

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
THE RISEN SAVIOR**
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**Sunday Worship Themes -
March**

- 6th: "The Message from the Mountain"
Matthew 17:1-9
- 13th: "All for one - One for All"
Romans 5:12, 17-19
- 20th: "Righteous - By Grace Through Faith"
Romans 4:3-5
- 27th: "No Shame - Rejoice in Hope!"
Romans 5:1-8

*We invite you to read, pray
and prepare for each time of
worship.*

jws

**Ministry Orientation – Saturday,
19 March, 9:00 – 11:00AM**

The next "Ministry Orientation" brunch will be held Saturday, March 19th, beginning at 9:00AM. We plan to gather in the courtyard.

Ministry orientations are for newer and prospective members (and others who are interested) to highlight and give an overview of the Vision, Missions and ministries of Risen Savior. Leaders from the Elders, Board of Trustees and staff conduct the orientation.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office by phone, in writing or through email. This is an excellent time to gain understanding of our ministries and to meet people in a smaller group setting.

We hope you will consider attending. The Stewardship Team looks forward to hosting and welcoming you!

**Gracepoint – Chartering Service –
20 March**

English District President, the Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, will official recognize and charter Gracepoint Lutheran Church, Sahuarita, AZ, on Sunday afternoon, March 20th (time will be announced soon). This is the "daughter" church of Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior. Bishop Stechholz will preach and formally receive Gracepoint as a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We rejoice with our sisters and brothers at Gracepoint! God has led and used the Rev. Steve Patton – with His gifts and seminary education – as the "mission planter" during these 3½ years. With guidance and support from "mother" church and our English District, the people of Gracepoint have worked cooperatively with Risen Savior to bring this "mission plant" to this status.

This is an afternoon service specifically to accommodate people from Risen Savior. You are urged and encouraged to join with Gracepoint for this important and festive occasion. We praise and thank God for His goodness and blessings during these years of planning, ministry progress and growth!

**Lent Begins – Ash Wednesday,
9 March, with Divine Services**

Wednesday, March 9th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent is the forty-day season of preparation toward the Resurrection Day of our Lord, celebrated this year on April 24th.

Divine Services will be conducted on Ash Wednesday at 5:00PM and 7:00PM. They will include the Holy Communion, imposition of ashes, with special music and message. Pastor Stieve will be available in the chancel area – near the altar – for Individual Confession and Absolution from 2:00-4:00PM that day.

Lent services will continue the succeeding five Wednesdays at 5:00PM. The Lenten theme is "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy." Pastors from the Southern Arizona Circuit of our English District will share liturgical and preaching duties. A chart on the final page of this **REFLECTIONS** shows the schedule.

Please join us each week, as we spend a portion of these Forty Days with the Lord in worship. A light supper will be served after each service after Ash Wednesday.

**"Our Sure Hope" Lent
Devotions
Available Ash Wednesday**

Once again, members of Risen Savior have blessed us (and others) with a "homemade" Lent devotion book. Working from our "Hope" verses for the year, the book is entitled *Our Sure Hope*.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this book. We will all be richly blessed by it during the great Forty Days!

Initially, please take only a copy for you. After the first week, we invite you to take additional copies for others.

The Parson's Paragraphs

I noticed warmer air this morning during my walk - clouds are our overnight "blanket." The moon appeared from behind the clouds, and the sun was muted within the clouds. "Why can't we have another 'Arizona day' of sun, sun, sun? Why all the clouds?" Why? Because ... as I write this, it is raining! Praise God!

We use expressions that indicate "positive" within seemingly "negative" circumstances. We figure that "it will be better tomorrow" and hear the empty (*to me*) refrain, "Have a good one!" You and I attempt to "put our best foot forward" and wish each other "luck." However, as God's people in Christ, we are called to consider prayerfully the "good, bad and ugly" of life on sinful Earth.

Years ago, Rabbi Kushner wrote a book (I read, but do not recommend) titled "Why *Bad* Things Happen to *Good* People." A major flaw, as I saw it, was a seemingly "limited" God! We believe that God not only creates, but He guards, guides, protects, and keeps us in His care. So - why do the "clouds" come into our lives? How do we judge and define, accept and respond to "good" and "bad"?

Please "track" with me, as I present, first, some presuppositions; then, some conclusions based on them. 1) God, alone is "good," and He created all things "good"; 2) Humans chose to disobey God, sinned, and became mortal; 3) Living with sin, human reason became confused, twisted and idolatrous; 4) There is no way humans can save themselves or make themselves "ok" with God; 5) God loves all people, sent Jesus as Savior, and wants all to be saved.

