



May 10, 2019 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

God Rescues Jonah

"Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, 'I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.'" Jonah 2:1-2 ESV

The seaweed wrapped around Jonah, dragging him down, threatening to drown him in a watery grave. Suddenly a large fish swallowed him. Admittedly, the belly of the fish was a precarious place to be, but it was also an act of grace. God had placed him there. I'm not sure Jonah saw it that way—certainly not right away.

Do you have a "friend" from whom you dread receiving a phone? You might even choose to send their call straight to voicemail more times than not. Most of us don't mind helping people. But, we mind helping people who constantly put themselves in bad situations and never get any wiser.

Jonah, like all of us, was calling to God in his distress. This was distress that he had caused himself! If he had just done what God had told him to do, he would not be stuck in the belly of a large fish. But, instead of ignoring Jonah's cries, God heard his voice and answered him. Aren't you glad that we can say as Jonah does that God will answer our prayers no matter how bad we have messed up? It is noteworthy too, that God doesn't send us straight to "prayermail". No matter how bad we have messed up, we do not need to worry about God being too angry to answer our prayer.

When I was going through a crisis, I said to a friend, "I feel like I am being swallowed up like Jonah." The next day my friend sent an email with a picture of Jonah in a smiling whale and this comment, "Like Jonah, you need to realize this is the best place for you to be right now." How does one come to that realization?

Are you going through a time of crisis? Read the psalms and note how the authors cry out to God. Meditate on comforting hymns like "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" or "Great is Thy Faithfulness," until the healing streams of God's love restore your soul. Then you too, will echo Jonah's song of thanksgiving, "Salvation comes from the Lord."

God always makes time for us. We never catch him at a bad time. He never avoids our communication. He always answers our call. Is it always the answer we want? No. But, it is the best answer we can ever receive. It is an answer that brings us back to God after running from him as Jonah did. Be receptive to His response. Thank God for His graciousness in answering our prayers.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for songs based on your Word that have found a place in our hearts and have given us a reservoir of grace. Help us to focus on you when we feel swallowed up by life. Amen.





We Care and Pray for One Another

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Kathleen Bell; Linda Bennett; John Bock; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Angie Breitbarth; Scott Brister; JR & Debbie Bromley; Heidi Buchholz; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Larry Dahl; Richard Dahl; JoAnn Dahlin; Kim Damiano; Elaine Durham; Dianne Ewald; Harriet Feree; Gary Forrest; Ed Fowler; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Jackie Hall; Gizelle Hayes; Katie Hayes; Jane Heine; Carl Heldt; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Christopher Idso; Wally Jakubin; Susan Jerez; Cindy Kelley; Forrest Kelley; Donna Koelling; Pat Konrad; Brian Kowalski; Debbie Kowalski; Keith Leikel; Richard Lohr; Alice Masherella; Donna McCullough; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Jackson Myerscough; Lily Navarro; Tanner Nelson; Wayde Nelson; Beverly Osier; Bob Ott; RJ Ott; Helen Perrodin; Ben Petersen; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Steve Ratz; Esther Riesen; Kathy Riester; Mickey Scoffin; Oliver Shaw; Marty Sjursen; Annie Walsh; Joe Wells; Wally Wentzel; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta; Brian, Joann, Paula

MILITARY:

Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

CONFIRMANDS:

We pray for our confirmands: Gillian Hammett, Owen Heisey, Peyton Leger, Zachary Nyght, and Cayden Riester. May they continue to grow in their relationship with God and may they share their love for the Lord with others.

OTHER:

We give thanks to all the people who have generously donated to our organ fund and the gift of music they have given to everyone. We praise God that the school expansion mortgage has been paid off. What wonderful blessings! We pray for all those with health concerns. May God comfort them with His peace as they wait for test results and cures for what ails them. We pray that the Walk for Life walkers were a blessing to those who have just received God's message on the sanctity of life.



Happy Mother's Day!

If there's one attitude families are guilty of more than any other when it comes to mothers, it's presumption... taking them for granted... being nearly blind on occasion to the load moms carry. This was reinforced in my mind last week as I was thumbing through a row of crazy greeting cards at a local drugstore. Time and again the joke in the card drew its humor from this obvious attitude that pervades a household: Forget the housework, Mom. It's your day. Besides, you can always do double duty and catch up on Monday!

But my favorite was a great big card that looked like a third grader had printed it. On it was a little boy with a dirty face and torn pants pulling a wagonload of toys. On the front it read, "Mom, I remember the little prayer you used to say for me every day..." and inside, "God help you if you do that again!"

Jimmy Dean, the country-western singer, does a number that always leaves me with a big knot in my throat. It's entitled "I Owe You." In the song a man is looking through his wallet and comes across a number of long-standing "I owe you's" to his mother... which he names one by one.

Borrowing that idea, I suggest you who have been guilty of presumption unfold some of your own "I owe you's" that are now yellow with age. Consider the priceless value of the one woman who made your life possible—your mother.

Think about her example, her support, her humor, her counsel, her humility, her hospitality, her insight, her patience, her sacrifices. Her faith. Her hope. Her love.

Old "honest Abe" was correct, "He is not poor who has had a godly mother." Indebted, but not poor.

Moms, on Mother's Day Sunday we rise up and call you blessed. But knowing you, you'll feel uneasy in the limelight. You'll probably look for a place to hide. True servants are like that.

You're probably going to be taken out to eat (which will add to our indebtedness!). But in all honesty, it won't come anywhere near expressing our gratitude.

Mother's Day should not be just one day a year.

