

# The News of Grace

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## “STRICKEN, SMITTEN AND AFFLICTED”

**“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace.” (Isaiah 53:3-5)**

We continue throughout this month of March in the Season of Lent. Our Mid-Week Lenten theme, “Return from Exile – A Lenten Journey” shares with us that our sinned exiled us from our Creator who had created us in His image, though that image was lost because of sin. That sin caused the separation of mankind from a holy and perfect God who cannot tolerate sin before His face, yet because of the great love by which He loved us, gave a promise to provide One who would crush the head of the serpent, the great deceiver, the father of lies.

On Ash Wednesday we sang a hymn that was written specifically for this Lenten series entitled “We Are Exiles from the Garden.” The last stanza of that hymn helps us understand our journey. *On this journey we are taking, We fear not what lies in store. Though our feeble wills are breaking, We know Christ has gone before. As we walk the way completed, On His throne, the Savior waits. Death and hell have been unseated. We behold the open gates!* This is a fine hymn in our tradition and a good Lenten series that points us to the cross wherein we find forgiveness and an empty tomb where we know everlasting life. Let me encourage your participation once again in our Lenten Vespers Services on Wednesday evenings as we look toward Holy Week.

I have been involved from time to time in discussions related to worship and music and whether the liturgy and Lutheran hymnody is a deterrent to growth for congregations and continued participation by our people of any age, but especially our young people. It seems that all too often I hear someone throw out the hymn title, "*Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted.*" Sometimes it is used as an example of a hymn dirge but it is also used in such a way as to refer to much of our hymnody. (Please know that I do not use it in that way.) As we progress through this month of March and find ourselves in its last week, which in the Church Year this year is Holy Week, this hymn puts Scripture verse and meaning to tune in a very beautiful way that shows us how the above prophecy of Isaiah came to pass in the Passion of our Lord.

The above verses from Isaiah the prophet are from one of what are called his 'Servant Songs' and prophetically point to the Messiah, the God with us "Immanuel" that earlier in Isaiah's prophecy the Lord made known through him would be born of a virgin. "The Holy Spirit inspired Isaiah to record four separate songs of the Suffering Servant (42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12). With remarkable clarity, 700 years before the Servant was born, Isaiah vividly portrayed His life from manger to grave to resurrection. He wrote how the Servant, born of a virgin, would atone for the sins of the world with His own suffering and death. No other human could fulfill the mission of the Servant." (Lutheran Study Bible, pg. 1178)

Actually the hymn "*Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted*" was not written by a Lutheran. It was written by Thomas Kelly, an Irish evangelical around the beginning of the nineteenth century (1804). It has been in all of our hymnals since the 1912 version. Mr. Kelly did well with his versification using the words of the prophet Isaiah. Stanza one offers, "*Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord; Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.*" This is the promised Messiah, the greater Prophet Moses, of David's line, yet even the greater King David, the Word made flesh. He is the one dying on our cross in our place. (see Psalm 110:1 and John 1:1, 14)

*“Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His? Friends through fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress; Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save; But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.”* So as we journey toward Holy Week we remember, according to stanza two, that all of His disciples fled when He was arrested. Wouldn't you? In their place were many to accuse Him, injure Him and call for Him to be crucified and a murderer to be set free, adding insult to injury. No one would plead His case and He was even God-forsaken as He bore our transgressions and iniquities. (see Mark 14:50; Mark 15:6-15, 34)

When Isaiah wrote that “He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities” it would do us all well to remember that it was our sins and the sins of all which were laid on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God. At the cross we see the full weight and punishment for our sins. Certainly the cross and its punishment should have been ours. Here is stanza three: *“Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate. Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load; 'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.”*

Borrowing from another hymn, this miscarriage of justice, this death of an innocent man, this shedding of perfect blood is the hope on which our faith is built. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. As Isaiah puts forth after listing all that would befall the Servant he tells us that these things “brought us peace.” We are given peace with the Father through the death of His Son for our sins. Stanza four: *“Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost: Christ, the rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt! None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.”* Share this hope with others. Send an Easter card to a friend or a family member and invite them to Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services.