Where does this lead? It leads one to confession of sins, pleading for God's mercy, and thankfulness for His abiding Love, Peace and Hope! It leads one to humility and submission under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, seeking to grow in His Wisdom and walk in His way. It leads one to read and study God's Word, and to pray God's Holy Spirit to fill and use that Word in one's life.

What about all the "bad stuff" in our world? I believe God can and does turn our "bad" into His "good." Sometimes (often), we do not know or see the good results. Consider a few examples. 1) Warfare and bloodshed in distant lands --- that open them to missionary work; 2) Helping people "in need" (who are not) --- but having opportunity to witness to them; 3) Experiencing local tragedy and grief --- that brought many Christian testimonies into daily news; 4) "Makes no sense" death of a friend or loved one --- that God will use in His way and time.

Referencing the omniscience and holy will of the heavenly Father, Bishop Bo Giertz of the Lutheran Church of Sweden wrote, "*That doesn't mean that everything is an expression of God's good and creative will. There is also an evil will at work. But it means that nothing happens that God doesn't in some way hold in His hand and include in His plans. He uses it eventually as a blessing for His children.*" (To Live with Christ - p. 146)

We are about to enter the holy season of Lent --- leading to the "nonsense" of Jesus' suffering and death for our sins. When the "Good-Bad" stuff brings you trouble or doubts, turn to the cross, the Savior, the One who will walk and talk with you, guide and bless you, and bring you His "Good"!

John Wm Stieve

"Following Christ into People's Lives"

March 2011

Light in The Darkness

The God Who Sanctifies

During this month, we are focusing on the theme of "Spiritual Life and Growth". I hear all the 'good' Lutherans asking "What does this mean?"

We are spiritual people because God's Holy Spirit lives within each believer. He gives us breath, life and growth. After God created Adam, He breathed the 'breath of life' into his nostrils "and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7). You may already know that the word for 'breath' is the same word used for Spirit. Without breath there is no life; and without the Holy Spirit, whose work in us brings us to faith in Christ Jesus, there is no Life.

Spiritual growth is also not possible apart from Jesus the Christ, who paid our ransom with His own life so we can be declared righteous, and holy to God the Father. This is the beginning of Spiritual growth.

Unlike the physical growth of a newborn baby which is inevitable, Spiritual growth can be avoided and even prevented. Sure, we can learn the facts about God, that Jesus lived the perfect life and died for our sins. But does this knowledge affect the way we live our life? It has been said that "the longest 12 inches is from the head to the heart."

In her book, "Lord, I Want to Know You", Kay Arthur asks a series of questions regarding one's Spiritual growth.

"What is foremost in your life? How important is God's Word? How devoted are you to really learning it so that you can live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3)? Are you spoon-fed or are you learning to feed yourself? Do you flirt with Christianity, or do you love God with ALL your heart, ALL your mind, ALL your strength?"

Before you start making resolutions of all the things you will do so that you will become more sanctified/ more spiritually mature, remember that it is the Holy Spirit's work in you. Author Ava Pennington reminds us that "just as we cannot declare ourselves righteous by our own efforts, we cannot make ourselves righteous."

She further explains that the process of sanctification 'is not about trying harder, it is about yielding control'. This reminds me of a friend who always had to be the one to drive whenever we went somewhere. Are you in control of your life, or is God in control of your life? I

First Tuesday Women's Bible study
March 1st, 10 AM, in the Fellowship Hall.
We will be studying "How to be Green"
from the Fall 2010 issue of the LWML
quarterly.
All women are welcome and invited to
bring friends.

Tip of the month:

Ambulance service subscription
Did you know that there is a subscription
service for the local ambulance companies?
With this service you pay a flat rate of (I think
I remember hearing \$60/year). They will bill
your insurance companies, but you will not
be charged for the difference! Both
Rural/Metro and Southwest Ambulance offer
this. Call the office that serves your home.

often realize I have tried to take control and need to give it back to God.

To yield control means you need to trust someone else to be in control. Thankfully, we have a God who is faithful and wants the best for us. He chose to create us and continues to provide for all our needs. He even provided for our need for rest. In fact, Adam and Eve were created on the 6th day and the first thing they were given to do was to rest- with God! God called the 7th day "Sabbath" and made it holy. In Exodus 31:13 the Lord explains to Moses: "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.'"

