



Cornerstone

MARCH 2020



GRACE UPON GRACE

We are so used to hearing the word grace that we think we really know it. It is like being near some person for many years and think we really know them, when maybe we do not. Our culture seldom wants to go deep. Sound bites and quick retorts are the style. When we hear the word grace it is almost bland or overused.

During our Lenten season we are on a journey of forty days to actually rely on grace. We are taking the road of Trusting God vs. Pleasing God. Grace is more than a forgiving of our sins. Grace is the whole amazing relationship that God has established for us. Grace is the constant flow of God's goodness and promises for us. Grace is God's answer to ending the power of sin and death. Grace is God's love and pride over us. Grace is God's work of making us

in His image so that we would need and rely on him. Grace is God's free love towards us without strings. Grace is amazing!

The Cross of Jesus is the center of God's grace for us. God had to work out the problem of our sin. God had to redeem us or get us back into a relationship with him. Our sin needed to be dealt with. Our judgment and death had to be worked out. Our pain and innocent suffering had to be worked out. Someone had to take these things on. Someone had to suffer to carry the suffering of the world. Someone had to die to pay the penalty for turning from God. Someone had to love us broken and sinful creatures more than himself. God sent Jesus into the world. God gave his own Son's life for ours.

The Cross of Jesus is also the end

of sin's power over us who believe in Jesus. Jesus said "It is finished!" This means we are declared and are actually forgiven. It means the judgment we deserve has been put on Christ.

So God is no longer trying to work on the problem of sin, but of us living fully in grace. The reformation is still going on! Instead of looking how we can obtain life, God stills says you have life in me. God has given us a place in his family forever. God says I have given you my Holy Spirit as your life-long comfort and companion. God has given you the benefits and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. God is daily at work keeping His promises. God is unrelenting in his good plans for you.

So God invites us to face our challenges with Him. God invites us to be honest about our need

For His love, not our need for a medication or a vacation but our need for the fullness of His grace to wash us and care for us. God invites us to have our spiritual eyes open to see His faithfulness. God invites us to rely on Him and all his grace.

Today we face many challenges. The Coronavirus is one of many. The facts are;

1. That many have contracted the disease.
2. That more than 90% of the people survive.
3. The virus will continue to spread for a time period that we do not know.
4. That we can prevent a lot of the spreading by good hygiene, this is not 1918.
5. A vaccine will be developed and save many lives.
6. God's grace is so great that even though we face all kinds of challenges we are not orphans or a lost people.

God holds us in His hands. The ultimate sign and commitment of God for our lives, for the purpose of us to live in peace and confidence with God, is that He gave Jesus on the cross for us.

Jesus took our suffering upon himself. The world is held in God's grace. Let's let others know and remember God's grace is for them.

Pastor Ron Boettner

amazing
GRACE

Christ Lutheran Search for New Worship & Music Director

With Joan Murphy's decision to retire from being our organist and accompanist, which will be on May 3rd this spring, the Worship and Music Committee has been discussing and planning our search for a new Worship and Music Director. After much discussion of our needs for leadership and direction, several ideas stood out. First we wanted to find a person with gifts of playing piano, leading, and singing with the congregation. Secondly for planning and leadership skills to use hymns, liturgy, and new contemporary songs in a service that is worshipful, full of energy but without becoming the focus of worship. We also seek a person who can direct a choir and help bring song leaders into our worship. We also desire the person to help lead in worship by their own faith and words of teaching and encouragement.

The Worship and Music Committee and Joan, herself are excited to see what God is preparing for Christ Lutheran. The Staff Support Committee has developed a job description and has begun our search. This job is larger than what Joan had been doing, in that it includes directing the choir and developing other worship leaders, such as song leaders, and the Bell Choir. John Oman will continue as a substitute keyboard person and as an accompanist.

Please plan on celebrating Joan Murphy's 12 plus years with us on Sunday May 3rd.

