



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

March 2017

The Value of Lent

You will not see the season of Lent mentioned anywhere in the Bible. It is not one of the holy festivals mentioned in the Old Testament and Jesus never mentions it. Ash Wednesday, too, is absent from the Scriptures. Yet we and many churches will be observing this solemn season.

There are good traditions and ones that are not so good. Jesus said of the Pharisees: "These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." Any tradition that serves man's selfish desires rather than glorifying God is to be disregarded. Lent, however, focuses on Jesus Christ's sacrifice and the practices associated with it concern penitence, self-examination and self-denial.

I like to think of Lent as the season to defeat pride. It begins with Ash Wednesday and the sign of ashes upon the forehead. The traditional words spoken as the ashes are applied "You are dust, and to dust you will return," are certainly not the words of arrogant pride. It is humbling to wear ashes. It is a mark of our imperfection and of our continual need for a Savior and His forgiveness.

Lent begins this year on March 1 with our Ash Wednesday service. Lent is 40 days long leading to Easter Sunday. The six Sundays prior to Easter are not counted as part of Lent. Lent goes back in some form to the early Christian Church. Church father, Irenaus of Lyons (c.130-c.200) mentioned it though it was much different than later Lenten observations. The Council of Nicea (325 AD) discussed the 40 day Lenten season and in the next centuries it became regularized.

Like any holy day or season it can be corrupted and as we have seen in our day, commercialized. For some the Easter bunny has eclipsed the triumphant resurrection celebration. But we don't stop celebrating Easter because some have hijacked it. Lent can be seen as a work righteous time when we earn points with God and show off to others by doing certain practices. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and others who fasted in order for others to see how righteous and good they were. But Lent can be an important time for us to focus again on how much we needed Jesus' sacrifice for us and for self-reflection and self-denial.

The season of Lent calls us therefore to two things. First it calls us to worship Jesus Christ. As we contemplate His journey to the cross, how can we not worship Him all the more! Is He not worthy of our presence at Lenten Services and Sunday Worship Services?

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Value of Lent *(Continued)*

Secondly, in this season of humility, we ought to do humbling tasks and giving anonymously. Jesus said it plainly: "Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

It is a good idea to give up something for Lent. But don't broadcast it. Every time you do without that one thing, remember what Jesus gave up for you. Practically, you may have to reveal it to those close to you, but for the most part, make your sacrifice between you and God.

At Grace, our Wednesday Lenten Services will have a series of messages entitled "Taking Satan On." Beginning with Ash Wednesday the titles are:

"He Loves Hypocrisy" Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"We Know His Tricks" II Corinthians 11:14

"Arm Up" Ephesians 6:10-18

"He Takes the Word Away" Luke 8:4-15

"Resist Him" I Peter 5:8-9

"Jesus Will Finish Him" Revelation 20:7-10

Let God do His work in you this Lenten season!

~ *Pastor Rich*



How to Raise Good Kids

We all know that one of the greatest gifts (and biggest challenges) that God can bless us with is children. Some of you are like me with small children at home, and others may have adult kids who are raising their own little ones now. Thankfully, as a part of being the body of Christ, we are all tasked with the wonderful responsibility of raising these kids to be Christian adults! But what does that mean?

A recent Harvard study set out to determine what are some common traits for raising a good kid. They uncovered five universal actions that we can all strive for in the way that we interact with this future generation. Here are the 5 actions for raising a good kid:

1. **Quality Time:** Spending affirming and positive time with your child.
2. **Mentor:** Let your kids see a strong moral role model and mentor in you.
3. **Compassion:** Teach your child to care for others and set a high ethical standard.
4. **Appreciation:** Encourage your kids to practice appreciation and gratitude.
5. **Vision:** Teach them to see the big picture

Which one of these action items can you focus on this week?

To find out more, check out "Making Caring Common Project - Harvard University"

~ *Pastor Mark Bushuiakovish*

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.



Saturday, March 4 - Parade of Tables

Ladies--sign up now!! This year's theme is "Fashion by Decades." You don't need a closet full of "old" clothes to participate and host a table. You could do accessories--shoes, hats, jewelry and makeup of a certain decade, hair-styles, or wedding dresses. Do you have some pictures of yourself in a tie-dyed tee shirt and bell-bottom jeans, or dancing in those go-go boots or a poodle skirt? You can decorate your table with pictures--your own or from the internet. Anything goes!

