

# April 2021 News & Updates



## *From the Pastor's Pen*

*“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” (Romans 8:18–23, ESV)*

Over the past couple of months, I got bitten by the spring fever bug. The family and I have spent loads of time working in our front and back yards. We have done everything from pulling out dead honeysuckle, moving many cubit yards of fill dirt to try to level out some areas, redoing irrigation, building a raised bed, starting seeds, moving things from here to there, and loads of cleaning.

Most of it is due to the time of year, as Springtime is always my favorite season. I have, for years, found myself by the end of March looking every day to see the trees begin to bud, new plants poking up from the soil, and the return of the bees (which I love hanging around and watching). But this year, I have found something very cathartic with all this work. It has lowered my stress level as well as worked out my body rather well.

But as I look around and look in Scripture, what I see is not very beautiful. The world is in utter chaos and everything breaks down. But St. Paul reminds us that not only are human beings corrupted through the fall, but all creation was subjected to the curse of God in the Garden of Eden.

Yes, as I work more out in the sun lately, I am constantly reminded of the futility of our lives here on earth. The weeds are a constant threat, a lot of the stuff I have planted will not grow the way I have imagined, and some of my vegetables won't produce. It is frustrating! One puts in all this work and one discovers the futility of trying to keep the weeds at bay. One needs to be concerned with what types of fertilizers to use or not use that will help produce the food one tries to grow.

But there is something positive about all this negative earthly futility. For you see, “for the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inward-

ly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

Not only can gardening be frustrating due to this corruption and pains of childbirth, but it has corrupted you and I as well. I get so frustrated over myself. When will I get this right? When will I stop sinning? Why is it that I continue to do this or that, when I know it upsets my Lord, and affects people around me? I am groaning! Groaning from physical pains of manual labor, groaning from the lack of spiritual growth in my life that I can see, groaning because of the world around us that makes me wonder if we will get out of this alive, groaning because this is not the way creation is supposed to be, not how I am supposed to be.

But we have this wonderful promise from Paul that even though we groan, we do so because we are awaiting the redemption of our bodies, as well as the redemption of all of creation. *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Revelation 21:1–2, ESV)*

We have this promise from God that is given to us by Isaiah, Peter, and John. This is John's vision from Jesus and a great comfort for us all. We will not live in this corrupted creation forever. There is coming a time when Christ will return and all this creation will pass away; all sin, all suffering, all crime, all sickness and disease will all pass away, and even death itself. Today you are a new creation, each day lived in faith in Christ we are being formed into His image through all this suffering we are enduring. But the greatest thing of all is that when He comes and finds us in faith, our eternity will not be about suffering and pain. All that is gone. No more futility, no more corruption, no more being subjected to evil and degradation. We will finally live in perfect peace, with perfect bodies, physically in the presence of God and His Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Why? All because of the new creation Jesus ushered in on Easter Sunday. The empty tomb of Jesus is our comfort and strength today as we continue to endure evil and sinfulness, eagerly awaiting for adoption as sons (and daughters), our own resurrection where we will be with Jesus for all eternity.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Harris



## From the Deacon's Desk

### PASSION WEEK

**Palm Sunday: John 12:13b.** Jesus' triumph upon entry into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. The people shouted "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" while laying their cloaks and palm branches on the road ahead of Him. The city was wide open, welcoming and enthusiastic while proclaiming Him a King. The Romans, Pontius Pilate, and the Jewish religious leaders were nowhere to be seen. There was no known outcry against the celebration. **Genesis 1:5b** "And there was evening and there was morning on the first day."

**Monday:** Jesus cursed the fig tree and cleansed the temple. **Genesis 1:8b** "And there was evening and there was morning—the second day."

**Tuesday:** Jesus teaches in the temple and His authority is questioned. **Genesis 1:13b** "And there was evening and there was morning—the third day."

