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A message from Pastor Quinn

Elizabeth Cruciger: The Only Son from Heaven

Elizabeth Cruciger (1500-1535) was the daughter of a Polish nobleman whose family moved to Wittenberg during the persecutions of the Protestants in Catholic Poland. In 1524 she married one of Luther's most devoted and promising students at Wittenberg University, Kaspar Cruciger. Kaspar Cruciger became a pastor and teacher in Magdeburg at age 21. In 1528, at age 24, he became a professor of philosophy at his alma mater. Soon, though, at Luther's request, he became a professor of theology at the Wittenberg University. By 1533 Elector Johann Friedrich promoted him to doctor of theology. However, Kaspar was not the only gifted member of the Cruciger family. His wife Elizabeth, a friend of Katherine Luther, was described as a model wife and mother. She was known as a clever woman from her comments made at Luther's "table talks" and also as a woman of rare musical gifts. That is apparent in her Epiphany hymn, *The Only Son from Heaven* (Christian Worship 86), which was originally published in 1524. Some say this is the first Protestant hymn ever written. The words of her hymn really capture the essence of the Epiphany season – Jesus Christ revealing himself as the world's light, God's Son our Savior. The hymn also reminds us why it's so important that Christ is both true God and true man. He needed to be to conquer grim death for us and open heaven before us. Unfortunately for us, *The Only Son from Heaven* is the only hymn of Cruciger which we have. Cruciger died a young woman in 1535 after 11 years of marriage. Nevertheless, we thank the Lord for the work of this gifted Christian woman which is preserved for us today.

*By God the Father given,
In human form appears.
No sphere his light confining,
No star so brightly shining
As he, our Morning Star.*

*Oh, time of God appointed,
Oh, bright and holy morn!
He comes, the King anointed,
The Christ, the virgin-born,
Grim death to conquer for us,
To open heav'n before us
And bring us life again.*

*Awaken, Lord, our spirit
To know and love you more,
In faith to stand unshaken,
In spirit to adore,
That we, through this world moving,
Each glimpse of heav'n proving,
May reap its fullness there.
(CW 86 st. 1-3)*

*The only Son from heaven,
Foretold by ancient seers,*

Coming Up in March:

March 6	Forensics Dinner
March 9	Ash Wednesday
March 12	MLS Fine Arts Fair
March 13	Daylight Savings Time Changes
March 28	Spring Break Begins for LES

Time Change

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13th at 2 AM. Be sure to spring your clock ahead one hour.

Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest but about who came and never left your side.

Forensics Dinner

Sunday, March 6th immediately after our second worship service, our annual Forensics dinner will be held in the fellowship hall. This is when the children in LES have the opportunity to show off their skills and get a little practice performing for an audience before they have the real thing on Saturday, March 12th. You are invited to the dinner and then to serve as an audience. It's always nice to hear the sound of applause!

Easter Baskets

We will again be giving Easter baskets so those members who may need a helping hand will have a blessed Easter. Please do not donate canned goods which have passed the expiration date, are rusty, or dented. There will be a box for donations as well as free will offering baskets at the back of the church on April 3rd and 10th if you prefer to give cash. Generosity isn't giving what we can afford but what someone needs. Something to keep in mind when donating this year. Thank you for making someone's Easter a little happier.

Lenten Soup Suppers—5:30 PM

Soup suppers are a long-standing tradition at Good Shepherd. This year our first soup supper will be on March 9th, Ash Wednesday. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board so we will know how many to expect. Our usual soup suppers have soup, bread or rolls, dessert and beverages. Soup suppers will follow on March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th, April 6th, and April 13th.

Choir Time Won't Change

With our soup suppers beginning at 5:30 and our worship services at 6:30, Choir will continue to meet at 7:30 immediately after our Lenten worship services

The choir at Good Shepherd needs more members. It is always a pleasure to hear the choir sing and if you have been blessed with a good singing voice and the time, why not volunteer and share your talent? The Easter season is almost upon us and this would be a perfect time to join the choir. If committing to an every week schedule at the present time isn't feasible, would you be able to make practices for the Easter and Christmas seasons? If you think you might be interested, please contact Amy Lindesmith, our choir director.