***Pastor Walter***



## Lenten Services and Dinners

Mid-Week Lenten Services – 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Dinners – 5:30 p.m. in Parker Hall

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### **March 7<sup>th</sup> – Midweek Lent 3**

“Out of Egypt: Through the Water”

**Dinner – Board of Evangelism – Pork Loin and sides**

### **March 14<sup>th</sup> – Midweek Lent 4**

“Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross”

**Dinner – Grace Youth Group – Barbeque with cole slaw**

### **March 21<sup>st</sup> – Midweek Lent 5**

“Death to Resurrection: The Wilderness to the Promised Land”

**Dinner – ACTS – Chicken Spaghetti**

# “Love Unknown”

*“My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me, Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?” (LSB 430)*

Greetings in Christ!

Undoubtedly, the above hymn verse is very familiar to many of us. As I looked through the hymns that we will be singing in worship through the coming weeks, seeking to find one to write about, I immediately remembered my first experiences with this hymn. While I cannot remember the exact day when I first heard and sung this hymn, I recall my first impressions of it. It was clear that it was very powerful, a hymn that the congregation was easily engaged with.

In the Lutheran tradition, we focus much of our singing of hymns and other songs on the text. A good hymn tune, after all, should find its natural melody based on what the text is saying. The text is rooted in God’s Word, proclaiming Christ and sharing his message of salvation, which is the reason for which we sing. However, the melody serves as a way to communicate the text and what it means.

Samuel Crossman, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Anglican pastor, composed the poem “My Song is Love Unknown” as a meditation on the Passion of Christ in a 1664 book of poems. It appeared as a hymn shortly after his death. The text takes the singer from Palm Sunday through the Crucifixion, and has been described by J.R. Watson as a “narrative with commentary.” Put simply, the hymn includes two voices: one narrative, and one inward. In stanza two, the narrative reads:

“He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.”

The inward portion then reads:

“But, oh my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need  
His life did spend!”

Centuries after the poem was written, English composer John Ireland wrote a tune for the hymn, reportedly in only fifteen minutes! His tune builds upon the two voices, as he builds harmonies and deceptive chords to signify the change in voice to one of unworthiness. As we sing this hymn, listen for the chords that guide us to this change in voice.

This text and tune eloquently remind us of the great love our Savior has for us, though we are undeserving. As we sing this hymn, we recall Christ’s suffering and death on the cross, all for our sake. In him, we have been given everlasting life through no merit of our own. This hymn reminds us that through all our days, we may gladly sing his praises! Thanks be to Him who has redeemed us through his death and resurrection!

In His Service,

Charlie Russell  
Director of Parish Music

### **LITTLE ROCK MARATHON**

**The Little Rock Marathon** will be held **Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. with the race route going past Grace. Both lanes of Lookout will be closed and one lane of Kavanaugh from downtown to Hillcrest will be closed. The best route to the church will be to go east on Lee to Beechwood, turn left on Beechwood going across Kavanaugh to Hillcrest. Turn left on Hillcrest and come to the church. Coming from the west on Cantrell, you can also take Kavanaugh to Hillcrest and very carefully turn left onto Hillcrest. Please proceed with care.



# *Splash Canyon VBS*

**July 22-26**

**Plunge in to VBS 2018!** At *Splash Canyon VBS*, your children learn God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

VBS will be July 22-26.

Please save the date and look for volunteer opportunities and registration soon!

# THOSE WHO SERVE in MARCH

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m.** Services – Emma Schnackenberg

**10:45 a.m.** Services – Elijah Goodrich

**Lenten Service – March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Acolyte: Johanna Litwa

**Lenten Service – March 14<sup>th</sup>** – Acolyte: Sydney Manchester

**Lenten Service – March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Acolyte: Michael Gipson

**Palm Sunday – March 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:15** – **Acolyte:** Emma Schnackenberg

**Crucifer:** Heide Litwa

**10:45** – **Acolyte:** Elijah Goodrich

**Crucifer:** Michael Gipson

**Maundy Thursday – March 29<sup>th</sup>** – **Acolyte:** Elias Found

**Crucifer:** Jack Stephens

**Good Friday – March 30<sup>th</sup>** – **Acolytes:** Morgan Yovanovich

James Junkans

**Crucifer:** Owen McCrory

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**March 4<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 Service** – Joel Junkans