Currently, there are more people who want to attend the luncheon than there are hostess tables available. We would hate to turn anyone away. Tickets are on sale for \$15. This is a charity luncheon with proceeds going to "A Hand Up for Women." You can sign up to host a table on the bulletin board near the coffee area or by contacting Maria Brelsford or Sheila Wittke.

Other Events to Look Forward to:

April 9-16 - Holy Week Services

April 15 - Easter Festival

April 16 - Easter Brunch and Easter Services

April 28-29 - Annual Youth Rummage Sale

June 11-15 - Grace Lutheran Sports Camp

June 25 - Church-Wide Picnic

July 22-28 - Summer Camp

Saturday, March 25 - Family Ministry Saturday

Why did God design the family?

How can I get my kids to talk to me about what is going on in their lives?

How can I be more intentional in making sure they still love Jesus when they are adults?

Join us on Saturday, March 25 from 9:00-12:00, as we tackle these important questions and so much more at our first Family Ministry Saturday of the year. We will meet in the Grace Fellowship Hall.

Sign up on the new Family Life bulletin board. Breakfast will be available starting at 8:15. Child care will be available. \$5 per family to Frieda Guthrie by March 19.

"Ahoy Christians!" Summer Camp

Saturday, July 22 - Friday, July 28

This year our Summer Camp theme is, "Ahoy, Christians!" As Matthew 6:21 (our theme verse) warns us, "Where our treasure is, so will our heart be also!" As Satan tries to sink the ship of our lives, we will be faced with two options, storing our treasures in heaven, or on earth. We will seek out this week what it means to store our treasures in heaven, and how doing this will help keep our ships afloat under any attack!

Camp dates are Saturday, July 22-Friday, July 28. The **early bird discount is \$325 with a registration deadline of March 26**. Campers must have their registration form along with a \$100 deposit returned by this time. Cost of camp after this date is \$375.

You can find registration forms on a bulletin board near the Family Life Center or the Children's Ministry Office.



Births in the Church Family

Austin Tate Rolan

Born: February 9, 2017

*Proud Parents:
Jerry and Kelsey Rolan*

Parker Levi Bevins

Born: February 10, 2017

*Proud Parents:
Van and Ashley Bevins*

Puzzle!

Are you getting "antsy" for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to
complete these words that end in A-N-T.

		A	N	T				
			A	N	T			
				A	N	T		
					A	N	T	
						A	N	T

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one's testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant



Time to
Spring Ahead

**Daylight Savings Time
Begins**

**Sunday,
March 12, 2017**

Listening to God's Voice

We like to distinguish between Law and Gospel because we believe the Bible distinguishes between God's threats at our sin and His gracious promises to forgive all who repent. Because of that, some biblical phrases are hard for us to fit into our understanding, like this: "And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests *became obedient to the faith.*" (Acts 6:7) To us "obedience" is a Law word. It demands conformity to a command. "Faith," on the other hand, is a Gospel word. Through faith we receive forgiveness of our failures to conform to God's commands as an act of grace in the Gospel. Seeing "obedient" and "faith" together in the same sentence as if two members of the same team confuses us.

In our first year Hebrew class we learned Old Testament Hebrew has no word for "obedience," yet we find that word in our English Bibles all through the Old Testament. The Hebrew Old Testament uses an interesting phrase we understand to mean "obedience." That phrase is "listen to the voice" of God. We hear a command of God and respond to it in obedience.

My father often told a little story about two boys playing. The mother of one boy called him to come into the house. He ignored her. The other boy said, "Your mother is calling you." The boy being called said, "She will need to yell louder than that before I can hear her!"

He heard her, but he did not listen to her in an obedient way.

God also calls us to believe that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for us for the forgiveness of sins. The word "call" is a biblical word used of our coming to the faith that brings us forgiveness. It is a word that brings to mind a voice addressing us and a responsive acceptance of that call from us.

Whether the topic is obedience to God's commands (Law), or believing God's Good News of redemption (Gospel), God's voice addresses us seeking a compliant response. Faith recognizes God's voice as the final authority and bends to it, whether for obedience (Law) or for faith (Gospel).

In this passage, faith ("believe") is on a contrasting parallel with obedience. Yet, the word "obedience" in this passage does not seek the performance of commands, but is a trusting response of faith. "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:36)

For the Christian, the first importance is that we eagerly listen to the voice of God and recognize it as from God Who is more than worthy of our complete attention.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show.

