

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 12, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

On Ash Wednesday the Gospel Reading was taken from Matthew's Gospel the 6th chapter. In the reading Jesus addresses three acts of piety: giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting. The first mentioned is also known as the giving of alms, or simply as charity.

These three activities are especially brought to the fore in the Season of Lent and are often spoken of as spiritual disciplines. It is not that they only belong in the Season of Lent. Rather, these lifelong practices in the life of a believer receive renewed focus. They are basic. To put it in baseball terms, the Season of Lent becomes a kind of Spring Training where the basics

are rehearsed with intensity.

With each of these disciplines our Lord warns His followers against their exercise for mere show, to be seen by others. Hence, He commends prayer in the privacy of your room, with the door closed. He speaks of fasting – yes, the practice is assumed – without disfiguring your face and letting everyone know how dedicated you are. And in giving to the needy, this should be done in a way that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. The purpose in each is meant for devotion to God and for love and service to the neighbor, and not for self-aggrandizement!

Jesus is not averse to speaking of rewards. But He wants us blessed with the highest rewards. The praise of others along with power, influence, and wealth is small potatoes compared to being formed in Christ and having treasures in heaven. When you think about it, it is hard to argue the point. How do you spell 'eternity'?

Don't overlook the giving of alms! Jesus actually leads with this in Matthew 6. Money, food, clothing, and shelter come quickly to mind. But don't overlook the giving of your time, attention, and affection. The right words of love and affirmation also touch the real needs of our neighbor.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the meaning of the Incarnation? The word *incarnation* is taken from Latin term *incarnatio*. It literally means "taking flesh" and in the Christian Faith it refers to God becoming human. In John 1:14 we learn of God the Son becoming flesh with the birth of Jesus

of Nazareth. Indeed the child born to Mary was a man, but it is the insistence of the Christian Faith that Jesus was also fully God. He is sometimes called the *God-Man*. Without ceasing to be fully divine, inseparable and equal to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit; God the Son

also fully assumed our humanity in the womb of the Virgin Mary. In this way Jesus mediates God to man and then also represents man to God. The mystery of the Incarnation becomes a necessary means by which Jesus' death and resurrection accomplishes our salvation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 3/11**
9am Winkel at Prince of Peace Luth
- Wednesday, 3/12**
6pm Midweek Soup then Service
- Thursday, 3/13**
9:30am Prayer Gathering
6pm Church Council
- Friday, 3/7**
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
- Sunday, 3/16** Second Sunday in Lent
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Adult Bible Study
- Wednesday, 3/19**
6pm Midweek Soup then Service



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of

Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of

the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus! He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES...

During the Season of Lent we will gather at 6pm on Wednesdays for a **Soup Supper**. There will be a signup sheet in the kitchen for contributing soup, bread, beverages, and a dessert.

This year we are providing up to an hour for the supper, during which time our head elder, Jeremy Schoonover, will give a presentation and teaching on the liturgy.

Then, no later than 7pm, Pastor Tim we lead the congregation in the Lutheran Service Book “Service of

Prayer and Preaching”. This service will last from 20 to no more than 30 minutes in length. And Pastor Tim will be devoting his meditation/teaching on the “Apostles' Creed” following up on last year's treatment of the “Ten Commandments”.

The Midweek Services are scheduled for March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9.

The Theme for the Midweek Services is **“The Gifts of God: Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification”**.

The schedule for the medita-

tions is as follows...

Mar 12: 1st Art: “The Lord Creates, Sustains, and Protects”

Mar 19: 2nd Art: “The Mystery of the Incarnation”

Mar 26: 2nd Art: “Redeemed, Delivered, and Inheritors”

Apr 2: 3rd Art: “Called to Faith and Sanctified”

Apr 9: 3rd Art: “The Workshop of the Holy Spirit”

THIS AND THAT...

The Wednesday Evening **Lenten Midweek Services** starting March 12, will begin with a Soup Supper at 6pm, and then followed with a 20-30 minute Worship Service at 7pm.

The Theme for our Midweek Services will be **'Gifts of God: Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification'**: reflections on the Apostles' Creed

The **Men's Breakfast Bible**

Study meets on Friday mornings, 7am, at the McDonald's Restaurant.

Both the **Prayer Group** and the **Church Council** will meet at the church on Thursday this week.

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

The Molstads will clean the church the week of March 16. We need someone to sign up

for the week of April 20.

The March **Designated Benevolence** is for **Voice of the Martyrs**.

Had you ever thought of charitable giving as a practice? You know the old saying, "Practice makes perfect." The desire to give can actually increase as one both practices it and then also begins to experience the joy and rewards of giving. Start somewhere, even if small, and then gradually increase...

GIFT of GRACE

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

March 16 Jackie Repaal
 March 16 Jon Uy
 March 17 Mike Meunier
 March 18 Nikki Hanson
 March 26 Asher Roll
 March 26 Benjamin Roll

Anniversaries

Ole Turns Catholic

Ole liked to grill venison steaks on Friday's after work, even during the Season of Lent. The delicious aroma wafted all around the community. This upset all his Catholic neighbors.

The Priest thought he had found a solution when he discovered that Ole was open to his suggestion that he become a Catholic.

After several classes and much study, Ole finally attended his first Mass. The Priest sprinkled holy water over him and said, "You were born a Lutheran; raised a Lutheran; but now you are a Catholic."

Unfortunately this did not solve the problem of Ole's Friday night grilling.

As the neighbors once again complained, the Priest was called. One Friday evening

during Lent the Priest rushed into Ole's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him. Instead, he watched in amazement.

There stood Ole, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat. Ole was chanting: "You vuz born a deer; you vuz raised a deer; but now you are a walleye."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

3/16 Second Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jeremy Schoonover
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Benjamin Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Jeremy S/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Cyndi M
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

3/23 Third Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte: Dawson Staff
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Dan M/Tom Rislow
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

3/30 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Connie M/David B
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

4/6 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Connie Meunier
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham
Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Jeremy S/Jackie R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

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