God sanctifies us through His Word. That Word is read to us during worship, explained through the sermon, studied in Bible class AND personal daily study. God's Word is also given to us individually at our Baptism and the Lord's Supper. It is a joy to know that God's forgiveness is real and personal.

Instead of giving something up for Lent consider joining a Bible study group or commit to regular study on your own. Then, also, share what you have learned from God with others of whom you have a personal relationship. I would love to help you find a Bible study that would be meaningful to you, as well as ways for you to actively live out your faith.

Together in His Service,
Deaconess Jeri Morrison

Home Bible Study

The "In His Word" women's home Bible study has begun the Life Light study on "The Triune God." This 9 session study is part of the Life Light Bible study series. The goal of Life Light is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please come and join us at 10:00 am at Linda Connors home at 240 W. Placita de los Anillos. If you have any questions please give Linda a call at 399-2647.

Health Support Groups

Breast Cancer Support Group

Life creates unforeseeable challenges for all of us. The person diagnosed with cancer often goes through profound feelings of vulnerability and questioning. Doctors can treat the tumor, but it is often the stories from survivors that treat the soul. Join us in exploring strategies to turn these difficult times into positive experiences.

Breast Cancer Support Group will meet for brunch, Saturday, March 19th 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Choir room at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior. Any woman who is or has undergone treatment for breast cancer is invited to join us. If you know someone in the community that you feel would benefit from this group, please encourage them to attend. Please bring some baked goods or fruit to share. Coffee, etc, will be provided. For any questions call Mary Bath @ 399-4821.

Stroke Support Group will be meeting in the choir room on March 12 at 3:30 pm

Men's Prostate Wellness Group Features Dr. Michael Moran, MD as Speaker at March meeting

This meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 11th at a special time: 7:30 a.m. This early time is necessary in order to accommodate the schedule of the guest speaker, Dr. Michael Moran, M.D. who will be giving a presentation on Robotic Surgery of the prostate. Coffee and donuts will be available.

Dr. Moran is an associate of Arizona Institute of Urology and Southwest Urologists with offices in Green Valley and Tucson. His specialty is robotic surgery and he will be giving a power point presentation on this topic followed by questions from the audience. All men of Green Valley are welcome! This group meets in the Desert Hills Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall the second Friday of the month, October through April. Please join us anytime.
Contact: Dave Schmidt, 399-0154



The LWML/Ladies Guild of Risen Savior will meet March 15th in the Fellowship Hall with a salad potluck.

Kristina Bergdahl, a Financial Associate of Thrivent, will speak about women's financial issues.

The bean soup sale for March has been canceled until further notice.

Have a blessed month!!



In Concert – Brazilian Guitarist, Tabajara Belo

Sunday, March 20th, internationally acclaimed classical guitarist, Tabajara Belo (Brazil) will perform a solo concert at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior at 3:00 PM.

Belo is one of the most outstanding Brazilian musicians of his generation. He has made a name for himself as a virtuoso guitar soloist, composer and arranger. His performances include not only guitar, but also the viola-caipira (a traditional Brazilian folk guitar, with double steel strings) and mandolin. He blends his concert programs with classical, Brazilian popular/folk and jazz music. In 2009, he made his first tour in Europe, planning concerts in Italy, France and Portugal.

The March 20th concert will feature a unique and exciting blend of classical, jazz and Brazilian music. Admission is by free-will offering. Please, join Tabajara Belo for what will be an enchanting afternoon of music!

Special Worship Services for Lent – AD 2011

"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>DAY</i>	<i>THEME</i>
March 9	5:00PM	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	"The Pure and Holy Lamb of God" Pastor Stieve
March 16	5:00PM	<i>Lent Wednesday II</i>	"The Lamb of God Who Suffered Scorn" Pastor Scicluna
March 23	5:00PM	<i>Lent Wednesday III</i>	"The Patient Lamb of God" Pastor Pacey
March 30	5:00PM	<i>Lent Wednesday IV</i>	"The Lamb of God Who Bears Our Sins Away" Pastor Mavis
April 6	5:00PM <i>Choir Cantata</i>	<i>Lent Wednesday V</i>	"The Crucified Lamb of God" Pastor Patton
April 13	5:00PM	<i>Lent Wednesday VI</i>	"The Life-Giving Lamb of God" Pastor Stieve

† Please join us Wednesdays to worship during this holy season †