

OUR STAFF

Pastor: Marty Tyler
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday
10:00 AM—3:00 PM

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 10:15 AM
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM



March 2024

GRACE CONNECTION

Grace EV. Lutheran Church

188 East Cooper Avenue
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-4712

GraceLutheranCC.com

Our mission is to bring all people to faith in God through the good news of Jesus Christ and develop that faith through active fellowship.

WHY DON'T YOU WEAR SHOES?

Recently I came across an interesting story by a fellow named Hugh Price Hughes entitled "The City of Everywhere." In this story a man arrives in a city one cold morning. As he gets off the train, he sees that the station is like any other station except for one thing; everyone is barefoot. No one wears shoes.

He notices a barefoot cab driver. "Pardon me," he asks the driver, "I was just wondering why you don't wear shoes. Don't you believe in shoes?" "Sure we do," says the driver. "Why don't you wear them?" asks the man. "Ah, that's the question," the driver replies. "Why don't we wear shoes? Why don't we?"

At the hotel it is the same. The clerk, bell boys, everybody is barefoot. In the coffee shop he notices a nice-looking gentleman at a table opposite him. He says, "I notice you aren't wearing any shoes. I wonder why? Don't you know about shoes?" The man replies, "Of course I know about shoes." "Then why don't you wear them?" asks the stranger. "Ah, that's the question," says the man. "Why don't we? Why don't we?"

After breakfast he walks out on the street in the snow, but every person he sees is barefoot. He asks another man about it and points out how shoes protect the feet from the cold. The man says, "We know about shoes. See that building yonder? That is a shoe manufacturing plant. We are proud of that plant and every week we gather there to hear the man in charge tell about shoes and how wonderful

they are." "Then why don't you wear shoes?" asks the stranger. "Ah, that's the question," says the man.

And on and on it goes. The man sees all of kinds of people going shoe-less in all kinds of situations, and while they all acknowledge the importance of shoes when asked, none of them takes advantage of the benefits that shoes offer.

That's a story that can easily be applied to life in the church. Let me explain. We have a baptized membership of 329, but on any given Sunday we see about 70 people in church. Many of those 70 are not "official" members of Grace Lutheran Church, but they attend faithfully and regularly. So, when we factor that information into our average Sunday attendance of "official" members, we probably have about 22% of our membership here on a Sunday morning. Now I'm sure if someone were to ask those who are not here if they believe in the importance of church attendance, the vast majority will say, absolutely, just like the people in that story said they believed in shoes. They might even point to our facility at 188 East Cooper Avenue and say, "That's my church and I am very proud to be known as one of its members." But rarely, if ever, do they darken the doors of the church.

The same could be said of prayer. Martin Luther once compared prayer to the pulse beat of the Christian. By that he meant you can tell how spiritually alive a person is by how much time they

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spend in prayer. And to be sure, most Christians will testify to the important role that prayer is to have in our lives. But when you pin them down and ask them how much time they spend communicating with the Lord each day, they blush and say, "Not as much as I know I should." And if you really want to make them blush, just ask them how much time they spend on their cell phone or Facebook or the Internet each day compared to how much time they spend in prayer.

How about one more example? What about the Lord's Supper? What a precious treasure our Savior gives us in this sacred meal! To know that as we partake of the bread and the wine, we are receiving into ourselves the very body and blood of Christ as a very personal assurance of His love, forgiveness, and salvation that He purchased and won for us on the cross. And while most Christians would speak very highly of the preciousness and pricelessness of this Gift, there are those who can go weeks, months, and sadly, even years without partaking of it. They know its benefits just like those people in the story knew the benefits of wearing shoes, but for whatever reason they ignore those benefits and somehow manage to go through life without them.

Now please understand, I'm not trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone in this article. Rather I'm just trying to get people to think about these important things that are to be a part of our Christian walk – worship, prayer, the Lord's Supper, etc. And what better time of the year to do this as we find ourselves embarking upon another Lenten season. This is a time of self-examination, a time of repentance, a time of renewal and recommitting of our lives to Christ.

