

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS

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Rev. Don Mulfinger, Vacancy Pastor

February 2019

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

**Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am,
followed by Fellowship,
Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:45
am**

Wednesday Bible Class at 10:30 am



ISN'T GRACE AMAZING?

**We've all sung the beautiful hymn
"Amazing Grace", some of us hundreds
of times.**

I've seen many explanations of what
"Grace" is, among them, this short one:

**God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense**

Lewis Smedes also explains grace, in a
somewhat more expanded way, in his
book *How Can It Be All Right When
Everything Is All Wrong?*

Why do we call grace amazing?

*Grace is amazing, because it works against
the grain of common sense. Hard-nosed
common sense will tell you that you are too
wrong to meet the standards of a holy God;
pardoning grace tells you that it's all right,
in spite of so much in you that is wrong.*

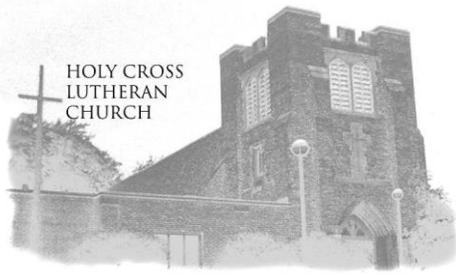
*Realistic common sense tells you that you
are too weak, too harassed, too human to
change for the better; grace gives you power
to send you on the way to being a better
person .*

*Plain common sense may tell you that you
are caught in a rut of fate or futility; grace
promises that you can trust God to have a
better tomorrow for you than the day you
have made for yourself.*

The Bible says it in different words. "It is
by grace you have been saved, through
faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is
the gift of God – not by works, so that no
one can boast."

Have a Grace-filled day!

Pastor Don



We put our arms around the Terry Shingledecker family; Bev died on Tuesday, January 29. The family plans to wait until March to hold the funeral service.

Margaret Lucy (Jones) Schiller, age 97, passed away January 18, 2019. Preceded in death by husband, Richard; daughter, Jennifer. Survived by her son, Craig (Pat); grandchildren, Evan, Alyssa (John), Nathaniel, Robert (Jessica) and Daniel (Martha); four great grandchildren. She was born in England Aug. 14, 1921 and grew up on a farm with her siblings. She joined the British Air Force (WAAF) during WWII where she rose to the rank of Sergeant. She met her husband, who was in the US Navy while stationed in the Middle East. She came to the US to marry and have a family. Memorial Service was Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, at Bethlehem Lutheran.



In our prayers, Marilyn Risser and her family. Marilyn has been in the hospital since Monday with an advanced form of cancer. She is at peace and not suffering pain, and she has chosen not to undertake treatment. Jack is holding up courageously.

Please contact the Trustees with any building issues you notice. Current trustees are Mike Dennis, Jerry Rusk, Lynnae Skogerboe, and Dave and Tena Ubl. Concerns can also be emailed to HolyCrossTrustees @gmail.com or written out and left in the Trustee box outside the office. Thank you!

Errol and Judy picked up, delivered, unpacked and sorted \$1417 worth of baked goods from Cub last month, sharing with CES. Thank you!

“Your donation of food is greatly appreciated and important to the work of CES. Thank you for your faithful partnership. Your donations are so important. Blessings on the days and weeks to come!”
Chris Nelson

“Thank you for your generous support of Trinity First Lutheran School in 2018! Your support magnifies our thanksgiving to God. Not only do we rejoice at the work God is doing the hearts and minds of our students and families, but we also rejoice that God has put you alongside us as partners in ministry to support us with your prayers, your volunteer time, and your financial gifts.” *Sarah JS Wippich*

HOLY CROSS YELLOW PAGES

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THE PROCESS

**Great news - we received our Call
Candidate documents, a list of nineteen
candidates** with an extensive set of
documents for each - 135 double-sided
pages plus introductory material!

Keeping our church resources in mind, we
made enough copies to allow us to move

ahead. Each copy will be shared by two
members, who have been tasked with
finishing their first cut within a week and
then passing it along. The first cut will
reduce the number of candidates to no more
than ten. After that is complete, we will
meet and reduce the list to no more than five
candidates. We will most certainly have
questions we need to ask these finalists so
we will contact each of them to arrange a
time for a telephone interview. It is our
prayerful hope that after these interviews we
will be able to bring a final candidate
forward for approval by the congregation.
During that Approval Meeting the Call
Committee will summarize the deliberations
that resulted in our choice, and a time for
questions will be provided. When all
questions are answered, we will vote to
extend a call. God willing, the pastor that we
call will accept, and we will create a sched-
ule for the transition.