Serving Team Yellow – March Schedule

Readers

Mar 1 Kirsten Shanahan
Mar 8 Karen Pennaz
Mar 15 Kathy Oman
Mar 22 Jean Flatten
Mar 29 Gary Stueven

Leader: Brad Sim

Ushers

Mar 1 Greg Roiland, Denny Grenell
Mar 8 Greg Roiland, Denny Grenell
Mar 15 Greg Roiland, Denny Grenell
Mar 22 Greg Roiland, Denny Grenell
Mar 29 Bill Seehafer, Greg Roiland

Leader: Skip Flatten

Greeters

Mar 1 Bill & Michele Seehafer
Mar 8 Karen Grandstrand
Mar 15 Steve & Karen Pennaz
Mar 22 Justin & Danielle Thomas
Mar 29 Reese & Kirsten Shanahan

Leader: Shelly Anderson

Altar Care

Mar 1 Mary Steffl
Mar 8 Mary Couser
Mar 15 Deb Stueven
Mar 22 Yoshi Grenell & Arianna
Mar 29 Karen Pennaz

Leader: _____

Coffee Servers

Mar 1 Greg Roiland, Tom Zulkosky
Mar 8 Lena & Ole
Mar 15 Bonita Heilman, Karen Pennaz
Mar 22 Deb Stueven, Shari Rennebohm
Mar 29 Yoshi Grenell, Judy Johnson

Leader: Judy Johnson

Clicker

Mar 1 Dale Anderson
Mar 8 Mark Mundahl
Mar 15 Dale Anderson
Mar 22 _____
Mar 29 _____

Leader: Mark Mundahl

Serving Teams - We encourage every member to serve our congregation by being on a serving team.

ORANGE - serving in October, January, April, and July

YELLOW - serving in September, December, March, and June

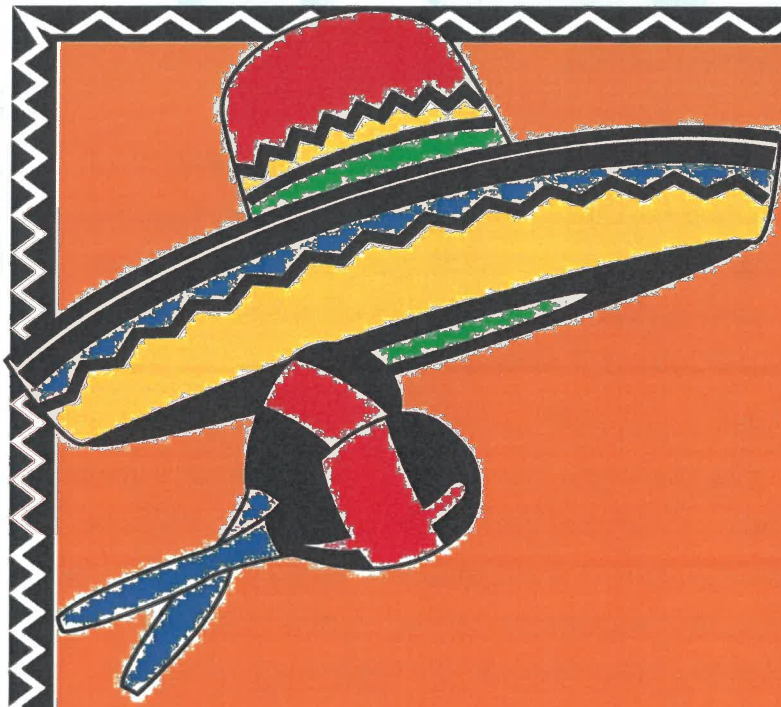
BLUE - serving in November, February, May, and August

Sign ups are at the Christ Corner Bulletin Board by the Fireside Room.

MARCH

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - Anchored In Christ 10:15 am - Good Life 10:25 am - Adult Study | 9 am - Quilting 8:30 pm - Prayer Team | Super Tuesday (regional holiday) 5 pm - Confirmation 5:30 pm - Lenten Supper 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship Service 7:30 pm - Choir Practice | 9 am - Charis Women's Study 10:15 am - Music Together 6:30 pm - Vision Team | OFFICE CLOSED | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Daylight Saving Time starts 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - Anchored In Christ 10:15 am - Good Life 10:25 am - Adult Study | 9 am - Quilting 11:30 am - Staff Meeting | 5:30 pm - Lenten Supper 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship Service 7:30 pm - Choir Practice | 9 am - Charis Women's Study 10:15 am - Music Together 6:30 pm - Vision Team | OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - Anchored In Christ 10:15 am - Good Life 10:25 am - Adult Study | 9 am - Quilting 8:30 pm - Prayer Team | St. Patrick's Day 5 pm - Confirmation 5:30 pm - Lenten Supper 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship Service 7:30 pm - Choir Practice | 9 am - Charis Women's Study 7 pm - COUNCIL | OFFICE CLOSED | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| No AIC - Spring Break 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - Good Life 10:25 am - Adult Study | 9 am - Quilting 11:30 am - Staff Meeting | 5:30 pm - Lenten Supper 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship Service 7:30 pm - Choir Practice | 9 am - Charis Women's Study | OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - Anchored In Christ 10:15 am - Good Life 10:25 am - Adult Study | 9 am - Quilting | 5:30 pm - Lenten Supper 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship Service 7:30 pm - Choir Practice | 9 am - Charis Women's Study | OFFICE CLOSED | | |



