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# February 2023

Dear Saints of Grace,

While were are entering into February and with that our minds may be trending toward the horrible cold we're experiencing right now and the chocolates and hearts we see in the store for Valentine's Day, if we look to the later part of the calendar there is Ash Wednesday at the end of the month. Yes, Lent will be upon us before we know it. It's hard to think about that already being the case, especially, with the end of Lent being Easter when we think about those things related to spring: flowers; sunshine, warm weather. However, just like there is the cold before the warm in the seasons, it's good for us to reflect on the cross for a time before we revel in the joys of the resurrection.

As I say that, I do want to make the point that we do revel in that joy every Sunday. Even during Lent, the Sundays are not considered penitential. They are not included in the forty days (which means if you fast from something you can enjoy that indulgence guilt free even on Sundays during the penitential season). Instead every Sunday is a small Easter. But even still, the resurrection is not understood for its joy if we do not take time to reflect on what it tells us. In the resurrection, the Father declares our forgiveness in Christ that sin would no longer bring its curse of eternal death. Being the good Lutherans that you all are, I think you can understand that and relate to what Paul says in this weekend's epistle lesson from I Corinthians 2: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

It is with this in mind that we will be reflecting on Jesus Christ and Him crucified for our theme this Lent in our series "The Crucified King." This series actually was produced by Concordia Publishing House years ago, and was written by Pastor Ralph Tausz who is nearby serving a congregation in Melrose Park, so I can't take credit for the arrangement of it. However, my senior pastor and I preached from it while I was still at my previous congregation and I remember finding it insightful and encouraging in seeing the depth of our God who bore our sin in His flesh on the cross.

To give you all a brief overview, the theme will discuss the following topics: "The King's Wisdom" (Ash Wednesday); "The King Betrayed" (Week 1); "The King Denied" (Week 2); "The King Condemned" (Week 3); "The King Mocked" (Week 4); "The King on the Cross" (Week 5); "The King's Feast" (Maundy Thursday); "The King Forsaken" (Good Friday); and "The King Raised" (Easter Sunday). I pray that you will join us those Wednesday Evenings and reflect on the great gift that our Crucified King is to us as He has born our sin and taken upon Himself the curse of death that it deserves that we could have life, light, and joy in His glorious resurrection.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Zickler



# Please join us!



# **Sunday, February 12**

will be the annual e Academy Panca

Grace Academy Pancake Breakfast

Following the Divine Service

All are invited to attend!



Please note Ken Brandt is a new trustee for the church.

(His name was inadvertenly left out of the 1/15/23 bulletin when we announced the Installation of Congregational Officers)

Congratulations to all our Congregational Officers!

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Many thanks to Glen Hass for the wonderful job he did on painting the kitchen cabinets & replacing the hardware. Job well done!

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SCRIP orders are taken on Sunday, February 12th after the Service. Questions? Please call Sara Fitzgerald 708-822-8094

#### **February Birthdays!**

**Matthew Briscoe** 2/2 **Donna Perkowski** 2/2 **Jack Sheldon** 2/6 2/9 **Nancy Harris Don Steele** 2/15 2/16 **Ryker Ayers** Owen Fitzgerald 2/16 **Christine Sulak** 2/16 **Marie Grace Enright** 2/20 2/25 **Irene Rohde Lesley Arca-Blessman** 2/27 **Natalie Fuller** 2/27 Lloyd Dzoga 2/28

#### **February Anniversaries!**

**Arnie & Doris Svec** 02/23/1963



### Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers

**Lesley Arca** 

Terese Barron, friend of Mark Rehn

Jim Beutjer, father of Denise Stetler

Laura Blanford, granddaughter of Sue & Tony Napolitano

**Bob Blessman** 

Ross Butusov, friend of Heidi and Myrna Garton

Ann Cannon, friend of Doris Svec

Dan Christian, friend of Christopher Krohe

**Nancy & Kent Cloninger** 

Jerry Cohen, husband of Tracy Cohen

**Tiia Corzine and Unborn Child** 

Blake Donegan, grandson of Lois & John Flood

**John Donegan,** friend of Lois & John Flood

Jim Donovan, uncle of Meg Krohe

**Richard Donovan,** father of Meg Krohe

Shirley Doyle, friend of Doris Svec

Rose Ferguson and Unborn Child, niece of Chris

& Bob Dame

Richard Flatley, Vietnam Veteran - WS Post

John Flood

Christine Fry, daughter-in-law of Betty & Bill Tanzer

**Ken Fuller** 

Jerry Gajda, brother-in-law of Linda McGuire

Cassie Gray, cousin of Paul Sulak

**Emily Hall,** friend of the Rehn family

Joanne Hass, mother of Glen Hass

**Doris Jacobson** 

John Jones, friend of Chris & Bob Dame

Rachel Kaiser and Unborn Child, niece of Chris

& Bob Dame

Kooy Family, friends of Eleanor Kulaga

**Eleanor Kulaga & Family** 

**Allison Leininger**, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

John Fred MacLean, friend of the Stetler Family

Bruce Mazurkiewicz, cousin of Tyna Eggert

Rod McInerney, friend of Pat Schlueter

Mary Claire MoDrak, friend of Lisa Mullarkey

Ellen Morgan, friend of the Stetler Family

Lisa Mullarkey

Cathy Muszynski Cox, friend of the Blessman Family

Benjamin Napolitano, q.grandson of Sue & Tony Napolitano

Dorothy Neugebauer, friend of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Rachel Novak, friend of the Stetler Family

Joyce Oberst, sister of Sue Napolitano

Levi Olson, cousin of Paul Sulak

Jamie Pestien, niece of Chris & Bob Dame

**Leah Picek** 

Jürgen Pietzsch, cousin of Jennifer Claster

Caitlin Place, granddaughter of Ron & Nancy Kolar

Kurt Seehofer, son of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Rose Sirois, grandmother of Jacob Corzine

Adam Skelton, grandson of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Kimmey Skelton, daughter of a friend of Pastor Zickler

Elizabeth & Aaron Snater, sister & brother-in-law of Chris Krohe

Shirron Reid, daughter-in-law of Jim & Ruth Reid

**Don & Gayle Steele** 

Judy & Kurt Steiner, family of Nancy & Ron Kolar

Vanessa Stetler, sister of Chris Stetler

Keelia Sulak & Unborn Child, daughter-in-law of Paul Sulak

Ted, Megan & Gideynn Torreson, family of Chris Krohe

Noah (Picek) Tovar, g.granddaughter of Lois & John Flood

**Athey Ulrich** 

Amelia Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Jennifer Voelker, friend of Pat Schlueter

Allen Washburn, uncle of Christopher Krohe

Jim Williams, friend of Doris Svec

Nancy Wolff, sister of Tyna Eggert

## <u>Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers</u>

Karla Bergenthal - Eleanor Kulaga - Suzette Olszewski

