

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

A message from Pastor Chris,

March 6, 2017



Last week we began our Lenten Journey. Forty days of reflection on our relationship with God. Traditionally, it has been a time of focusing on prayer, fasting and Alms Giving. So often we try to put goals in front of us, that almost seem impossible, just to see if we can do it! But the purpose of Lent is not to make life so difficult, but to draw us to Christ. And so sometimes, we tell ourselves we are going to spend two hours in prayer each day, or I am going to fast all day on Fridays, or I am going to give twenty percent of my income during lent.

But I wonder, are these things are drawing us closer to God? What if we took at more reasonable goals and focused on the one thing that is separating us from God? What if we decided that we would have 15 minutes each day in quiet prayer and we were able to carry that through the rest of the year, or begin a devotional activity each night with your family? What about instead of fasting from food, we fast from social media or eating unhealthy foods, in order that we might live better? Or instead having a goal of giving 20% of our income we increase our giving by 1 or 2% and were able to continue this throughout the year. The goal is not to challenge ourselves in order that we suffer, the goal is to grow closer to God. What are you going to do this year in order that your relationship with Christ might be stronger?

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE - This week, you hopefully received your invitation to respond to A Steward of God's Grace. Over the next several weeks, we will have Temple Talks from members of Grace who will share their stewardship journey...why they give and how they give. It is appropriate that as we enter this reflective season of Lent, that we pause to think about all the gifts that God has generously provided to us and how we will respond with a grateful heart to share our treasures.

We ask you to return your RSVP cards in the basket at the font when you come to the communion table. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to respond and make your commitment as a faith Steward of God's Grace.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - is **April 2**, with **ONE SERVICE** at **10:00 AM** (blended contemporary and traditional) with a celebratory brunch immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for more details as they become available.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS - begin on **March 8** with Parish Life hosting soup and bread at **6:15 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. No need to signup - just come, enjoy a simple meal as a family and stay for Lenten worship.

LENTEN HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES - After supper, gather in the Sanctuary for Holden Evening Prayer at **7:00 PM**. This year's reflections will be based on Martin Luther's Small Catechism, beginning with the Ten Commandments on March 8.

TROUBLE I'VE SEEN - Join the Racial Reconciliation group on Wednesday, March 15, 22 and 29, at 7:30 PM for a book discussion of Drew Hart's "Trouble I've Seen." Location will depend on attendance. Sign up on Sunday's Tear and Share if you plan to attend. You will need to purchase your own copy of the book.

WIDOW/WIDOWER'S LUNCH - the next gathering of the Widow/Widower's Group will be Thursday, March 16 at 11:30 AM at Michael's Rock Hill Grille. Please sign up on Sunday's Tear and Share, or contact Ann Johnson for more information (803-366-9030).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - There will be a Called Congregation Meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall, to review and vote on Changes to our Constitution. These changes come from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly which amended the Model Constitution for Congregations. I would like to encourage everyone to make this meeting a priority as it will affect the wording our Constitution as we move forward. Peace, Ronald R. Cartner, Council President.

GRACE CALENDAR

MONDAY - March 6

1:30 PM	Newcomers KnitWits (Common)
4:30 PM	Children's Music (Music)
5:30 PM	Grace Ringers (Sanctuary)
6:00 PM	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (FH)
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts (Youth)
7:00 PM	Grace Alone (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop #540 (106-107)

TUESDAY - March 7

10:00 AM	Newcomer's Bible Study (Conf)
6:30 PM	WELCM (White House)
6:30 PM	AA (101)

WEDNESDAY - March 8

9:30 AM	Grace-C Quilters (103)
12:00 PM	Staff (Common)
5:30 PM	Outreach (108)
6:15 PM	Soup Supper (Parish Life) (FH)
6:30 PM	AA (101)
7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM	Parish Choir (Music)

THURSDAY - March 9

7:30 AM	Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)
10:00 AM	Racial Reconciliation (P. Chris Office)
6:00 PM	Champions in Motion (FH)
6:30 PM	Public Relations (Conf)
7:00 PM	Main Street Theater (Common)

FRIDAY - March 10

5:30 PM	AA (101)
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SATURDAY - March 11

NESA Awards and Reception
(FH and Kitchen most of day and evening)

8:00 AM	Property (Patty Wagon Café)
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SUNDAY - March 12

Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)

8:30 AM	Contemporary Worship
9:45 AM	Coffee Fellowship
9:45 AM	Congregational Meeting (FH)
9:45 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Traditional Worship
4:30 PM	GYM Girls' Group (Youth)
5:30 PM	GYM (Youth)
7:00 PM	AA (101)

Sunday, March 12th Worship Assistants

Hospitality:

Michelle del Castillo

Muggers:

Kathy Schwandt

Nursery:

Heather Litzinger

Tabulators:

Landsly/Stonebraker

Altar Guild:

Frances Davis and Melissa Tucker

8:30 AM

Lector: Erika Bell

Communion Assistant: Brian Beer

Petitioner: Anne Johnson

Acolyte: Jacob Bell

Greeter: Vicky and Bob Goodbar

Ushers: Dan Bartel, Tom Stuniolo,
Earl Gatlin, Harold Williams

11:00 AM

Lector: Larry Winsch

Communion Assistant: Nora Sliney

Petitioner: Rick Richter

Acolyte: Michael Echegaray

Greeters: Sue and Karlo Waataja

Ushers: Wally Seigler, Eric Waataja, Chad Seigler

<<< SAVE THESE DATES >>>

MARCH 2017

Holden Evening Service

Wednesdays in Lent – 7:00 PM

Congregational Meeting March 12 - 9:45 AM

"Trouble I've Seen" -March 15, 22, 29

7th and 8th Grade Retreat - March 17 – 19

Wild Women Weekend

March 24 – 26, Lutheridge

Seniors@Grace

March 30, Carolina Copy Cats

APRIL 2017

Stewardship Sunday - One Worship Service

April 2 - 10:00 AM

Stewardship Brunch - 11:30 AM

MAY 2017

Child Protection Training - May 21

SC Synod Assembly - May 21 - 23

JUNE 2017

Lutheroad - June 5 – 9

LCY Convention - June 16 - 18

Confirmation Camp - June 18 - 24

JULY 2017

GYM Mission Trip - July 9 - 14

VBS - July 24 - 28

OCTOBER 2017

Women's Retreat - October 21-23 - Lutherock