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March 2020

## REST AREA



If you have ever driven east over Steven's Pass on your way to Leavenworth along Highway 2 you are probably familiar with a place called the Nason Creek Rest Area. It is really the first place you can stop and get out of your car after going over the pass. It also happened to be our neighbor for the trip Melina and I took over to Leavenworth this past month. I must say after navigating the pass at night, with it snowing, and barely being able to see the road it was nice to pull in there. It was a rest well needed.

The rest area was also a great place because it provided safety. You see, we brought Gatsby on the trip and made sure not to walk him on US 2 with cars zipping by at 60 mph. So what I did was drive him over to the rest area and then we walked across the street to a sheltered road where he and I were much safer. I say this to point out there were multiple reasons we appreciated the rest area nearby and I am sure on many of your road trips you have been very relieved to come across a rest area for many reasons.

With our Lenten series being called "The Signs of Lent" I felt adding the sign of the rest area was appropriate for this newsletter article. You see there are times in our lives where we feel like we have just got over a treacherous pass, and rather than just continuing on we need to rest. We need to rest in the Lord, receive renewal and shelter from him, before we go any further. This season of Lent I want to remind you and encourage you to enter the rest areas of the Lord daily because this is a time you need it.

Take time to pray, but don't just list off petitions, take time to rest in him and let him minister to you. Furthermore, rest in his Word and in our Lenten devotions. Let certain verses be your entrance into the rest area. Such as Psalm 4:8, "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety." I know so many of you have different pains and issues on your paths right now, so I pray that this season of Lent would not be just of repentance, but one of renewal and rest. Keep your eyes peeled for the rest area signs, and don't be afraid to pull over and dwell in the peace of the Savior!

In the rest of the Lord,  
Pastor Matt

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY MARCH 2020 ARTICLE



We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and [a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6-10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

## THE RLC AV BOOTH

### Why do We Need All this Tech Anyway?

Churches have been using technology for centuries (e.g. amphitheaters) to enhance the ability of the audience to hear speakers. More recently wired and wireless mics & amplifiers plus video everything are the new “normal”. Worship bands add more complexity and increase the need for people behind the scenes to make everything happen.

Nowadays there are typically three or more operators taking care of sound, video, and lighting. At Resurrection, we don't have a fancy lighting system, but when you look toward the booth from the pews, the person on your right is running sound and the person on the left is running video. The thing about technology is that most of the time it works pretty well, but when something goes wrong and you turn around and look, know that the people in the booth are already well aware of it and are probably frantically trying to make things right so just relax.



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### What goes on in the AV Booth?

Perhaps you've poked your head into the AV booth at church and wondered what all that stuff does. Well, though it might look like Mission Control at Kennedy Space Center, it's not quite that complicated so I thought I'd take you on a little tour to share about what goes on behind you and why it's important. In the booth, you'll see a large console with lots of lights, dials, and knobs. This is the sound mixer. It collects signals from all the mics and sound sources and sends them to recorders and the computer. The rack next to the mixer records and enables streaming video to the Internet. The two big monitors are connected to the computer that coordinates all the video displays and does the actual streaming when we do it..Our goal of using technology in church is to enhance the worship experience for you so that you hardly notice it, and most of the time it works well enough that we accomplish this.

### How We got Here

In 2003-2004 the new AV system was defined and specified, installed in November and went live the first Sunday in December 2004. Since then a number of items have been replaced and upgraded but the basic functionality has stayed the same except for the addition of live streaming. In 2008 we started recording sermon audio and have been doing so ever since, posting the last year's worth on our [website](#), but [archiving everything from 2008](#) so you can actually access and listen to any sermon preached at RLC since 2008 plus view the slides in PDF which are also stored along with their respective sermon audio file. Year PDF index files allow you to search for something you might remember. Right-click on any of the files to download them to your computer or other device for listening or viewing.

### New Operators are Always Welcome

The AV system in the sanctuary came with a commitment of operators to run the equipment. We need one at early service and two at late service each Sunday. Our numbers have dwindled over the years but the number of slots to fill hasn't. We need to fill the 12-15 slots per month. November and December have even more opportunities for serving. If you ever want to see what happens behind the scenes, come to the booth after a service and most anyone there would be happy to show you. We would be happy to explain what this important ministry entails.

## GOD'S DESCRIPTION IN TWO WORDS

by Martin Luther published on 1517.org

# TWO WORDS

“But when the **goodness** and loving **kindness** of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)”

These two words descriptive of God, “good” and “kind” are indeed pleasant and consoling. They represent him as offering grace, following us, ready to receive most graciously all who draw near to him and desire him. What more could he do? Note now why the Gospel is termed a gracious, comforting message concerning God revealed in Christ. What can be conceived more gracious to a poor, sinful conscience than what these words convey? Oh, how wretchedly the devil has perverted for us these pure words of God!