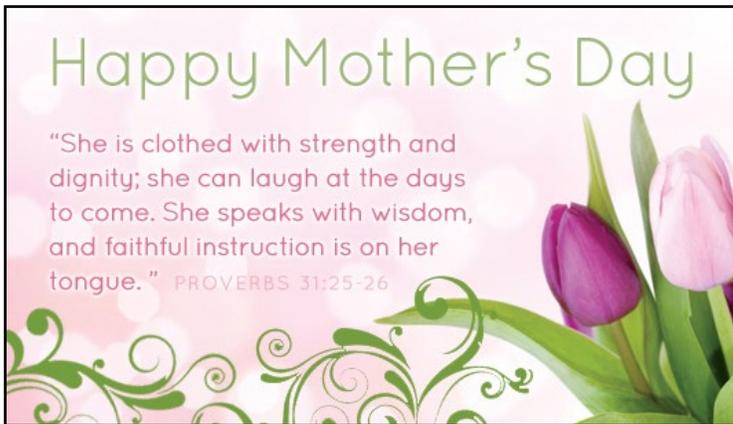


A Mothers Day Message; Upholding the Sanctity of Life

Strong Faith, Fervent Love

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Life Ministry upholds the sanctity of human life. Through numerous domestic and international programs, LCMS Life Ministry supports and encourages life "in the image of God", through pro-life and chastity programs, advocacy and teaching. The ministry also coordinates the LCMS presence at the National March for Life, held in Washington, D.C., each January. (Also held here in Tucson). Through this work, LCMS Life Ministry carries the banner that life is sacred and that all people matter to God.

Submitted by Ascension Church "Beautiful Feet Life Team",
Lutherans for Life

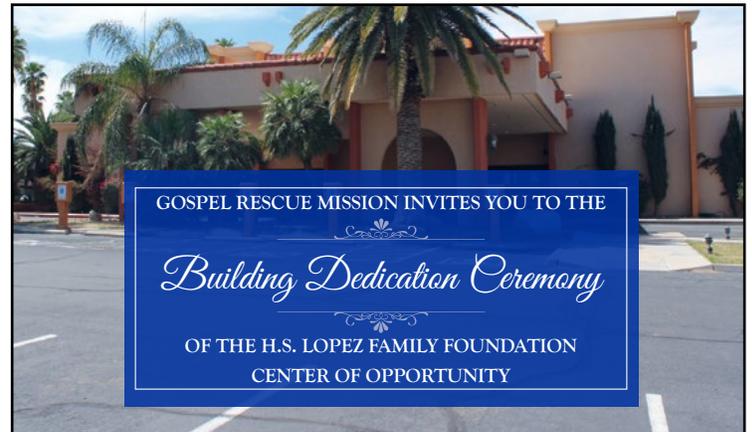


Praise the Lord!

Giving Thanks for Donors who have adopted keys on our new organ. Thanks to our musicians at the Hymn Sing and general donors, from the original cost \$26,971 bill, we now owe only \$7441.75. You can still become an investor in the music of Ascension. Make a gift in honor of a mother, graduate, or confirmand.



With the help of a Thrivent Action Team grant, 25 pairs of brand new shoes were purchased to supplement the other gently-used shoes, clothing and snacks for the Amnesty Families at St. Mark's Presbyterian. The items were delivered on Thursday, as some ChristCare members served an afternoon shift entertaining the children.



The long wait is finally over. The Center of Opportunity is finished and ready to begin transforming lives! We hope you will be able to attend our exclusive Building Dedication Ceremony and help us bless this groundbreaking step forward for the homeless and hurting we serve in Tucson. Come and witness what God has made possible thanks to your generous support!

You are cordially invited to attend the

Building Dedication Ceremony

of the
H.S. Lopez Family Foundation
Center of Opportunity

Saturday • May 18, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
4550 S. Palo Verde Road • Tucson, AZ 85714



Tours will be available and refreshments will be served.

Hands of Hope Tucson

WALK FOR LIFE
MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND
SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

raise Hope
Embrace Enlighten Empower

KINO SPORTS PARK
8 AM - 11 AM

REGISTER AND LEARN MORE
GIVEHOPETUCSON.COM

If you are able to walk, please visit the web site. If you are unable to walk at Kino Park, we ask that you mark your calendar to join us, wherever you are, in prayer on Saturday, May 11 between 8-11, as we pray for the safety and success of the walkers that they reach the ones the Lord has put in their paths.



SUMMER CAMP

Ascension Lutheran Church and School are holding camps for ages 3-4 through the preschool and children 5 years-old (by June 1, 2019) through children going into 6th grade in the fall of 2019. Information and registration can be found at the following links:

Preschool (3-4 yo):

<http://ascensiontucson.org/school.html>

Older children:

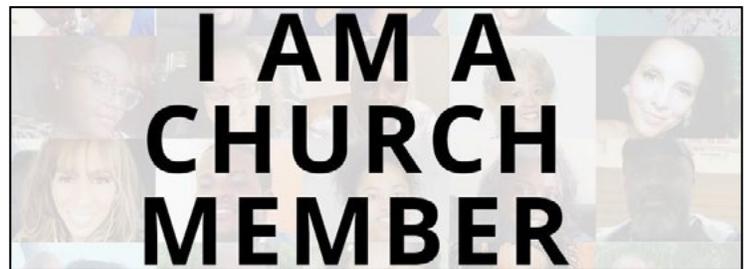
<http://ascensiontucson.org/summer-camp.html>

Employment opportunities for those that qualify, can be found at:

<http://ascensiontucson.org/camp-employment.html>

Volunteer opportunities

are also available at the link shown above.



New Member Welcome

Sat., May 18

Grace Hall (following the Worship Service)

Come visit with our Pastor

Learn about Ascension

and our community of faith

Questions and RSVP, 742-2882

FAMILY MOVIE



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