

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

March 2026

A Word from PT

Well, we are under way in the Season of Lent. And the congregation has been invited to join in the 40-Day Lenten Journey toward the Cross of Christ and our being renewed in Baptism. It is by Baptism that we are joined to Christ's death, with the great benefit of also being joined to His resurrection.

You have been encouraged to step up with increased focus on three spiritual disciplines. Those disciplines are prayer, fasting, and the giving of alms. These do not just belong to one Season of the Church Year. But with sharpened focus during a forty-day period, the idea is that they will become habituated in us and then play a larger role for the rest of the year.

In keeping with our congregation's renewed focus this year on evangelistic outreach, the connection with spiritual renewal is important.

It's hard to give away to others what you don't have yourself.

Think of our relationship with Christ, with the promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of the baptized believer, as a healthy infection. An infection of peace, joy, hope, and charity. The more this infection is at work in your life the greater chance that it can act as a contagion. The better chance that someone else might catch the infection.

Our Lenten Midweek Services are an important part of the 40-Day Lenten Journey. Beginning with a simple meal (not quite fasting) we have a wonderful opportunity to join together in Christian community sharing our lives with each other as we break bread together.

The Midweek Service then also includes something called the "Service of Prayer and Preaching". The preaching will be a shorter

meditation, and the theme for the meditations I have entitled, "Without Prayer We Don't Stand a Chance". We will be looking at the Lord's Prayer which is the Third Part of Luther's Small Catechism.

Our Midweek Services provide an excellent opportunity for you to invite someone to accompany you to enjoy a simple, but tasty, meal and join with us for prayer and a meditation. This constitutes evangelistic outreach, for Christ and His Word are front and center at our gatherings.

Utilize the wonderful flyer Jeremy and Jessica Schoonover created with your outreach and invitation. I emailed it to you, and I can also do so again if you need it.

Do join us for the Lenten Journey! We all need the renewal!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 3/1 Second Sunday in Lent

8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Bible Study on 2 Corinthians

Wednesday, 3/4

6pm Soup Supper Lenten Midweek

Friday, 3/6

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
10am Service at Care Center in Onalaska

Sunday, 3/8 Third Sunday in Lent

8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Bible Study on 2 Corinthians

Wednesday, 3/11

6pm Soup Supper Lenten Midweek

Thursday, 3/12

6pm Church Council Meeting

Friday, 3/13

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, 3/14

10am Ukrainian Egg Dyeing Class

Sunday, 3/15 Fourth Sunday in Lent

8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service
10:15am Potential Voters Meeting

Tuesday, 3/17

6pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday, 3/18

6pm Soup Supper Lenten Midweek

Friday, 3/20

7am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 3/22 Fifth Sunday in Lent

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:45am Bible Study on 2 Corinthians

Wednesday, 3/25

6pm Soup Supper Lenten Midweek

Friday, 3/27

7am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 3/29 Palm/Passion Sunday

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:45am Bible Study on 2 Corinthians

Announcements

The Church Council is calling for a special **Congregation Voters Meeting** on Sunday, March 15, for the purpose of hearing the report from the work group that evaluated the property opportunity on main street in Holmen, and to consider further action related to that opportunity. The meeting will be called to order quickly on the heels of the Divine Service, around 10:15am.

The Wednesday **Lenten Midweek Services** involve gathering at 6pm for a Soup Supper (bread, drinks, and dessert included) and then participating in a Prayer Service with Meditations on the Lord’s Prayer at 7pm. The Theme for the Midweek Meditations is entitled, “Without Prayer We Don’t Stand a Chance”.

Holy Week begins on the last Sunday of March, the 29th. This Sunday is known both as **Palm Sunday** and the **Sunday of the Passion**. Both are

appropriate, for our Lord Jesus who entered Jerusalem for the weeklong Jewish festival of the Passover, knew what awaited Him by week’s end. He was greeted with palm branches and shouts of Hosanna at the beginning of the week. But He was hung on the Cross later in the week, the very purpose for which He had come into this world. We will be led in procession with palm branches to the Divine Service that morning.