These two words are to be accepted with their full and broad import. No distinction of person, as prevails among men, is to be made: for divine love and kindness is not secured by human merit; it is of God's grace alone and given to all that bear the name of man, however insignificant. God loves not what is characteristic of one person, but of all. He is partial not to one, but kind to all. Therefore, a man's honor is perfectly maintained, and no one can boast of his worthiness, or need despair because of his unworthiness. All mankind may be equally comforted in the unmerited grace God kindly and humanely offers and applies. Had there ever been a meritorious individual or a work worthy of consideration, it surely would have been found among the doers of “works of righteousness.” But Paul rejects especially these, saying, “not by works of righteousness which we have done.” How much less reason have we to think the kindness and love of God has appeared in consequence of man's wisdom, power, nobility, wealth and the color of his hair! The grace which cancels all our boasted honor, ascribing glory alone to God who freely bestows it upon the unworthy, is pure as well as great.

How could Paul have presented words conveying more love and graciousness? I venture to assert I have never read, in the entire Scriptures, words more beautifully expressive of the grace of God than these two. They represent grace not only as procuring for us remission of sins, but as God ever-present with us, embracing us in his friendship, ever ready to help us and offering to do for us according to all we desire; in short, as a good and willing friend, to whom we may look for every favor and accommodation. Picture to your imagination a sincere friend and you will have an idea of God's attitude toward you in the person of Christ, though a very imperfect representation of his superabundant grace.

Now, if you steadfastly believe, if you rejoice in God your Lord, if you are alive and his grace satisfies, if your wants are all supplied, how will you employ yourself in this earthly life? Inactive you cannot be. Such a disposition of love toward God cannot rest. Your zeal will be warm to do everything you know will be to the praise and glory of a kind and gracious God. At this point there is no longer a distinction of works. Here all commands terminate. There is neither restraint - nor compulsion, but a joyful willingness and delight in doing good, whether the intended achievement be insignificant or difficult, small or great.

# Lenten

## **BIBLE STUDY**

March 4th, 18th, & April 1st  
@ Cropp house | 6 pm

## HAVING GRACE WITH OURSELVES by Melina Mantey



A year ago I stepped away from my job for several weeks to focus on myself. Sometimes life throws things at us, and it's awhile before we can find the courage to face it head on. Let's be honest, it's scary to remove all of the distractions we so often fill our lives with and spend time with just ourselves. But inevitably there is always that moment where we recognize the things in life that have irrevocably changed us, and have to decide what we are going to do about it. We can keep finding ways to move forward without really moving forward: new hobbies to take on, new boards or clubs to join, new jobs, additional jobs, social gatherings, kids, spouses, friends, etc. Or we can stop, turn around, and face the pain, anger, frustration, sadness, anxiety, etc. that we have quietly been pulling along and start walking through it instead of in front of it. It can come from the loss of a loved one, a trauma, an illness you battled in the past or a recent diagnosis, mental health, etc. There are so many things that we move on from without actually moving on, because we think that is what we need to do: "Life must go on." But where is the grace? Why do we not extend to ourselves what God extends to us on a daily basis? Sometimes it's okay to not be okay. In fact, that is what God wants from us. He wants us to live in our humanness, and find hope, strength, and yes, grace in our moments of difficulty, because it's how he redeems our struggles and pains in this life. So I hope you can let the riches of his amazing grace overflow in your life in this season of Lent, and recognize the importance of extending grace to yourself, especially in your struggles, because what is on the other side of it is so much better.



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 2019  
**General Fund Opening Balance 48,520.56**

**Income Sources**

Source	Income
Envelope Offering <sup>(t)</sup>	18,705.00
Loose Offering <sup>(t)</sup>	986.00
Facilities Offset	400.00
Misc Receipts	-
Copies	6.50
Stock Sale	-
Interest <sup>(t)</sup>	-
FCEMR - Congregation Emergency Fund	-
FMEM - Memorial Fund	100.00
FSOCA - Social Action Fund (Thrivent)	49.00
FPUB - Publications	-
FTMP - Special Funds	160.00
FYOUTH - Youth Funds	9,290.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,696.50</b>

**78,217.06**

**From Sinking/Special Funds**

From Funds	385.30
<b>Total Unrealized Expenses</b>	<b>385.30</b>

**78,602.36**

**Expenses, Realized**

Category	Expense
District_Pledge	-
Salaries_and_Payroll	(8,296.11)
Administration2	(335.25)
Elders_and_worship	(1,898.98)
Congregational_Education	-
InHouse_Ministries	(713.52)
General_Maintenance	(350.43)
Utilities_Church	(1,241.05)
Utilities_Parsonage	(434.16)
Uncategorized	(72.13)
From_Special_Funds	(246.70)
From_Sinking_Funds	(138.60)
<b>Total Realized Expenses</b>	<b>(13,726.93)</b>

**64,875.44**

**Expenses, Unrealized**

To Special Funds	(9,599.00)
To Sinking Funds	(2,035.00)
<b>Total Unrealized Expenses</b>	<b>(11,634.00)</b>



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