That's the process, and we hope to be extending the Call in early April.

Although members of the Committee can
answer general questions, we cannot get
specific about any individual candidate.
Please respect this constraint by not asking
specific questions of the Call Committee
members. We will keep the congregation
informed throughout the process by means
of the website and the newsletter and with
regular updates on Sundays.

Thank you in advance for your patience and
your prayers.

Steve Blomberg
President



FEBRUARY WEDDINGS

Tim and Jeanne Phelon 2/15

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Grimm 2/1
Emily Protzner 2/6
Jon Kofoot 2/6
Gloria Noetzelman 2/7
James Blomberg 2/8
Olivia Brammer 2/15
Harrison Riddle 2/15
Steven Likely 2/18
Jackson McConley 2/22
Madison Jacques 2/24
Makenzie Lustfield 2/28
Mary Lange 2/29

DEACONS

James Blomberg and Jim Scanlon

COUNTERS

3 L Oolman and R Woodraska
10 M Blomberg and G Klatt
17 M and K Lange
24 L Oolman and A Horrman

USHERS

3 L Oolman and A Tatham
10 E Copeland and M Blomberg
17 T Phelon and K Lange
24 L Oolman and A Horrman

ALTAR GUILD

Carol Rusk

WEEKLY DEVOTION Luke 3:21-2

When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit moved over the waters. Heaven itself broke open in welcome. And God spoke to Jesus like God had never spoken before: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

In Jesus there is, by water and word, a new creation more incredible than the first.

Jesus is God and Spirit in human flesh and blood. He comes to challenge the creature comforts we greedily grant to ourselves, and to comfort us when darkness and demons and our own sinfulness assail us. He is the one who was victorious over the darkness of destructive waters that met the first creation; the one who could not be contained by the grave.

God speaks a word over the waters of our baptisms too. We are made new. We are counted among God's own people of every time and place. We are made children of God, and called beloved.

Being loved, we are called, in turn, to be love in the world: to speak hope in the midst of despair, freedom where bondage enslaves, justice where power struts, peace where conflict abounds, and joy amid the maelstrom of human loss and sadness.

In this new year, how is the new creation in you responding to God's love each day?

Lord God, thank you for the gift of baptism in which you make us new, declare us beloved, and empower us with the Spirit to be love in the world. Amen.

By Pastor Rick Summy, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Submitted by Milly Phelon

Fixing Problems

John 2:1-5 - On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with His disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

I love the story of Jesus at the wedding in Cana. Mary mentions the wine problem to Jesus—why, exactly? Up to this point He has done no miracles (see John 2:11), so she's probably not expecting one. Did Jesus have a reputation for fixing difficult problems? She clearly has a lot of faith in Him.

Jesus reacts to His mother's hint with bemusement: "What does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

That last sentence is a little cryptic, but it certainly carries a sense of "No." I'm sure Mary heard it, too. Nevertheless, she knows her Son well. So instead of arguing or instead of giving up, she merely turns to the servants and says, "Do what-ever He tells you." And off she goes, leaving the problem in Jesus' hands.

That was a wise choice! Because just as Mary foresaw, Jesus gets to work on the problem—if not exactly the way that she imagined it. He does His first miracle. And He doesn't do it on His own, for ex-ample, by causing the wineskins to magically refill themselves. No, Jesus has a better idea.

He makes the servants a part of His miracle. "Fill the jars with water," He says, and they do so, up to the brim. They don't know why, of course. He said to do it, and that's good enough for them. Then He tells them to dip some out and take it to the master of the feast to drink. Now that must have been a bit

scarier. What is the emcee going to do when he's faced with a wineglass full of washing water?

But they do it, and everything turns out fine, in fact, better than fine. The water was the best wine. The servants breathe a sigh of relief, Mary no doubt smiled, and the wedding feast was saved.

It's a pretty good paradigm for what we ought to do when we run into problems in our own lives, isn't it? Like Mary, we take our needs to Jesus—even the odd ones, even the ones that don't appear to have any spiritual dimension to them at all. We may have no idea how to fix the problem; we don't even know what to pray for. It doesn't matter. We can leave it in Jesus' hands, knowing that He will do whatever is best. He always has before!

But there's more: because very often Jesus involves us in the solution to those messes, just as He involved the servants at Cana. "Do such-and-such," He says to us, and we go off to do it—whether that means lending someone money, making phone calls on their behalf, listening for hours to a troubled person, or any other loving action. We obey Him. We trust Him to work things out. After all, the One who died and rose again to save us will certainly care about the smaller problems in our lives!

THE PRAYER: Lord, when there is trouble in my life, please help me. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo. Used by permission; all rights reserved by the Int'l LLL (LHM).

