

Greetings from Grace

March 2022

The Newsletter
for members of
Grace Lutheran Church
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Houma, LA 70360
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Pastor's corner:

Of Wars

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains." (Matthew 24:6-8)

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is dominating the headlines and getting people nervous as the United States and her allies rattle their sabers in response. With China poised to invade Taiwan and North Korea testing missiles in a desperate attempt to become relevant a lot of folks are worried it is just a matter of time before our country is involved in another war.

They're probably right. Wars happen in a fallen world just as Jesus said they would. Folks who debate Just War Theory attempt to quantify when going to war is a righteous act. Personally, I think the fact they need to call it a theory just shows they can't come up with an answer. Wars just happen in a sinful world full of evil and violence. Wars are what happen when sinners are in charge of countries.

So do these next wars portend the end of the world? Does it really matter?

Jesus in the midst of describing the horrible happenings prior to both the end of Jerusalem and the end of the world says this: *"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."* (Matthew 24:13) Our calling in Christ is simply to endure, knowing that God is working through all of this to bring about His plan of salvation.

Consider the Old Testament. Time and time again God used armies to prosper the people of Israel, to discipline the people of Israel, to exile the people of Israel, and to free the people of Israel from their Babylonian captivity. Through all of it God was working toward the true battle in which He intended to engage through Christ—the battle to bring victory over sin, death and the devil for us, His beloved people.

Wars are horrible things. But remember that it is Jesus, our victorious Savior, who said, "...this must take place." God is at work and, trusting in our baptism into Christ, we have nothing to fear.

Instead of fearing, let us love. Pray fervently for all the victims of this violence. Pray that the leaders on all sides would be wise and pursue the God-pleasing path of peace and mercy. Pray that in the midst of the violence our brothers and sisters in faith would keep that faith boldly and speak it to others in this time of crisis that others might come to know Jesus as Lord. And, of course as we always do, pray that God's good and gracious will be done in the midst of the destruction.

Does this violence portend the end of the world? Sure, why not. As far as we're concerned everything signifies that day in near because Jesus says, *"I am coming soon."* And then He adds *"Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown."*

War or no war, we don't fear the end of the world. We endure in the hope that it will come with all the glory of our Savior's return.

- Pastor Rich

Lectionary Readings:

March 6, 2022—First Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

March 13, 2022—Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Jeremiah 26:8-15, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

March 20, 2022—Third Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Ezekiel 33:7-20, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

March 27, 2022—Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Isaiah 12:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

2022 Board of Directors

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2022 Elders

Derek Crawford, Joey Souther, John Wegner and Joe Deane

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod - LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article - March 2022

God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist. He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.'" (Exodus 35:30-34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are - in this life and the next - is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about - giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift - for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Rebuilding at Grace

It's been six months since hurricane Ida ripped through our community. Our church has been in less than perfect condition since then. We are grateful to report that construction has finally begun. We have a team here emptying the offices, school and fellowship hall. There is a lot of work to be done and it will take some time to get us back to normal. We have chosen to update our bathroom facilities while we are under construction as well. As of now, we still have use of the bathrooms. Please watch for emails and/or Facebook posts for updates. There is a chance that we will have no access to that part of the building at some point during the rebuilding process. We will do our best to keep everyone updated as things progress.

Easter Lilies

Easter Lily order forms are available on the narthex table. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Plants may be picked up after service on Easter Sunday, April 17th.

BUILDING SECURITY & STEWARDSHIP

If you're among the last to leave the church building at any time, please be sure all doors are locked and closed completely. Also, please make sure all thermostats are returned to vacant-building settings.

Lenten, Holy Week, & Easter Sunday Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

Worship service with communion at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, March 9th through April 6th

Midweek Lenten service in sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Wednesday, April 13th

No services planned

Maundy Thursday, April 14th

Holy Communion service in sanctuary at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15th

Tenebrae Service in sanctuary at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 17th

Worship 9:00 a.m.