As we focus upon the cross during this holy time of the year, we are reminded of how Jesus gave His all for us there. Indeed, He gave His life for us there. He made no excuses when the time came for Him to complete His mission. He didn't say He was too tired or too busy or too preoccupied with other things. He just did it. He offered Himself as the full and complete payment for all of our sins. And in the process, He was brutally beaten by the Jewish religious leaders, savagely scourged with a Roman whip, cruelly crowned with thorns that penetrated deep into His scalp, and finally fastened to an old, rugged cross as our sin-bearing, sin-paying Substitute. And just as He gave Himself to us, He now invites us to give ourselves to Him – our service, our obedience, our faith, our trust, our love, our devotion, our commitment – not in order to be saved, but because by His grace we already are saved.

Would you do that, my friends? Would you offer your life to the One who gave His life for you? Would you let your cry of commitment this Lenten season be that of the final stanza of one of our most beloved hymns, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross:"

Serving in His Grace,
Pastor Marty

Your Elders



David Wilson

Members A-G

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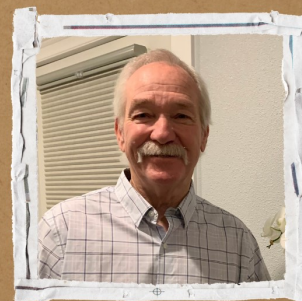


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Lent & Holy Week Schedule



Ash Wednesday FEBRUARY 14, 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. **Holy Communion.** Vespers @ 5:15pm & Soup Supper @ 6:00pm, February 21-March 20.



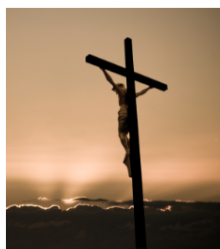
Palm Sunday MARCH 24, 10:15am

Sunday before Easter. It is a celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, observed with palm branches



Maundy Thursday MARCH 28, 6:00pm

Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper and foot washing, often observed with stripping of the altar. **Holy Communion**



Good Friday MARCH 29. 6:00pm

Friday before Easter. It is a most solemn day as we observe the day Jesus was crucified. **Holy Communion**



Holy Saturday MARCH 30, 6:00pm

Saturday before Easter. It observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. It is a day of somber reflection.



Resurrection Sunday MARCH 31, 10:15am

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! It is a day of joyful celebrations. This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. **Holy Communion**

Our “Journey on to Heaven”

For the past few generations, Martin Luther, who was a pastor, theologian, author, hymnwriter, and professor, has been and continues to be one of the most referenced or quoted spiritual leaders of all time. Luther was a prolific writer, so he has a wealth of articles, books, and essays to quote. The following amazing paragraph from Luther does not reference the word stewardship or steward, but it conveys foundational truths of Christian stewardship.

Therefore, we must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Thus, the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night, since we have here no continuing city, but must journey on to heaven, where the Father is.

Martin Luther aptly points out that, while on earth, we are God’s guests. God is the creator, sustainer, and owner of all things. Both the food we eat and the homes we live in are provided by God. God makes it possible for us to plant food to eat, because He provides the seeds, ground, sunlight, and rain. He gives us the intelligence, strength, and energy to harvest the crops that He makes possible for us to plant. The meat we eat comes from the animals that live in the fields which God has provided along with the food He makes possible for them to eat. God also provides the materials for our homes. Our lives are in God’s hands. As His stewards, we receive His blessings with thanksgiving.

Luther’s perspective on temporal possessions is totally opposite of what our society promotes. Our society tells us that we create and have control over all we have. Our happiness and security are dependent upon having things. Our status is determined by what we have so we work long and hard to have big homes, new cars, and large investment accounts. In contrast, Luther reminds us that things, both necessities and luxuries, are God gifts on loan to us. Luther encourages us to be satisfied with enough to provide for our needs and to use the rest to support our neighbors and God’s kingdom.

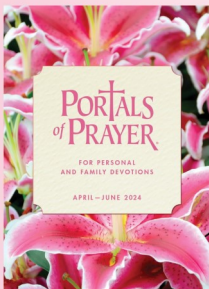
Luther reminds us that “the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night.” Likewise, the Apostle Paul tells us that “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20), so we “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). Our earthly journey is merely temporary until we rest in our permanent home with Jesus. By God’s grace, Luther knew that this life is a “journey on to heaven.” We do as well.



**We thank you for your faithful support
of Grace Ministries.**

Online giving is available through VANCO, our secure platform. Visit our website or contact Thomas Hutzell at (707) 218-7259 for instructions. Weekly Giving Envelopes for 2024 are available; see Thom if you need them. Our Giving/Tithing Box is at the Usher's Stand in the sanctuary. You can drop off offerings before or after Sunday Worship. Checks can be mailed to Grace Lutheran Church, 188 E Cooper Ave, Crescent City, CA 95531.

