



March 29, 2018

Greetings friends,

Last week I wrote about looking back and seeing God's hand in our special events and in our everyday living. This Holy Week I want to share some thoughts about God's Grace that is extended to all who hear and heed His call to each of us.

I don't spend a lot of time in regret for past mistakes, but when I do, I can't help but cringe and squirm in the memory of some of my words and actions. God only knows what in the world I was thinking or what hubris was guiding my behavior in some of my most deplorable moments. Uff-da.

After seeing "The Passion of the Christ" several years ago, Christ's suffering for our sins really impacted me as never before. I've read the scriptures telling of Pilate's trial, the punishing climb to Golgatha and ultimately his crucifixion on the cross at Calvary. I've seen several passion plays and other Easter films, but my imagination never took me to the horror of Christ's suffering like that movie did. As impactful as that movie was, I don't believe I could ever watch it again.

The visceral images have been burned onto my brain and imprinted on my heart. In a very real, very convicting way that movie brought home to me as never before, that Christ suffered all of that torture to take away the sins of the world. He suffered such incomprehensible pain and indignities to *erase MY sins and shortcomings*. He gave his earthly life so that I might join Him in the kingdom of heaven one day.

My heart can hardly take it in. I am so not worthy. I do confess that I am flawed and in need of God's Grace every day. I've asked Jesus for forgiveness. I want Him in my life and humbly claim that Grace so generously given to a pathetic, undeserving sinner like me. God is so good.

I hope you'll join us for our special Maundy Thursday service this evening at 7:00. I pray you'll join me in listening to the scripture and really hearing the message of the cross. I invite you to join in the joyful celebration of Christ's Resurrection, His victory over death on Easter morning beginning at 9:15 here at Grace Church. Hallelujah!

**This Week at Grace** – Easter Sunday! Pastor Fred's message, *Called by Name* is inspired by John 20:1-18. The Chancel Choir will sing *In Christ Alone* and will help lead us in our all-those-present-are-invited-to-sing triumphant singing of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* at the conclusion of our service. *Greeters this week are Owen and Gloria Sampson. Those serving as ushers include Mike & Patsy Jensen and Dale & Lynn Henricks. Kurt Carlson will serve as liturgist.* Worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship following at 10:15. Please join us! \*NO Sunday school classes this week.\*

**Our Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. THIS EVENING.** Pastor Fred will lead us in this special service where we will each have the opportunity to nail our special prayer concerns to a rustic cross. The Chancel Choir will sing and Communion will be served as we honor Christ's last supper with his disciples. Pastor Fred will lead us in a Tenebrae service – as he reads scripture, candles will be extinguished. As the service concludes with the singing of *Were You There?*, the lights will be dimmed and all will exit the sanctuary in silence.

## **Casserole Supper and Short meeting - Join us!**

The finance committee, with the help of each of you, has diligently worked over the last few years to pay off apportionments. Monday night, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are having a church conference to approve asking for forgiveness of the final \$10,842.30 that is due for 2014. **We will share a casserole supper at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting at 6:30 p.m.** We hope you can attend.

**Look for the shopping cart in the narthex.** It has been placed there to collect food, paper and personal hygiene items you might like to donate to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry this year. A list of items that are always in shorter supply is posted on the cart. Thank you for your generosity to our local food pantry.

### **A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Winter has taken its toll on the church's budget with a 1-2 punch. Not only have we had large snow removal bills, but we had a decline in giving for February and March. It takes approximately \$17,000 a month in giving to the church budget to cover our expenses. In the last two months, our giving has only amounted to approximately \$23,000, not the \$34,000 needed. Please dig deep and help us to make up this difference of \$11,000 and continue to give generously to our budget throughout the year. We, as a congregation, have made wonderful strides these past few years. We have a new pastor on the way. Let's make sure we are able to welcome him in to a positive financial situation.

### **As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:**

Caleb Michel; Vena Mae Larson; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); George Mackey; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Denny Michel; Julie Jacobson; Sara Dappen; Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Lois Johnson; Cooper Leeman, Taylors in Africa

## **News You Can Use**

### **TONIGHT, Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday**

7:00 PM Worship and Communion service

### **Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday**

9:15 AM Worship - choir

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM NO Sunday school

### **Monday, April 2**

6:00 PM Casserole Buffet supper

6:30 PM special Charge Conference

### **Wednesday, April 4**

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

### **Sunday, April 8**

9:15 AM Worship – bells play

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,  
Cathy**