



The Sound of Morning Star

Morning Star Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod
Lakeside, California
www.morningstarlcms.org

March

2024

Greetings family and friends of MSLC,

It's Lent! I always have mixed emotions about this season after doing research to discover how it came about. Originally, the early church set aside 40 days before Easter as the time for instruction before an Easter baptism. However, the last time that I looked it up, there was some skepticism as to whether this was actually true. The 40 days eventually morphed into a period of thanking Christ for dying on the cross.

The church leaders concocted a set of rules that parishioners would follow during this time. Personal sacrifice was one and it meant giving up something for this time period. When I was a youth counselor, asking the older youth to give something up created an actual connection with Lent that wouldn't normally be there. My problem is that as I did more in depth research, the rules and regulations looked more like 'works' than anything else. I wondered whether Jesus really needed a thank-you, or whether the church currently needs to set apart time before the crucifixion and resurrection to spend these 40 days in repentance and self-reflection.

Personally, I am not a traditionalist or an originalist, even though I've been LCMS my whole life. Most Lutherans and even most Christians who are approaching their senior age are both of those. You've worshipped the same way your whole life and are not crazy about changes. You like the service, the preaching, the singing, so leave it alone.

Lutherans have taken Lent and morphed it a little, so that it became a journey to the cross. What I found missing with the early church, still seems to be missing from Lent— Grace. As I mentioned, Lent became a thank you to Jesus, and the morphed into a time of repentance and self-reflection. As I sat in church today, we literally begin our service with confession (repentance, self-reflection) and then the absolution— we are set free, that would be grace. Just a thought, but what if, rather than repentance and self-reflection, we change the name from Lent to Grace, and look forward to what God did for us.

But what happens when we live God's way? HE brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard— things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and drive our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; It only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities, is killed off— crucified. (Galatians 5:22-24)

Last month I ended my article with this paraphrase from the Bible on the fruits of the SPIRIT, which was taken from the 'Message'. I sat here reading it, and was left speechless, there was nothing left to say. I had planned on elaborating on all the different fruit of the SPIRIT and how it looked in my life. about two



Sunday Services 8:45 a.m.

In person, via Zoom,
or on Morning Star's
Facebook page.

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Youth Confirmation 10:00 a.m. (check calendar for dates)

LENTEN SERVICES March 6, 13, 20 7:00 p.m. or Zoom

MAUNDY- THURSDAY March 28th Service 7:00 p.m. or Zoom

GOOD FRIDAY March 29th Service 7:00 p.m. or Zoom

EASTER SUNDAY March 31st Service 8:45 a.m. or Zoom

For more
information,
call the Church office.



Greeting continued from front page:

hour after submitting the article on Monday, its due on Sunday, the SPIRIT, began to open up my mind to what the afterthought would be concerning the fruits.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 4:12, he gives us the description; I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I thought about Paul's contentment, when understanding that the SPIRIT lives in me, that this earthly world is temporary, that we will go through struggles because God has promised that, but with the SPIRIT living inside of us, we shine and we are the salt of the earth even if we don't see it ourselves. I believe that God puts people in our lives to interact with, even if briefly, that we may not be aware of to see us shining.

I think The fruits of the SPIRIT can be summed up in a different way; do you always try to have a positive attitude? are you a person of sound moral character and integrity? Do you say what you mean and mean what you say. Do you stand firmly or are you easily swayed?

The SPIRIT lives in us and HE is the one who brings about the shining. Did you notice in the second part of that passage that it is no longer necessary for me to have my way. Legalism no longer exists and is no help at all. As I think about Lent and the church wanting to say thank-you to Jesus, I wonder if anyone looked in the WORD to see what HE wanted. The story of the rich young ruler who believed that he could earn his way to heaven. What does Jesus want? Our surrender. Make HIM number one, give him the keys, let HIM drive, and during this period of Lent, remember that it was GOD's grace, promised in the Garden, Genesis 3:15 that made it possible. Let go, Let GOD. Be Still — Psalm 46:10.

Sola Fide ~ Sola Scriptura ~ Sola GRATIA, Jerry

President's Message



Since we are very quiet right now, there's not a lot going on with the BOD.