No Sunday School scheduled

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Liz Baker, Mike Wallace & Shirley Mitchell

BATTLING CANCER: Cindy Gorham, Jay Cruse, John Adams, Karen Curtis, Mari Tabor, Nan Ashley Hebert, Penny Emling & Ursula Breaux

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Brian Hoover, Camile Adams, Cindy Deane, Connie Oswald, Edna Marie Sevin, Helen Hoover, Hunter Moore, Jackie Webb, Joe Deane, Kim Cape, Lisa Ledet, Mary Ann Keller, Mary Deane, Rene Rolland, Richard LaCour, Sue Ackett & Virginia Cunningham

MOURNING A LOSS: the family of Alice Bering, Georgette Savoie, Jean Angelbeck & Joe Deane Jr.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Andrew Winn, Haily Crawford, Heather Darce, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Matthew Spolarich, Natalie Turcott, Nigel Koorie, Todd Mueller, Tom Hemminger, Victoria Shroyer & Zhain Shroyer

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Adriana Vitrano, Annie Reaves, Armand Erhart, Blayne Barras, Brandon Cinnater, Brooks Thomas, Emma Thomas, Donovan Domangue, Fielden Baker, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Cuneo, Hannah Norman, Harleigh Dahl, Isabella Appenzeller, Karly Kyzar, Madeleine Boudreaux, Peyton Kraus, Ross Reaves, Sophia Miller & Victoria Thalheim

Grace's Mission

**Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness,
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship**

**Just a reminder...Daylight Saving Time
Begins Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 a.m.
Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD
one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!**



Building One Body in Christ Through Worship, Witness,
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship

March 2022

<http://www.bible-reading.com/bible-calendar.html>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center 422 Valhi Boulevard Houma, LA. 70360 985-879-1885 / 1833 (fax) secretary@gracehouma.org www.gracehouma.org	1 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Mark LaPlume BD Psalms 39-41	2 Worship Service 7:00pm George Bauman BA Job 27-28	3 Connle Oswalt BD Jeremiah 7-11	4 Thibodaux Worship Spm st. John's Episcopal Church Mark 7-8	5	
Lent I Worship 9am/Food Bank Baked Goods follow Sunday School 10:45am I Corinthians 11-12	6 S. & R. DaSilva Moise W Exodus 5-8	7 Bible Study 1:00pm I Samuel 21-25	8 Lenten Service 7:00pm Hayden Harding BA Psalms 42-44	9 Kim Cape BA Betty Carpenter BD Ethan Spolarich BD Job 27-28	10 St. Patrick's Day 17	11 Mark 9-10
Lent II Worship 9am/Mite Boxes MG Baked Goods follow Sunday School 10:45am Blake Delong BA Lainey Vogel BA Aubrey Dupre BD I Corinthians 13-14	13 Diana Treuting BD Exodus 9-12	14 Bible Study 1:00pm Eric Lapeyrouse BD I Samuel 26-31	15 Lenten Service 7:00pm Alyssah Kinsella BD Psalms 45-47	16 Job 29-30	17 Gavin Ledet BA Jeremiah 17-21	18 Mark 11-12
Lent III Worship 9am Baked Goods follow Sunday School 10:45am Lyle Souther BD I Corinthians 15-16	20 Exodus 13-16	21 Bible Study 1:00pm I Samuel II 1-4	22 Lenten Service 7:00pm Psalms 48-50	23 Pipeliner Articles Due Heath Dyer BD Joey Souther BD Job 31-32	24 Eillen DeSoto BA Jeremiah 22-26	25 Dean Lirette BD Mark 13-14
Lent IV Worship 9am Baked Goods follow Sunday School 10:45am Steven Kinsella BA II Corinthians 1-3	27 Marilyn Beach BA Exodus 17-20	28 Bible Study 1:00pm I Samuel II 5-9	29 Lenten Service 7:00pm Katrina Lyons BA Raymond Godall BD D. & C. Crawford W Psalms 51-53	30 Trey Harding BD Job 33-34	31 BD- Birthday BA-Baptismal Anniversary W=Wedding Anniversary	