



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.

Do Not Forget

In the midst of COVID-19, we are by necessity focusing on our health and economic challenges, but let's not forget about all the blessings that God has given and continues to give to us. Through faith, we know that He is in control and that He loves us and wants His very best for us. Throughout Scripture, though, God's people over and over again have shown the propensity to forget His goodness and love as they separated themselves from Him. When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, God reminded them, through Moses, that they were not to forget what He had done for them. **"...then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, Who**

brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, Who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness" (Deuteronomy 8:14-15). God tells the people that they will prosper in the new land, but He warns them not to set their hearts on their possessions. It is just as easy for us as was for the Israelites to forget about God's goodness and protection.

God tested the people of Israel for 40 years in the wilderness. They endured many hardships. Through these hardships the people witnessed God's goodness as He came to their rescue time and time again. Could this pandemic be our wilderness and a time of testing? This hardship is helping us to see that we are not in control, and we need

God. As God used the wilderness to shape and humble the people of Israel, is God allowing this COVID-19 to draw us closer to Him? Facing these major health and economic issues is helping many, many people understand that we can't make it on our own. Through faith, we understand that all we are and have are by God's grace and that He makes it possible for us live today, tomorrow, and forever.

How are you responding to your wilderness test? Only through faith can we understand that all these challenges that confront us are for our benefit. As God's people, we live with the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

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We know that we are completely reliant on God's generous, daily blessings. May it be our prayer that our wilderness experience will draw us closer to Him, and may we not forget His love for us. We can

confidently place our total trust in Him to provide all that we need for this life and beyond as He walks with us during these trying times. We also pray for the leaders of our country that they will seek God's

wisdom and guidance during this crisis. And we thank God for those individuals who are sacrificing their own health to tend to the needs of others.

Pastor Herring

Called to Be Stewards

With a few spoken words, God created the world out of nothing. It was God's decision to let us have **“dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth”** (Genesis 1:26). Even though mankind did nothing to deserve this opportunity, we have been given a great honor and privilege to care for His creation. God trusts us to have dominion over the works of His hands. Our caretaker role gives us purposeful lives.

Once we understand our identity as God's stewards, it changes how we look at everything around us. As stewards, we manage what has been entrusted to us. According to God's will and vision, we are man-

agers not owners. As His stewards, we are to protect and expand what He has given to us.

We are not born stewards. However, by His grace, God transforms us into stewards who seek to follow His ways rather than our own. With changed hearts, we embrace His love and plan for our lives. God empowers us to put aside our need to be owners who are in control as we become His faithful stewards who seek to do His will. The love of Christ controls us. Transformed, we worship the Lord and live lives of faith, love, and obedience rather than living for ourselves.

As the Holy Spirit works in us through Word and Sacrament, transforming us into the image of Christ, we, in turn, will express more of His character. When we believe that God is present in our

lives and trust in His power, we will, through faith, apply God's teachings to our lives.

Being a faithful steward is love in action. As Dr. Stephen F. Olford, a 20th century Christian leader, said, *“Christ alone owns our eyes to view His world. He alone owns our hands to serve His will. He alone owns our feet to walk His way. He alone owns our minds to think His thoughts. He alone owns our hearts to love Him fervently. He alone owns our personalities to radiate His charm and glory. Failure to recognize this is a refusal to recognize His sovereignty.”*

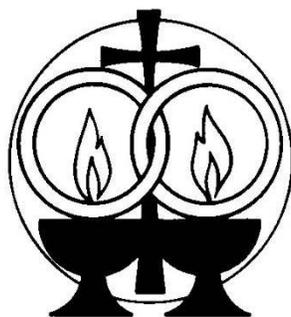
May God continue to encourage and equip us to be His faithful stewards who have been shaped by His grace.

Pastor Herring



May
Birthdays

Robert Herring 6
Kathy Stephens 7



May
Anniversaries

None listed

May 31st is Pentecost – about the **Holy Spirit**

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true