Travis is doing things in OPS,

We decided to keep the voting roles and the rules in place. There was discussion about letting regular attenders who aren't members vote, but it was decided to stick with the constitution. Members whom are shut-in were excused and still eligible to vote.

The benevolences so far are:

- Lakeside Christian Helps
- Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry
- Rios Canyon Little League
- Turkey Missionary (Christine Costley)
- Doctors without Borders

The amount is \$1037.80 - the 6th will be decided in November at the Voter's meeting.

Jerry Grambow, President



BIBLE STUDY

**Please join us in Classroom 4 at 10:00 a.m. on
SUNDAY MORNINGS, and be blessed by Studying God's Word.**



The Ministry of the Holy Spirit & Angels By Pastor Richard Ross

I read on Almanac.com that “early in the morning of February 2, 2024, Punxsutawney Phil the Groundhog — that Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Weather Prognosticator Extraordinary— emerged from his burrow to make his much-anticipated forecast and did NOT see his shadow.”

We haven’t seen a change in the weather for good yet. But maybe next week it’ll be better.

Even so, the rain suits my mood. Our times are bleak with no end to the wars and school shootings; natural disasters and assassinations; covid, flu, and RSV; and politics, politics, politics. *Ughh.*

But Neil deGrasse Tyson, the astrophysicist, argues that things are not as bad as they seem. For example, he says, for 27 of the past 30 years crime has dropped precipitously. I looked it up. Violent crime, as a case in point, is 47% lower today than it was in 1994 (when it peaked). Tyson draws a picture comparing the times, noting that between 1939 and 1945, 1,000 people died every hour of every day (for six years). That’s 53,000,000 human lives that were sacrificed during WW2! There continue to be wars, but there has been nothing like that over the past 79 years. Today, we are safer, and we live longer than ever before. But it doesn’t feel like it, does it?

The drama created by the media blows out of proportion what’s really going on. Journalists and publishers know how this works only too well. They’ve even given their marketing gimmick a rhyme: “If it bleeds, it leads.” For some reason we can’t help ourselves. We turn on the TV, and a half dozen fire trucks are trying to put out a fire that’s consuming a house with a family trapped inside. And we must watch. A journalist reports outside the home of a politician who was gunned down in front of his wife and kids. And we can’t pull ourselves away. There’s a report about a mass grave that was found in a village in Africa, which was filled with men who were butchered to death. We are aghast, but we must watch the story.

What does this stuff do to our souls?

We are in the Lenten season, which began with Ash Wednesday with the call to repentance, charity, and prayerful devotion. On the first Sunday of Lent, we remembered how Jesus crushed the devil’s temptations as the Holy Spirit and angels ministered to Him (Mark 1:12-13). Our Lord said no to the things a mere man would’ve said yes to. Would it be too much to say that power, fame, and fortune are virtues in this world in which we live? But Jesus turned away from these things, for His humility on the Cross had to precede the revelation of His glory, which will be manifest at the final resurrection and judgment.

One of the traditions of Lent is to give up something of ourselves, remembering how Jesus gave up a part of Himself for us. Maybe now would be a good time to give up feeding ourselves that stuff that fills us with anxiety, that raises our blood pressure, which rattles our spirits. Maybe it’s time to stop indulging the “old man” and it’s time to feed the “new man” with things that cleanse the soul, things like music and Scripture, edifying reading and prayer, a walk in the park or time in the garden, volunteer work with a charity or any one of a zillion other things that are so much better for us than the daily headlines.

And it’s not that hard. After all, the Holy Spirit and the angels are ministering to us just as they ministered to Jesus, in His name. Amen.



BIBLE THEMES IN SPANISH (edited)

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Amar misericordia
<i>Love mercy</i> | • Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor
<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord</i> |
| • Los justos resplandecerán como el sol
<i>The righteous will shine like the sun</i> | • Preparen el camino del Señor
<i>Prepare the way of the Lord</i> |
| • Tome su cruz y sígame
<i>Take up your cross and follow Me</i> | • Con Dios, no hay nada imposible
<i>Nothing is impossible with God</i> |
| • Somos todos como hijos de Dios
<i>We are all like children of God</i> | • Dios está complacido conmigo
<i>God is pleased with me</i> |
| • Usted lleva la imagen de Dios
<i>You bear the image of God</i> | • Yo confío en Dios
<i>I trust in God</i> |
| • Jesús me ama
<i>Jesus loves me</i> | • Jesús es mi autoridad
<i>Jesus is my authority</i> |
| • Ama a todos tus hermanos y hermanas
<i>Love all your brothers and sisters</i> | • Dios te ama a ti
<i>God loves you</i> |