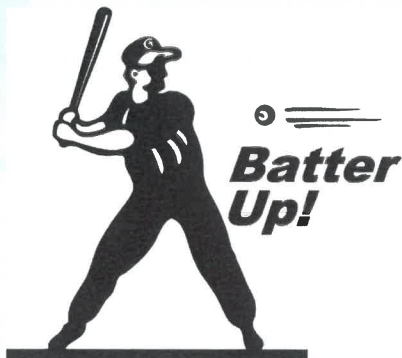


Hola! Please join our mission trip team for a Spanish fiesta after service at 10:30 on May 3rd! We will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo by partaking in a Spanish-styled meal together and will be receiving donations that will directly go to the community that we will be serving in Puerto Rico this summer. Bring your appetite! We would love to have you join us!

Minnesota Twins Opener at Christ Lutheran

Monday March 16th at 10:00 am.!!!

The actual Minnesota Twins Opener is March 26th but we will celebrate early with freshly grilled hotdogs, brats, cracker jacks, cold root beer and make our 2020 season predictions. Feel free to join us. No charge. Please sign up in the narthex so we can know how many are coming. Wear your Twins gear if you like!



Serving Teams for April

Holy Week and Easter come in April and there will be special instructions for the Altar Care servers for the month. Nothing to demanding just a few variations. Please check the Altar Care Directions in the sacristy on the cabinet door, for any updates.

Team Leaders are;

Coffee: Greg Rietow

Altar Care: Jean Flatten

Greeters: Nancy Wood

Ushers: We need a leader...

Readers: Renee Burrows

A word or two from Council President

Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, Lent is a time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year, Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to review our sinful behavior and our need for a Savior. It is a time to open our hearts to our Lord and to draw closer to Him, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing grace God has to offer. Lent is not only a time to examine our sinful nature, but it is a time of learning how to live in grace. It also points to the hope of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. God is truly able to help us! He is loving and faithful!

Just as Lent is a time of hope, the sunny warmer days this past week have renewed our hope for the coming of spring. We can look forward to growing in confidence in our faith, growing in acceptance of

ourselves, and growing in love for our neighbor. Weekends at the cabin, fishing, flowers, walks, golf, gardening, and longer days will be great, but only Christ can satisfy us. With all the activities of spring and summer, may Christ be the center of it all!

With our organist, Joan Murphy's retirement on May 3, 2020, the search is on to find a music director, someone who will enhance our church service, and to continue our tradition of worshiping with music. Please keep the search in your prayers so that we may be led by God to just the right individual. We are so thankful to Dale KenKnight, for the time and energy he has spent directing our choir, it is a huge commitment.

Wednesday night soup suppers begin March 4th at 5:30. The suppers give us an opportunity to come together, develop deeper relationships, and enjoy Christian fellowship. Please join us for soup, fellowship and worship! Hope to see you soon!

March Food Drive and Service Silent Auction

Donations needed:

- Non-perishable food items
- Personal care items
- Cash donations – for fresh foods
- Your time, talent and gifts for a Service Silent Auction

All cash donations for WeCAN and LoveINC food programs

With the **Maple Plain Food Shelf** closing its doors, we want to continue to support the needs of our communities. **WeCAN's** Mobile Market and Kids Food Program and **LoveINC's** Fresh Start Program both meet needs of our communities.

What is a Service Silent Auction?

Sharing your time, talent, skill, or event that others will bid on.

Here are some ideas: Take someone to a Twins game, a concert, or golfing, babysit, host a themed dinner, make greeting cards, plant flower pots, bake cookies, wash windows

Contact Deb Stueven with your idea by March 13th for a bid sheet.