Submitted by Julie Wright



During our annual Winter Conference in Minneapolis, Erick had the opportunity to be on two panels. During a main session, he shared his story of processing through the topics of race, ethnicity, and culture as a Christian, and during a lunch held specifically for ethnic minority students. This lunch is meant to gather, bless, and create space for them to see each other and help them feel less alone—which can happen often back on their campuses.

Erick's learned a lot over the years about these topics, and talking about his story on stage in front of more than 1,000 students and staff was humbling. He spoke of how necessary it's been in his life to have intentional conversations about our own identity, and to get to know the identity of people around us. He spoke about the fatigue he feels at times with being an ethnic minority in a world that doesn't quite seem to know how to enter into the conversation.

As he sat on panel during lunch, he was joined by two of the guys he'd disciplined when they were students. One was Joe Kanderski who serves as intern at UW Milwaukee. Joe shared that one of the reasons he decided to intern was because of Erick – seeing someone who was Asian like himself on staff.

Thank you for your prayers for Annika, recently diagnosed with cancer and had to leave school for chemo. A couple of weeks ago her scans came back negative, she's

cancer free! We're so grateful, thank you for praying for her!

Our little man is doing great and growing up way too fast for us. He's talking a lot, eating like a champ, and has already enjoyed some staff meetings and student gatherings. Courtney comes back from maternity leave on February 4th.

When we joined staff in 2009, we had no idea how the Lord would continue to use our story to draw people to Himself and raise up laborers to reach the world with the Gospel. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement in our mission to reach the lost!

Yours in fulfilling the Great Commission,

Erick and Courtney Horrmann

MEN'S SHEDS

Men's Sheds give retirees a place to talk, give back and feel valued, *continued from last month.*

Members of the Hopkins-based Men's Shed, ranging in age from late-50s to mid-80s, are part of an international movement to address growing concern about isolation and loneliness, particularly among men after they've retired.

While the organization's name comes from the literal place where men keep their tools, gatherings are not limited to that setting. In Hopkins, for example, they partnered with Susan Newville, coordinator of the bustling Hopkins Activity Center. She provides free space for the men to meet weekly, as well as access to her mailing list to publicize events. The Hopkins Shed, the first in Minnesota, has grown from about a dozen men to more than 30 men over the past two years.

Jim Sarver of Minnetonka is former executive director of a mental health agency in north-west Illinois. After retiring, he found himself going to a local gas station to shoot the breeze with other guys gathered there as many as three times a day. Sarver, 75, started joking with his family that he was “going to the office.”

His daughter, who knew of the Men’s Sheds movement suggested he take a look when he moved to the Twin Cities. He’s been a regular for more than a year. Robert Fisher, 73, of Minnetonka, enjoys the camaraderie. “Look around and see these guys,” Fisher said. “They’re alive and active and they’re fun.”

Bob Nelson, 72, of southwest Minneapolis, is one of the original members. “It’s good to see more guys,” he said. “My wife loves this. She says she’s going to come to a meeting.”

And she could. There are no gender restrictions. “Everyone’s welcome,” Phil Johnson, group founder, said. “You just show up.”

The group celebrated its two-year anniversary Dec. 6 with lunch at Hopkins’ Mainstreet Grill and a visit from Mayor Molly Cummings.

Johnson remembers the first few meetings as being a bit unfocused.

“We spent three weeks talking about what our activities should be — then we scraped and painted a storage room,” Johnson said. Soon, their mission was born: To do community service. “We patched walls, refinished a couple wood benches,” Johnson said. “In the spring, we landscaped. Then we adopted two parks in the city of Hopkins. Once a month, our meeting is to go walk around the park. We carpool so we’re talking to each other.

“We’ve all gotten to know each other pretty well. It’s a nice, cohesive group.”

By Gail Rosenblum Star Tribune 12/8/18
Submitted by Shelley Kivipelto

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	2 8-10:30 AA Meeting 3-5 GA Intergroup
3 Mite Offering 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA	4	5	6 10:30 am Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	8 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	9 8-10:30 AA Meeting
10 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA	11 10:30 Prayer Group 6:30 ICAN	12 7 pm Trustees Meeting	13 10:30 am Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 2-4 Hands in Ministry 7:00 pm AA Meeting	15 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	16 8-10:30 AA Meeting Lopez Group Fellowship Hall 11-2 pm
17 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA	18	19	20 10:30 am Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm AA Meeting	22 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AI Anon Meeting	23 8-10:30 AA Meeting
24 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Sunday School and Bible Study 7:00 pm GA	25	26	27 10:30 am Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	28		