MORNING STAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

March 3—Food Drive for Lakeside Christian Helps Center



March 4 - 6:30 p.m. BOD Meeting

March 6 - 5:30 p.m. Praise team practice

7:00 p.m. LENTEN SERVICE

March 9—Daylight Savings Time starts at 2 AM on Sunday Morning

March 13—5:30 p.m. Praise team practice

7:00 p.m. LENTEN SERVICE

March 17—3:30 p.m. Dave Anderson food and Concert 

March 20—5:30 p.m. Praise team practice

7:00 p.m. LENTEN SERVICE

March 23—9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. LARC Ham Radio testing

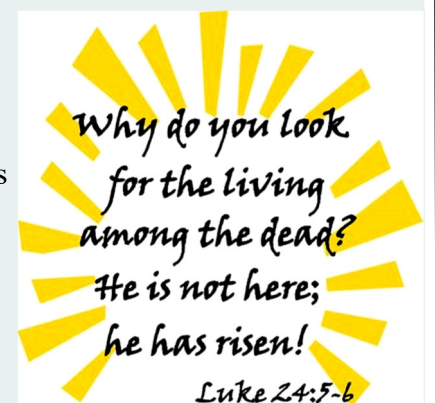
March 24—PALM SUNDAY / Newsletter Deadline /\$5 Sunday for Missions

March 27—5:30 p.m. Praise team practice

March 28—7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

March 29—7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

March 31—EASTER SUNDAY 8:45 a.m. Service





Morning Star Lutheran Church



**12821 Ha Hana Road
Lakeside, CA 92040**
Phone: 619-443-6032
www.morningstarlcms.org
Pastor Richard Ross

The people of Morning Star believe in the One True God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that everything God says in His Word, 'the Bible', is true. And we believe in God's promise that He will give us the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus, who died on the cross and rose again to save us.

Sunday Morning

Worship
8:45 a.m.

In person,
on Zoom, or
Morning Star's
Facebook page.

Bible Study
10:00 a.m.

Youth Confirmation
10:00 a.m.

(Check the
calendar for the
monthly
schedule.)

Ongoing Prayers:



Prayers of Thanksgiving
for: *God's saving
grace, through the
gift of faith.*

May Our LORD send
HEALING & PEACE to
our World, showing mercy
to all who are suffering.

Pray for those in the
Armed Forces,



especially:

Lucas Nelson Davis

United States Navy

(Chris Hill's Grandson)

Prayers for our Pastor
and Board of Directors.

Prayers for His Church,
the World and Creation..

*To add prayer concerns to
this page, contact the
Church Office.*



Morning Star's 2024 Board of Directors:

President Jerry Grambow
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INSPIRATIONAL
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ARTICLES.



Editor, Joan liddle2@cox.net

THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS:
March 24, 2024

For Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
and Other
Special Dates in
March,
see the calendar.

**Morning Star also has an
On-Line Prayer Chain at:**

morningstarlcms.org

~ Jim Birren,
Prayer Coordinator

March 2024

Morning Star Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Youth Confirmation 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study FOODDRIVE	4 6:30 PM BOD Meeting	5	6 5:30 PM Praise team practice 7:00 PM Lenten Service or Zoom	7	1	2
10 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study	11	12	13 5:30 PM Praise team practice 7:00 PM Lenten Service or Zoom	14	15	16
17 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Youth Confirmation 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 3:30 PM Dave Anderson food and concert	18	19	20 5:30 PM Praise team practice 7:00 PM Lenten Service or Zoom Spring begins	21	22	23 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM LARC Ham Radio testing
24 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study PALM SUNDAY \$5 Sunday for Missions Newletter Deadline	25	26	27 5:30 PM Praise team practice	28 7:00 PM Maunday Thursday Service or Zoom	29 7:00 PM Good Friday Service or Zoom	30
31 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study EASTER SUNDAY						