

The King's

Business



## Grace Lutheran

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**July 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.

## The Weariness of Life

I think we all would agree that we've heard too much about the results of sin in our lives in recent days. What with the pandemic, racial injustice, nothing "normal" in our lives, and there's so much more that could be added. It makes us weary, tired of all that is going on around us and we want it to stop.

Please notice that I ascribed all of our troubles to one thing—sin. That's not a very comforting thought because we know sin is

ongoing and it doesn't end, at least during our lives here on earth.

The other thought that makes us weary is knowing that this has been the condition of the world since Adam and Eve's fall into sin. For example, the prophet Jeremiah spent his ministry warning and preparing God's people for what was about to happen to them—slavery and bondage at the hands of foreign powers. Few listened to Jeremiah so imagine how weary he must have felt! It makes us wonder why he even bothered to spread the news no one wanted to hear.

Jeremiah did so because God commanded him to do the will of the Lord. Jeremiah responded to

God's call and listened to Him. He didn't like the message; he didn't care for the reaction of the people, but he carried out his calling because he knew it was the Lord's work he was doing and it was important.

The prophet saw it all from the prediction of destruction of Judah to the beginning of the captivity of God's people in Babylon. But yet, he knew the best was yet to come. Hear his words from chapter 31: **"At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."** (31:1) Yes, hard times were coming to the children of Israel and they would suffer but God would not forsake His people.

*[continued next page]*

Almost sounds like today, doesn't it? We are in the throes of a virus, freedoms have been taken away from the citizens of our country, churches have been told to close and things aren't much fun. But no matter what happens, our God will not leave us. He loves and encourages us to draw close to Him for

strength and protection during this time of trial.

And so we shall trust in Him above all things. So we shall continue to read His Word and offer to Him our prayers of thanksgiving, confession, and supplication. He will not forsake us. He will stand with

us offering His protection and love every day.

Yes, life gets weary, but our God has the strength to lead us through these days. Put your faith in Him always!

Pastor Herring

## Enriched by God

In the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he encourages them to complete the offering for the poverty-stricken believers in Jerusalem. They had previously started a collection, but this effort floundered. In a loving and brotherly way, Paul gets them energized again to bring their offering to a completion. To encourage their generosity, he shares the example of the distressed people in Macedonia who, by God's grace, gave well beyond their means to the Christians in Jerusalem. Most important, Paul directs the thoughts of the Corinthians to Jesus, Who **"though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor so that you by His generosity might become rich"** (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus swaps places with sinners so the Corinthians and we can receive

the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

Paul tells the people in Corinth, **"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"** (2 Corinthians 9:11). In order for the people to give, they had to have both the ability and the desire to give to the Christians in Jerusalem. To give generously, God enriched the Corinthians with the resources to give. He not only took care of the Corinthians own physical needs, but God provided for them beyond their needs so they had the funds to give.

God not only enriched the Corinthians by giving them resources to give, He changed their hearts to give. Many people have the financial ability to give but they are more interested in keeping what they have for themselves. Being

enriched also means that God gave the Corinthians an attitude to give cheerfully. To be enriched in every way implies physical and spiritual blessings. God gave the people in Corinth the ability and interest to give.

Through their giving, the Corinthians **"produce[d] thanksgiving to God."** Giving has both a horizontal and vertical aspect to it. When the believers in Jerusalem received the offering from the Corinthians, they were both thankful to the people of Corinth and to God for making this gift possible through the Corinthians. Through faith, the people in Jerusalem knew that the gifts that they received were by God's grace working through the people in Corinth. When we give faithfully and generously, God works through us.

Pastor Herring

## Hello from Holy Trinity

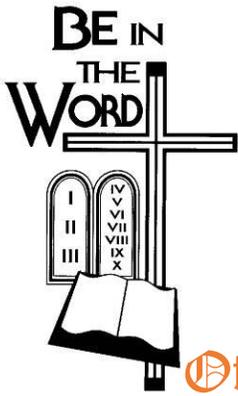
### USED CHRISTMAS CARDS:

We are still taking donations of used Christmas cards that we use to make Scripture books for children. We gave out over 500 books

last year, so we are always in need of more cards. We appreciate your help. You can drop the cards off when you are in Rogers or they can be mailed to our church. We have closed our PO Box, so please note the new address. Thank You.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Scripture Books  
1101 W. Hudson Road  
Rogers, AR 72756

# Thoughts



## From The Board Of Elders

### The Book of Concord 2

We continue our review of Section 1 of Luther's Small Catechism. At the close of the Ten Commandments, Luther writes: What does God say about all these commandments. He says, "I the Lord your God am a jealous god punishing

the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My Commandments." This means He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments, but threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Something to keep in mind.

The next segments of Section 1 address "the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar".

1. What are the four elements of Holy Baptism that Luther says the head of the family should teach in a simple way to the household? Can you remember the Fourth?

2. What is Confession? How should Christians be taught to confess? What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written?
3. What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Who receives this sacrament worthily? Who should not be given the Sacrament?

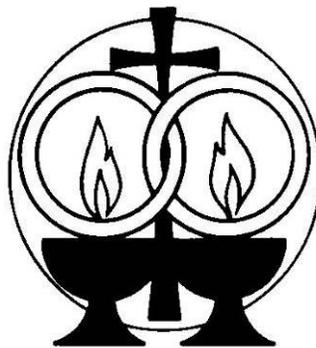
For extra work (now that you have mastered Section 1) do you believe that all Christian churches follow the three Ecumenical Creeds. (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian). You may be surprised.

Blessings,  
Tom Mancuso, Elder



## July Birthdays

Lyle Bonner 22  
Jane Bleser 29  
Emily Lovejoy (Achord) 29



## July Anniversaries

Phil & Kathy Stephens 14

## Thank You!

My thanks to all of you who supported me in prayers, words of encouragement, and many ways of support during my recent experience of two surgeries in two and a half months. While the first was planned ahead for some time, the second arose as a surprise.

In all, however, I first thank God who arranged timing perfectly to get around the various virus restrictions and complications. Bernie and I appreciate you all very much.

Kenneth Haydon,  
Pastor Emeritus

*St. Francis of Assisi said:*

**"Preach the Gospel [witness] at all times and when necessary use words."**

## From C.S. Lewis

*[this seemed like it was written recently instead of three quarters of a century ago. Editor]*

The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word 'love', and look on things as if man were the centre of them. Man is not the centre. God does not exist for the sake of man. Man does not exist for his own sake. **'Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created'** [Revela-

tion 4:11]. We were made not primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us, that we may become objects in which the Divine love may rest **'well pleased'**. To ask that God's love should be content with us as we are is to ask that God should cease to be God: because He is what He is, His love must, in the nature of things, be impeded and repelled, by certain stains in our present character, and because He already loves us He must labour to make us lovable. We cannot even wish, in our better moments, that He

could reconcile Himself to our present impurities—no more than the beggar maid could wish that King Cophetua should be content with her rags and dirt, or a dog, once having learned to love man, could wish that man were such as to tolerate in his house the snapping, verminous, polluting creature of the wild pack. What we would here and now call our 'happiness' is not the end God chiefly has in view: but when we are such as He can love without impediment, we shall in fact be happy.

From: The Problem of Pain



They are growing and looking better all the time.