**Wednesday:** The plot against Jesus. **Genesis 1:19b** "And there was evening and there was morning—the fourth day."

**Maundy Thursday:** Jesus washes His disciples' feet and observes Passover with them. He institutes Holy Communion and goes to Gethsemane for the last time to pray. **Genesis 1:23b** "And there was evening and there was morning—the fifth day."

**Good Friday:** Jesus is arrested, tried, crucified, died and was buried. **Genesis 1:31b** "And there was evening and there was morning—the sixth day."

**Easter Saturday:** Jesus rested in the tomb. **Genesis 2:3** "And there was evening and there was morning—the seventh day."

**Easter Sunday:** The first day of the week. It was morning, the earth shook, and the stone rolled back.

Christ has Risen!

He has Risen indeed!

Allelulia!

In Christ,  
Deacon Nick DeRose



Parish Nurse Ministry



## From the Parish Nurse

### DIABETES—INFORMATION YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

Recently there have been some new developments in the field of diabetes. One of these is the new medication—Rebelsus; which has been advertised a lot lately on TV. The other is the new glucose monitor called DEX-COM. This is a monitor you wear and it gives you continuous readouts of your blood sugar. It is more accurate; and the monitor screen is LCD and in color.

As some of you might know, diabetes causes a lot of harm—it can cause kidney damage, damage to the eyes and also the feet. If you are a diabetic, it is very important that you keep your regular appointments with your doctor. If your blood sugar is either very high or low, you may end up in the ER for further workups and possible hospitalization.

It is also important that you follow a diet that is consistent with a diabetic diet. Your doctor will probably provide you with some of these diets and food recommendations.

As you work through your life with diabetes, remember that you're in God's mighty hands. Go to Him in prayer. Let your requests be made before Him. And REMEMBER that God loves you and cares for you!

Thanks for "listening,"

Celeste Lewis, RN  
Parish Nurse



## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our Valentine Gift bag project for pre-schoolers and Kindergartners was very well received by the kids and the teachers. It was a lot of fun, too!

For the month of April, we are collecting items needed by Moses House Ministries in Victorville. Please check a Sunday bulletin for the list of items needed if you wish to donate to this project. Moses House is a non-profit organization that offers helping hands and caring hearts to families in crisis, ensuring children grow up in nurturing homes. You can check out their website at [www.moseshouse.org](http://www.moseshouse.org)

As always, we appreciated your support,  
Kathy, Curtis, Cyndy, Sue, Sheryl and Diane



## **LWML News**

Ascension LWML has officially been declared “inactive” by the District. This can be easily cancelled at any time if we become active again. I am still the contact for District and Zone news (see [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org) for all information). I will keep you informed of any announcements/information I receive. We will still be collecting Mites. The purple Mite Box will be back on the table in Narthex on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. At this time I will be collecting them and mailing to District’s new financial secretary, Barb Virus.

National & District News:

2021 National Convention: June 24-27, 2021, Lexington, KY

PSD District Retreat: October 1-3, 2021, Hampton Inn Tropicana in Las Vegas (see me for more information if you would like to attend, I need a roommate).

2022 District Convention: June 3-5, 2022, Tempe, AZ  
Linda Merkle, President



## **Stewardship**

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be de-

voted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10-13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19-21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”



**Elders**

By Member's Last Name:

A-I: Rick Ferrell           760-694-3309  
J-R Mark Amer           602-619-2232  
S-Z: Ken Porter           760-792-1069

**April Birthdays**

Eva Reyes           2  
Judy Meadows       6  
Kathy Benzow       7  
MaryAnn Beck       8  
Barbara Garcia      8  
Diane Drinkwine   10  
David Leese       13  
Jamie Hanley       16  
Lynda Porter       16  
Josh Garcia       18  
Ralph Hopper       18  
Jacob Powell       21  
Wyatt Powell       23  
Sheryl Truslow     25  
Martin Holtgreffe   30



**April Anniversaries**

Bill & Jan Blanton   4/16/1977  
Curtis & Cyndy Todd 4/17/1982

