

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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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

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