Michigan Lutheran Seminary News

MLS Sophomore Tour

The MLS sophomore tour will take place March 16 through March 21. The sophomores will visit Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, our synod's college of ministry and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in Mequon, Wisconsin, where pastors of our synod receive their final four years of training before entering the public ministry. The tour is supported by the operating fund of MLS as well as gifts from congregational groups and individuals.

Reader's Theater

Reader's Theater will be a dramatic production in which the actors and actresses develop their characters without the sets and costumes of traditional theater. They use only their voice, expressions and gestures. Reader's Theater is unlike anything Court Street Players has done before. There will be three one act shows, in the MLS Chapel/Auditorium on Friday, April 8 at 7:00 PM and again on Saturday, April 9 at 7:00 PM. A free will offering will be taken to cover costs.

A Message from Congregational President Mike Krueger

The midweek Lenten offerings at Good Shepherd have been designated for the Christian Relief Fund (providing aid to members and others in need). In addition the special offerings during the Easter season have been designated as follows: Palm Sunday to Crown of Life, Cadillac (a sister mission congregation), Maundy Thursday to St. Martin, Roscommon (a sister congregation), Good Friday to Michigan Lutheran Seminary (one of our Synod's preparatory schools) and Easter to Good Shepherd's Scholarship Fund (supporting and encouraging the sons and daughters of our congregation enrolled in our Synod's ministerial education schools).

Extra copies of our Synod's publication *Forward In Christ* are available. Please take a copy and give one to a friend or neighbor!

The Board of Education and Council will recommend to the voters to issue a call to Pastor Quinn to be the principal of our LES for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Fetcenko will continue to participate in the principal apprentice program under the direction of Mr. Hein and Pastor Quinn.

The Council continues to discuss potential building expansion plans and will bring a recommendation to the Voters in April. If you have any input please contact President Mike Krueger or any of the Council members.

Flowers for the Altar

The flower chart has a lot of blank spaces on it right now. Birthdays and anniversaries are always nice to be remembered by putting flowers on the altar that particular Sunday. If you would like to remember a special occasion or just in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have received, please check the sign-up sheet and put your name down for the Sunday you want fresh flowers for the altar. We order our flowers from Lil Pear Tree on Main Street in Midland and the cost is \$43.00. It's \$40 for the two vases of flowers and a \$3 delivery charge. You may take your flowers home after the second worship service on Sunday

Scripture Readings for March

March 6 Quinquagesima Sunday

Jeremiah 8:4-9
Psalm 148
1 Corinthians 13
Luke 18:31-43

March 13 Lent 1 Invocavit

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Matthew 4:1-11

March 21 Lent 2 Reminiscere

Exodus 33:17-25
Psalm 121
1 Thessalonians 4:1-17
Matthew 15:21-28

March 27 Lent 3 Oculi

Jeremiah 26:1-15
Psalm 143
Ephesians 5:1-9
Luke 11:14-28

Our shut-ins

Please see your paper copy of the Newsletter, or call the church office for more information on our shut-ins. For privacy reasons, this information is not posted on our web site.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Brighten someone's day. Remember them with a card and best wishes.

March Birthdays:

March 1	Jonathan Gunsell
March 6	Mike Browning
March 14	Laura Krueger
March 14	Angie Beyersdorf
March 14	Norene Garchow
March 16	Norman Retzloff
March 17	Susan Pifher
March 17	Jennifer Wirth
March 18	Bill Prince
March 22	Grace Johnson
March 22	Kyle Hocquard
March 26	Katelynn Pifher
March 26	Dane DeLong
March 28	Ruthanne Fick
March 28	Sue Rummel

Anniversaries in March:

March 25	Mike and Amy Browning
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Volunteers

No organization can function without a certain amount of volunteer time and churches, in particular, rely heavily on volunteers to fill in the corners for various projects. Listening to children read, being Picture Lady or Picture Dad, doing the Crusader Connection, and doing copy work for the teachers are just some of the things that volunteers are doing currently at Good Shepherd. If you are available for a couple of hours each week, please call the office at 835-4181 and see if there's something that you can help out with. We need you!