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 Service** – Jonathan Cline

**March 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 Service** – Tim Sweeney

**March 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 Service** – Gary Proud

**Maundy Thursday – March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Richard Sanders

**Good Friday – March 30<sup>th</sup>** – Gervais LeBlanc

## USHERS' SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m. Services** – Paul Nichols' team

Tommy Borchert, Chuck Fandrei, Jim Marvin, Carter Stein

**10:45 a.m. Services** – Gervais LeBlanc's team

Jeff Ralston, Paul Krueger, Ken Ross

**Lenten Service – March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Chris Pils' Team

**Lenten Service – March 14<sup>th</sup>** – Tim Sweeney's team

**Lenten Service – March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Dave Roberts' team

**Maundy Thursday – March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Gervais LeBlanc's team

**Good Friday – March 30<sup>th</sup>** – Tim Loyd's team

### CANTORS' SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m.** Services – Paula Walter

**10:45 a.m.** Services – Ron Krueger

### GREETERS' SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m.** Services – Jim and Florence Marvin

**10:45 a.m.** Services – Ann Stoker

**All Lenten Services** – Debbie Penny

### ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

**8:15 a.m.** Services – Beverly Sanders

**10:45 a.m.** Services – Russlynn Krueger

**Wednesday Mid-Week Services** – Suzanne Raddle and Wilma Richter

*If you are unable to serve please ask someone to fill in for you  
and then call the church office.*

## **NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon**

**Parker Hall**

**NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR is Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall.** Pastor Walter shares a devotional Bible study with us so bring your Bible and a sandwich. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and Bible Study. **Come and bring a friend with you!!**

# GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

## **BAPTISM...**

**HOLY BAPTISM** - Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> Sally Ann Reeder, daughter of Blakely and Krista Stein Reeder, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Her brother is Elijah and her grandparents are Charles and Mary Kathryn Stein. Sally's sponsors are Carter and Emily Stein.

## **WELCOME...**

**NEW MEMBERS** - Steven and Beth Goodrich and their children Alexander, Thomas, Elijah, Isaac, Oliver and Jude have transferred their membership from First Lutheran, Little Rock, to Grace. Please welcome the Goodrich family to our Grace family.

## **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...**

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to the family of Roy Wilimzig, father of Bob Wilimzig, who died Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, in Glen Carbon, Illinois. Please remember Bob and Sheila and their family in your prayers.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to the family of Joan Nahlen who passed away Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Joan is the aunt of Bryan Gipson. Please keep the Gipson family in your thoughts and prayers.

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BESSINGS...**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Josh and Suzanne Lindemann Hardman on the birth of their daughter Evelyn Reece on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, in Defiance, Ohio. Her grandparents are Jon and Sandy Lindemann. Congratulations and God's blessings.

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**March 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.**

**Palm Sunday  
Sunday of the Passion**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service  
with Holy Communion**

A Dinner will be served before the Service at 5:30 p.m.  
in Parker Hall

**March 30<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
with Holy Communion**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday**

**NO EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

**8:15 a.m. – Easter Divine Service with Holy Communion**

**Easter Breakfast will be served from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

**10:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt**

**10:45 a.m. – Easter Divine Service with Holy Communion**

*(There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. The children up to 8 years old are invited to the Easter egg hunt at 10:00 a.m.)*

## SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

### We need your help!

We have some members who are not physically able to go out and buy refreshments or able to serve them on Sunday mornings. We also have some members who cannot afford to buy refreshments but would be willing to shop for refreshments and serve them on Sunday. If you would be able to help with either of these needs, please call the church office.

## SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

### COFFEE HOST SIGN UP

**Volunteers Needed to Serve** - Please take a minute and sign up for the Sunday on which you wish to serve. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parlor.

The schedule for **March, 2018** is:

March 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

March 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

March 18<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

March 25<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks! We appreciate your help!

## STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

2018 budget totals \$560,751  
which is an average weekly  
General Fund contribution requirement of \$10,784

Budget needs through February 18	\$75,488
Actual expenses through February 18	\$76,453
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$67,201*
Average weekly contribution through February 18	\$9600

**In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$ 9252 less than actual expenses.**

Non-budget giving to designated funds through February 18 \$4304

\*These contributions include a monthly payment from ECDC to help offset expenses. They also include some memorials and honorariums which are not designated to specific funds.