Heide Fehr and Leslie Duesenberg are planning a **Ukrainian Egg Dyeing Class** on March 14, 10am – 1pm at the church. Please invite others. The cost is \$5 and it is important to register by March 7. Contact Leslie at lesdues@gmail.com.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod believes, teaches, and confesses that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God. And if we really believe this ourselves, then we have to ask ourselves, are we treating the Bible like it is the Word of God? Am I

opening the pages of this letter addressed to me from God? Am I listening to God, trusting what He commands, teaches, and promises? Am I learning His teachings? Am I putting His word into practice? Am I attending Bible Studies to help me with this. Consider the **Adult Bible Study Class** on Sunday mornings at 10:45am. Or men, consider the **Men’s Breakfast Bible Study** at the McDonald’s Restaurant off of County OT on Friday mornings at 7am.

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

The Molstads are listed to clean the church the week of March 15, and then we need someone to volunteer for the week of April 19. Then we need signups for most of the rest of the year. The signup sheet is in the kitchen.

Worship Assistants

Mar. 1

Assisting Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Benjamin Roll

Usher: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Jarrod R/tbd

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Live streamer: Jarrod Roll

Mar. 8

Assisting Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Usher: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Connie M/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Live streamer: Jeremy Schoonover

Mar. 15

Assisting Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Jeremy Schoonover

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham

Usher: Mary Bartos

Counters: Jarrod R/Tom R

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Live streamer: Jed Roll

Mar. 22
Assisting Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Usher: Dan Molstad
Counters: Dan M/tbd
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Live streamer: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Jeremy S/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Live streamer: Jeremy Schoonover

Mar. 29 Palm/Passion Sunday
Assisting Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham
Acolyte: Regan Cunningham
Usher: Mary Bartos

By Way of Humor

March Humor...

- What falls during March but never gets hurt? Rain.
- Can February March? No, but April May.
- What March flowers grow on faces? Tulips.
- Why did mom call pest control? Ants were on the March.
- Why is everyone so tired on April 1? Because they just finished a long 31 day March.
- Why was a sports fan acting so crazy? He had March madness.
- What should you say to a runner in the St. Patrick's Day marathon? Irish you luck!
- What do you call a fake diamond in Ireland? A sham-rock.
- Why do leprechauns recycle? They like to go green.
- How is a good friend like a 4-leaf clover? They are hard to find.
- Why is it difficult to borrow money from a leprechaun? They're always a little short.
- What's Irish and stays out all night? Patty O' Furniture.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 16: Jackie Repaal (birthday)

March 18: Nikki Hanson (birthday)

March 16: Jon Uy (birthday)

March 26: Asher Roll (birthday)

March 17: Mike Meunier (birthday)

March 26: Benjamin Roll (birthday)

Becoming More Familiar

Concerning the meaning of Lent?

Lent is a 40-day Christian observance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, beginning on Ash Wednesday and leading to Easter, symbolizing Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, focused on spiritual preparation, self-discipline, repentance, and drawing closer to God by giving up luxuries or bad habits for reflection and charity. It's a solemn period for inner conversion and preparing for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Concerning the color Purple for Lent?

During Lent, the altar, vestments, and other decorations in the church are draped in shades of purple. This color change serves as a visual reminder of the season's solemnity and the call to deeper spiritual reflection. It marks a stark contrast to the festive colors of other seasons, reinforcing the introspective nature of Lent.

It also serves as a powerful, visual tool that invites the faithful to reflect on their spiritual lives and prepare for the celebration of Easter. It is a constant reminder of the season's

themes of penance, mourning, and ultimately, renewal. As we see the purple around us in our places of worship, we are reminded to turn our hearts towards God and the profound mystery of redemption that Lent prepares us to celebrate.

Concerning "The Sunday of the Passion"?

To many this day is known simply as Palm Sunday. And indeed, the prelude to Jesus' final week begins with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem which involved a procession of Palms and shouts of joy.

And yet, Jesus knows full well what lies ahead. He will be wounded and killed. He knows that blood will be spilled and flow from His head, hands, feet, and side. He knows his death on the cross will bring about a great victory over sin, death, and the

devil. The horror of being severely wounded lies ahead, and yet he will not be deterred. It is for this purpose that He has come into this world.

In remembering his joyful and triumphant entry, we realize the irony

of crowds that one week hail Him as King, and the next week cry “Crucify Him!” Palm Sunday is the prelude to the Cross in which all the events of the rest of the week participate.

Stewardship

(of time, talent Treasure)

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz’ home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785* “We Praise You, O God.”

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; / In grateful devotion our tributes we bring. / We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You; / We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and

our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You; / Through trial and tempest our guide You have been. / When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us, / And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God’s provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome

the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer / And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. / With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us. / To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God’s strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God’s glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

- from *LCMS Stewardship Ministry Website*



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