Septuagesima: Farewell to Alleluia

Three weeks prior to Ash Wednesday, on the day before Septuagesima Sunday, the ancient Church would chant a bittersweet hymn bidding farewell to the word Alleluia. "We do not now deserve to sing the Alleluia forever, Guilt forces us to dismiss you, O Alleluia."

Known as the *Depositio of the Alleluia*, this ceremony ushered in Septuagesima, the roughly seventy days prior to Easter that help us make the transition from the joy of Epiphany—our honeymoon time with the Lord and His Spirit, to the penitence of Lent—a season so important to ancient Christians that they actually had a separate season to prepare for it.

The day after Septuagesima Sunday, they would begin a period of progressive voluntary Fasting that grew more restrictive as it approached the deeper, more obligatory Lenten fast. They would eat less, and the consumption of certain pleasure items, such as butter, milk, eggs, and cheese, would gradually be abandoned.

Starting on the Thursday Ash Wednesday they would abstain from meat. Thus the name for this seven day period before Ash Wednesday is *Carnival*, from the Latin *carne levarium*, meaning "removal of meat." but which might better be taken as "removal of flesh" since our flesh is usually what we need to repent from most.

Finally within the week of Carnival, the last three days prior to Lent would be reserved for personal confession—since the practice had already focused on our flesh. This period known as Shrovetide (ending on Shrove Tuesday) from the old English word "to shrive," means to have sins forgiven through absolution. God's cleansing and polishing, accomplished in hearts open to the Holy Ghost is a real, Spirit-driven method to "create in us new and contrite hearts," ready for God's inside-out change from being flesh-(self) centered to God-centered, broken and receptive to the Holy Ghost.

The outward and visible sign marking this period of examen is putting away the alleluias, then the Gloria—a liturgical fast paralleling the ancient physical one. These devotional tools of our hearts, not just our actions, help open us to the Spirit's prompting, so He can show us where we need His repentance, healing, and restoration to fully celebrate the Resurrection life of Easter in Spirit and Truth.

May this coming season work in us God's purpose as fit clay for the Master's Hand!

C. B. Harper
"Liturgy Lessons"

Something to think about...

In the yeare 1653 when all things
Sacred were Throughout ye nation
Either demolisht or profaned
Sir Robert Shirley, Barronet
Founded this church
Whose singular praise it is
To have done the best thinges
In ye worst times
And to have
Hoped them in the most calamitous.

Good Shepherd's Special Person's Day

The day before Christmas vacation started, a Special Person's Day was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2010 in the fellowship hall. The children had made decorations for the tables and the Home & School Society furnished the food and did the serving. The festive occasion began with a welcoming and prayer. Lunch was served and introductions were given by each student about the person they had brought as their "special" guest. The guests ranged all the way from a little boy's grandfather to a little girl about 4 years old who was a guest of a fifth grader. A devotion was given by Pastor Quinn followed by Christmas carols and a very special closing "Stay With Us." Before the luncheon began everyone had a sheet of drawings representing 24 Christmas Carols. It was an enjoyable way to begin the luncheon. which was prepared and served by the Home & School Society. Special thanks goes to Mrs. Barb Seifert who worked with the children for the singing and several played pieces on the piano for everyone's entertainment. Also a very special thank you to members of the Home & School Society Lisa Ross, Diana Johnson, Rene Fournier, Mischael Pitt, Amy Browning, and Heidi Cummings who prepared and served the food.

All that We Need

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

A family used to be called shiftless if they lived from payday to payday. Now, they're excellent financial managers!

In this money-tight world, finances cause worry, disagreement, and resentment. We worry about our children's education. Husbands and wives disagree about how to use limited funds. Financial problems sometimes overwhelm us.

Still, God's promise is that you will have all that you need. In all things. At all times. So you will abound in every good work.

It's hard to abound in good works when you're worried and resentful. That's why you're told that God is able to make all grace abound to you. Jesus is the assurance that God's grace abounds in everyday life and for eternity.

You have all you need...so you can get to work.

Excerpt from **Grace Notes**