## FELLOWSHIP CLUB

**Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 noon**

The Fellowship Club will meet on **Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon** in Parker Hall for lunch served by our ACTS friends.

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship!! Call the church office if you need more information.

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Grace Family Members in the month of March:**

- 2 – Ken Ross
- 4 – Matt Golladay, James Junkans, Paul Nichols
- 5 – Natalie Dumont
- 6 – Claire Hammond
- 7 – Adam Hicks, Linda Owens , Cason Solomon
- 9 – Wes Mainard
- 10 – Lydia Bemberg
- 13 – Jeremy Hammond, Regan Langlais
- 14 – Amy Yovanovich
- 15 – Bryan Gipson, Deena Reynolds
- 18 – Katherine Barlow, Carter Lavoie, Andrew Warren
- 20 – John Ohnemus
- 22 – Anita Allaben, Jack Raible, Vicki Stigall
- 24 – Rick Jenkins
- 25 – Shari Withers
- 27 – Jackie Cossey, Lisa Gertsch, Donna Stewart
- 29 – Elias Found, Gina Junkans
- 30 – Thomas Goodrich
- 31 – Jane Parsons

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in March:**

- 6 – Sally and Larry McNabb
- 16 – Jane and David Schroeder
- 18 – Andrea and David Faulkner
- 20 – Karen and Rick Camacho  
Carrie and Michael Eubanks
- 29 – Florence and Jim Marvin

*We apologize if we have missed your birthday or anniversary; please let us know in the church office so we can update our records. Thank you!!*

## **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE**

Our nursery, downstairs in the church, is also available to take care of the infants and toddlers on Sunday morning not only during both Worship Services but also during Sunday School and Bible Class time. Mary Ann Dyer is our nursery attendant.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** – Pastor Walter’s class meets each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. upstairs in the Family Life Center in Parker Hall. This Sunday Pastor Walter will continue the study of the Book of Acts.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** for children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are held in the lower level of the Family Life Center. Parents are invited to join us for the opening service at 9:45 each Sunday. If you have questions, contact Colleen Moorman for more information.

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH** - Their class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in their classroom downstairs in the church. Joel Junkans will lead the class each Sunday morning.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH** - Their class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in their classroom downstairs in the church. Dave Roberts leads the class each Sunday morning.

**MEN’S BIBLE STUDY** class meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at St. Vincent Hospital in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room (off the main elevator). Pastor Walter leads this Bible Study each week.



# ECDC News & Notes

Winter 2018 has been interesting ... and wet! Someday soon though we'll wake up and it will be warm, sunny and dry. All the flowers will be blooming and our little ECDC friends can get outside in the fresh air to play! Speaking of wet things – when the Nursery ceiling sprang a leak a big thank you to John Ketcher who saved the day and got the leaky roof repaired quickly and kept it from turning into major ECDC flood #3! Thanks John for all your hard work keeping our properties in working and dry order!

Even though February is the shortest month we got an a lot done – had a wonderful Valentine's celebration, made cards for members of Grace Lutheran, studied dinosaurs, learned about Zacchaeus, some of the miracles Jesus did to help us learn of God's great love. Our staff development day was busy and productive. We completed a First Aid/CPR/AED class, had a staff meeting and a short in-service training, and even had time to work in our classrooms.

March is going to be busy, busy, busy learning about Dr. Seuss, nursery rhymes, and fairy tales, and of course we'll be a little green for St. Patty's day! We'll be learning more of the miracles Jesus did; about the parables He told and how He was always teaching. And, how important children were to Jesus – you know Luke 18:15-16: "People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Toward the middle of the month we will begin our road to the cross and the empty tomb of glorious Easter morn! Always a fun time at ECDC!

Until next month—God's continued blessings to each of you —

*Colleen*

Just a friendly reminder - during Lent with our congregation's weekly dinners and Divine Services – please reserve the parking spaces outside the ECDC entry area for parents picking up their children until 5:30p.m. each Wednesday. Thanks!!