NEW AIR TIME: Wednesday Evenings - 10:00 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Stream for DISH or Direct: Go to CTVKNOX.org. Click on Icon and watch



MARCH 2017 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 01 - Controlling and Preventing Diabetes - Dr. Tom Anderson
- 15 - Advanced State Prostate Cancer Treatment - Dr. R, Wayne Hatfield
- 29 - Vision Testing and Common Eye Disorders - Dr. William Williford

Additions to the Library

Fiction

Because You're Mine by **Colleen Coble** (Fic Cob): Alana and Liam are excited about the birth of their first child. But when Liam is killed by a car bomb while their Celtic band is on tour in Charleston, Alanna strives to obtain U.S. citizenship to escape her father-in-law's control, a man who wants to take her baby away from her.

Twilight at Blueberry Barrens by **Colleen Coble** (Fic Cob): Set in the blueberry barrens of Maine, Kate finds her barrens have stop producing. Searching for an alternative income source, an opportunity to rent her cottage and to nanny for two girls comes her way. As Kate's attraction to the girls' uncle increases, so do the dangers and questions that surround both of them.

Moving Target by **Lynette Eason** (Fic Eas) Eason continues her **Elite Guardian** series with book 3. The bodyguards of the Elite Guardian Agency are skilled and courageous and women. Maddy and her ex-boyfriend, Detective Quinn Holcombe, are snatched separately by a serial killer who believes he is executing God's vengeance on them.

In the Shadow of Denali by **Tracie Peterson** with **Kimberly Woodhouse** (Fic Pet): These authors begin **The Heart of Alaska** series. John Ivanoff is a mountain guide at the Curry Hotel who hasn't forgiven himself for the death of a client-friend in a storm at Mr. McKinley six years earlier. When his friend's son arrives, a search begins for the truth of that fated climbing incident.

Still Life by Dani Pettrey (Fic Pet) This is book 2 in **The Chesapeake Valor** series which began with **Cold Shot**. Avery, a photographer, joins forces with Parker Mitchell documenting crimes scenes. She loves what she does and she loves Parker, until she realizes that he will never stop loving his murdered sweetheart.

Non-Fiction

Psalm 91: Real Stories of God's Shield of Protection and What This Psalm Means For You and Those You Love by **Peggy Joyce Ruth** (223.2 Rut) Ruth, a Bible study leader, guides the reader through this study of Psalm 91, explaining verse by verse, God's promises of protection. Following the study are personal testimonies of many who have personally experienced the safety and security of God's provision.

The Deity of Christ by **John MacArthur** (232.8 Mac) MacArthur presents a biblically-based defense of the divinity of Christ, the cornerstone of Christian doctrine. MacArthur examines how Jesus is God, and why it is important.

About Face: A Call to Turn America Back to God by **Barry D. Voss** (261.7 Vos): Voss, president of Faithful Ministries, visited Grace recently. This is one of his several writings. It is an appeal for the United States to return to the values and

virtues upon which it was founded. He covers how America has turned away from God and stresses why it is essential for America to return to God.



For the Youngest Readers

The Berenstain Bears' Spring Storybook Collection by **Stan & Jan Berenstain** (J Ber): These seven fun stories cover the bear family as they do their spring cleaning, participate in the Easter Parade, set up a lemonade stand, learn to recycle, go fishing, and celebrate both Mother's Day and Father's Day—all springtime activities.

Christina Goes to the Holy Land by **Maria C. Khoury** (J 915.69 Kho): School-aged children can take a tour of the Holy Land as Christina explores the birthplace of our Christian faith from Bethlehem where Jesus was born, to the Jordan River where He was baptized, through his death on Golgotha, and the tomb where He was buried. The book is illustrated with pictures of actual sites visitors to the Holy Land would see.

Reformation Readings

The Legacy of Luther by **R. C. Sproul** (284.1 Spr) This book is divided into three sections: "Luther's Life" covering his birth on November 10, 1483, to Hans and Margarethe Luder, through his death in 1546; "Luther's Thought" covering his doctrine of Scripture Alone, By Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and the Glory of God Alone; "Luther's Legacy" covering why his life and reforms matter still today.

Daughter of the Reformation: A Historical Perspective of the Life and Times of the Wife of Martin Luther by **Mary Helene Rasmussen Jackson** (921 Lut): This is the story of a nun, Catharina von Bora, who left her convent and married former priest, Martin Luther. This book outlines the important part she played in the Protestant Reformation.

Find these and other materials new to the library on the cart in the library ready for you to utilize.

Luther Quote for this Month: *The Importance of Prayer: "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."* 2004 Thrivent Financial Calendar.

~ Mary Schultz



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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.*

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TO:

