, our answer in the box is "Jesus!"

Pastor Herring

Ladies' Guild

President Sharon Schultz opened with prayer. Nine ladies attended: Sharon Schultz, Lisa Bennett, Terri Herman, Barbara Herring, Jane Bleser, Bernie Haydon, Georgia Deubler, Ruth Wegener, and Dianna Mancuso. Lisa offered a devotion on trusting God.

Dianna reported that she contacted Trinity/Hope by letter regarding the uncashed check for \$500.00 sent last April. We have not received a response from that letter. In light of this, Dianna recommended that we consider another recipient for the \$500.00.

OLD BUSINESS

✂ Our "adopted" seminarian, Simeon Cornwell and his fiancée Emily, were married on January 4. After some discussion, Guild members agreed to send the couple \$400.00. Dianna will get an ap-

propriate card and send the check with it. Simeon will participate in the call service in April and will graduate in May. We will consider appropriate gifts for those occasions at a later meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Cornwell's new address is 5629 Woodshire Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46835.

✂ Lisa provided some information regarding P. Allen Smith's Moss Mt. Farm near Little Rock. A tour and lunch costs \$96.75 per person. It would be necessary to leave no later than 6:00 am to arrive by 10:00 am. We'll return home the same day. Guild members agreed to an early April visit. Lisa will check about purchasing tickets in advance for those interested in this field trip. Barbara Herring will check if Holiday Island still has a van for use, but we will probably carpool.

[continued next page]

✂ Barbara presented a large array of pamphlets and handouts from many LCMS organizations which she picked up at the LCMS National Convention and the Rural and Small Town Ministry Conference. She asked the members to browse through this material and find ones which particularly interest them. We can then consider supporting those, plus any others that members are interested in helping, at our meeting to decide our 2020 mission project recipients. This will probably be in March or April.

NEW BUSINESS

✂ Terri discussed the upcoming Holiday Island 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Fireworks Fest will be July 2. Terri suggested that Grace Lutheran might want to consider reserving a table at this event to promote our presence in Holiday Island. She thought we might have bottled water with Grace Lutheran labels on them and have flyers about our church and Lutheranism. Barbara volunteered to get some additional information and

share it on Sunday. This would, of course, be a church effort and not limited to the Guild.

✂ After some discussion, Guild members agreed to temporarily change our meeting time to the morning to see if this would be more convenient for our members. We'll now meet at 10:00 am for Bible study, with the business meeting beginning at 11:00. We will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. If this new time does not work for most members, we'll revert back to 1:30 pm.

✂ Next Guild meeting will be on Tuesday, Mar. 17 at 11:00 am with Bible study at 10:00. Bernie will provide refreshments and Barbara will offer the devotion.

With no further business to consider, Barbara closed the meeting with prayer.

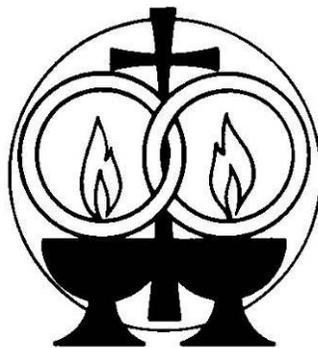
Respectfully submitted,
Dianna Mancuso



March

Birthdays

Georgia Duebler	1
Tom Mancuso	11
Sharon Schultz	16
Deana Moore	18
Ramona Koch	19
Lisa Bennett	21
Myles Schultz	26



March

Anniversaries

Tom & Dianna Mancuso	18
Bruce & Jane Bleser	20

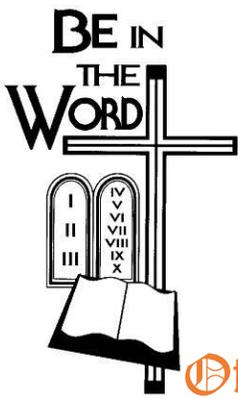
Grace Men's Fellowship

We meet the second Wednesday of the month – March 9th – at 8:30am. Breakfast is followed by a brief business meeting and then a program. This month we will be viewing the first part of a video on Apollo 11. This will cover preparations and launch while the next month will be the moon landing. This is comprised of original film now digitized most of which has been seen by the public except in brief clips. This has won critical acclaim and Tom has approved it.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

Thoughts



From The Board Of Elders

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Steven Borst senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Riverside, Calif. tells us that Luther and the reformers ended many of their writings with Soli Deo Gloria, which means 'To God alone be the glory'. Galatians 1 provides the context for this Soli: **"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."** In Romans Paul declares God, Creator and Savior, to be the source, means, and goal of everything. He is the Alpha and Omega. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

Our LCMS Doctrinal Position statements tell us that "Before God only those works are good which are done for the glory of God", and "A man owes his conversion and salvation, solely to the grace of God."

The Lutheran hymn "Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor" provide us with the words of praise we offer God. "All blessings, honor, and praise, To Father, Son, and Spirit, The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit. O triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love; Your blessed name we hallow."

Thomas Mancuso, Elder

Notes on Lent

The history of Lent goes back to the earliest times of the Church, as far back as AD 203 according to Eusebius in his history of the Church. Yet, we have been discussing the Sola's and Lent is not defined in the Scriptures. For some churches lent is an obligatory sacred tradition and a required participation for their members. The practice of fasting or "giving something up" during Lent is not required for Lutherans because it is not commanded in Holy Scripture

(see LCMS - Lutheran Liturgical Practices During Lent). Lutherans practice Lent because they want to, not because it is required. It is a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins. The season of Lent is not only a time to meditate on the suffering that 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. (In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of preparation of candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday). This is symbolized by the imposition of ashes upon your forehead. This symbolic rite is a reminder of the sign of the cross that was placed on us in our Baptism, a sign of our mortality ("Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."), and of the filth of our sin that has been washed clean by the blood of Jesus. May your Lenten journey be a blessing to you as you receive the great love of God.

(some comments are selected from Jonathan Swett, Kantar at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartland, Mich.)

Thomas Mancuso, Elder

If you do not take the distinction between good and bad very seriously, then it is easy to say that anything you find in this world is a part of God. But, of course, if you think some things really bad, and God really good, then you cannot talk like that. You must believe that God is separate from the world and that some of the things we see

in it are contrary to His will. Confronted with a cancer or a slum the Pantheist can say, 'If you could only see it from the divine point of view, you would realise that this also is God.' The Christian replies, 'Don't talk damned nonsense.' For Christianity is a fighting religion. It thinks God made the world—that space and time, heat and cold,

and all the colours and tastes, and all the animals and vegetables, are things that God 'made up out of His head' as a man makes up a story. But it also thinks that a great many things have gone wrong with the world that God made and that God insists, and insists very loudly, on our putting them right again.

From: Mere Christianity, by CS Lewis