“You should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7



**APRIL - JUNE
devotionals
available at the
Help Desk or in
the Social Hall.**

TAKE EXTRAS TO GIVE TO FRIENDS & FAMILY.

“JUST AS I AM”

Led by David Wilson
Saturdays | March 2, 9, 16, 23 | 10am

In Epiphany we celebrated Jesus' Divine nature -- His miracles, His power, His authority and His Transfiguration. In Lent, we celebrate Jesus' human nature -- his temptation, his struggles, his suffering and his death. Join us as we meet Jesus the man.

Just As I Am, where Jesus meets people at the bottom of their humanity.



WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

Second Tuesday of the Month
Led by LWML Members

Invite a friend to join us!



ARE YOU A GIVER OR TAKER?

It has been said that we are either givers or takers. Very likely, however, most of us fall somewhere between these two ends of the spectrum. In John 12, we read about a very generous giver and an extreme taker. Mary, the sister of Martha and the brother of Lazarus, was the giver. Her giving was the anointing of her friend and Savior. *"Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair"* (verse 3). Mary's extravagant gift demonstrated much love and devotion. She anointed Jesus with very expensive ointment or perfume. Very likely this was special ointment that she had been saving, and she found the perfect occasion to use it. How she anointed Jesus also showed her love and devotion. It wasn't enough that she used very expensive ointment; she used her hair to wipe Jesus' feet. Her acts of love epitomize giving. Mary gave herself and her best.

In the same story, we find a taker. *"But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, 'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?' He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it"* (verses 4-6). It is clear that Judas was a taker, and he suffered the consequences for his greed and selfishness.

In our thoughts and prayers, let us ask our Lord to send His Holy Spirit to grant us giving and generous hearts. May we, like Mary, be willing to give ourselves and our best.

March 14 @ 3pm

Book

Kaleidoscope of a Life
by Gunhild Rich

April 11 @ 3pm

Book

A Girl of the Limberlost
by Gene Stratton-Porter

JOIN US!

Grace Lutheran



**Monthly on the
Second Tuesday**

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

March 24, 2024

10:15AM



FISH FRY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

WHAT IS A LUTHERAN?

COMING IN APRIL

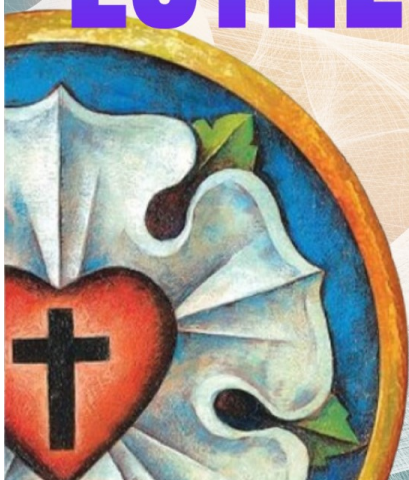
4-WEEK STUDY

BEGINS APRIL 13

SATURDAYS AT 10AM

- Have you wondered exactly what Lutherans believe?
- Thinking about becoming a member of the church?

Join Pastor Marty as he delves
into our Lutheran faith & doctrines





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mason Havens	3/1	Sara Morton	3/16
Maiah Calleja	3/4	Steve Yearout	3/16
Ruthe Mayer	3/6	Larressa Rogers	3/19
Linda Rump	3/8	Eric Turner	3/21
Roy Tedsen	3/8	Charlie Charleston	3/21
Faye Mergups	3/9	Bettye Hooven	3/22
Sara Floyd	3/9	Jerry Newton	3/23
Ray Shanle	3/9	David Knodel	3/25
Grace Havens	3/10	Ann Wharton	3/25
John D'Errico	3/10	Nicole Cochran	3/27
Steve Yearout	3/10	Savanna Alexandre	3/27
Warren Bailey	3/11	Mary Wier	3/28
Ken Krogstad	3/11	Bryan Stanley	3/28
Susan Cochran	3/13	Bob West	3/31
Gabriel Reneau	3/13	Alyssa Knodel	3/31
Angela Calleja	3/15	Gale Swenson	3/31
Benjamin Campbell	3/15		



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Michale & Martha Morgan	45 years
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