

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 8, 2023

#### A WORD FROM PT

What are the most salient points in telling the story of Jesus? That is what the meditations for our Lenten Midweek Service is all about, for they are appropriately meditations on the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed. These meditations will be broken down into four parts. They are first, "The Mystery Person: The God/Man." Second, "Our Lost and Condemned Status." Third, "Redeemed by His Blood." And fourth, "That I May Be His Own."

It is important to see Jesus' story as the culmination of the grand narrative of the whole of Scripture. You might think of the grand scheme of things described with three words: Creation, Fall, and Redemption. The Bible speaks of how a good

creation became corrupted by sin and then how God went about the work to redeem and restore His creation, especially that part of His creation created in His image and likeness, but who had rebelled and sinned and brought corruption to the rest of creation.

The key elements of Jesus' story are His unusual birth, His remarkable public ministry, His innocent and sacrificial death, His surprising third-day bodily resurrection, His subsequent ascension along with His promise to return and close out this present age.

Concerning Jesus' birth it was not by agency of a human father, but by the Holy Spirit as His human mother, Mary, conceived in her womb and carried her son

to birth and then nurtured Him to adulthood.

Concerning His public ministry Jesus performed many signs and wonders, including casting out demons and raising the dead. His teaching was audaciously direct and with authority, it was also memorable as He taught of the Kingdom often in parables.

Concerning His execution by death on the Cross, there were no legitimate charges. He did not resist the miscarriage of justice but acted and behaved as if that was what He came for. And His subsequent resurrection and ascension is proof positive that He could deliver what He promised: salvation from sin, death, and the devil.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**Does the receiving of money offerings play a significant role in the worship service?** Yes, more than you might think! Cash is one of the strongest symbols in modern culture. When we offer our money on the altar it should represent our time and effort –

our very selves. In early Christian worship gifts-in-kind were handled during the weekly assemblage. In our post-industrial societies, we now exchange in paper or metal symbols. The offering of our selves upon the altar is in response to God's love proclaimed in

the Good News and in anticipation of how God offers back that which is entrusted to him. During the moment of offering we also offer bread and wine upon the altar, and in return these gifts are offered back to us as the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, 3/8** Lenten Midweek  
6:30pm Soup, Vespers/Meditation

**Thursday, 3/9**  
9:30am Prayer Gathering  
6:00pm Church Council

**Friday, 3/10**  
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Saturday, 3/11**  
6pm Preside at Emmanuel Lutheran

**Sunday, 3/12** Third Sunday in Lent  
8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Voters Assembly  
10:30am Fellowship  
10:45am Adult Study on 1 Thess

**Wednesday, 3/15** Lenten Midweek  
6:30pm Soup, Vespers/Meditation



**Making  
Disciples  
for Life**

**LCMS** (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) (LCMS.org)

## THIS AND THAT...

This Sunday, March 12, we will hold a brief **Voters Assembly** to vote on a proposed resolution to apply for enrollment in a "Genesis School Readiness Study" along with three other area congregations to plant a new LCMS school.

The **Church Council** meets this Thursday evening at 7pm.

The Theme for the rest of the **Midweek Services** will be reflections on the 2nd Article

of the Creed, starting with a soup supper on March 8 at 6:30 pm and then continuing with the Vespers, Evening Prayer Service

The continued **livestreaming** is for those who cannot otherwise attend in person!

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Basket!

The Warners are scheduled to clean the week of March 19.

And Heidi Traver is scheduled for the week of April 16

The March **Designated Benevolence** is for **New Horizons**.

Can you summarize the most important aspects of Jesus' story in the Gospel Accounts? And would you be able to share them with someone else who wanted to know about Jesus and what the Church taught about Him? It is important for you to be able to do this.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. - Eph 2:8*

## HUMOR DEPARTMENT

### Celebrations

#### Birthdays

Mar 16 ..... Jon Uy  
 Mar 17 ..... Mike Meunier  
 Mar 18 ..... Nikki Hanson  
 Mar 26 ..... Asher Roll  
 Mar 26 ..... Benjamin Roll

#### Anniversaries

Apr 27..... T & P Betlach  
 Mary 3 ..... J & J Schoonover

### Church Football

*Continued from last week...*

**Sudden Death** - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes into "overtime".

**Trap** - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

**End Run** - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow

member.

**Flex Defense** - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

**Halfback Option** - The decision of fifty percent of the congregation not to return for the evening service.

**Blitz** - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer.

### Two-Minute Warning -

The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

**Instant Replay** - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**3/12** Third Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier  
**Reader:** Heather Roll  
**Crucifer:** Elyse Schoonover  
**Acolyte:** Jed Roll  
**Ushers:** Dave Bjornstad  
**Counters:** Jarrod R/Dave B  
**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** the Rolfs  
**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**3/19** Fourth Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow  
**Reader:** Dan Molstad  
**Crucifer:** Stella Roll

**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll  
**Counters:** Tom R/Dan M  
**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** Jessica S/tbd  
**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**3/26** Fifth Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad  
**Reader:** Cole Warner  
**Crucifer:** Jed Roll  
**Acolyte:** Stella Roll  
**Ushers:** Dan Molstad  
**Counters:** Connie M/Naomi R  
**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** Heidi T/tbd  
**Livestreamer:** Cole Warner

**4/2** Psalm/Passion Sunday  
**Asst Minister:** tbd  
**Reader:** tbd  
**Crucifer:** tbdStaff  
**Acolyte:** tbd  
**Ushers:** tbd  
**Counters:** tbd  
**Comm Asst:** tbd  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** Connie M/tbd  
**Livestreamer:** tbd

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church  
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Services held at 9am at:  
 642 Western Avenue  
 A block north and then  
 a block west of King Furniture