
GRACE NOTES



Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President of The Ohio District, LCMS, presented Pastor Eric Gawura with a plaque on Sunday Feb. 22. Pastor Eric is celebrating 25 years of Ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”-
Matthew 5:16



Journeying with Jesus to the Cross

As Lent progresses, the focus narrows. The scriptures guide us through Jesus' ministry, His increasing opposition, and finally His journey to Jerusalem. During Holy Week, we walk with Him through the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the trial, and the cross.

Lent helps us slow down enough to notice what Easter cost.

The cross is not an afterthought in the Christian faith; it is the center. In these forty days, we remember that Christ willingly entered our brokenness, bore our sin, and endured death itself—so that forgiveness and new life might be ours.





From the
Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of us will soon be enjoying a dinner of corned beef, cabbage, and soda bread, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. In Chicago they'll dye the river green.

And all over the country millions will wear green and wear buttons that say, "Kiss me. I'm Irish." St. Patty's day is a day to party and to glory in one's Irish heritage, which is to say that it has become more of a minor secular holiday. March 17th is more than that, though. It is the actual "Feast Day" of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, and not just for the Roman Catholic Church either.

The Lutheran (LCMS) Liturgical calendar marks March 17 as a Commemoration, a day to remember and honor the Christian witness and example of St. Patrick.

St. Patrick's Day is, then, a religious observance, a day to give thanks to God for the work and witness of Patrick, missionary to Ireland.

The exact details of Patrick's life are foggy. We're not sure of the exact date of his birth, or even of the exact years that he lived. We do know that he lived and worked in the 5th century. He was born into a Christian family (his father was a deacon and his grandfather a priest) in England, but according to an autobiographical work he did not take his religion seriously. At the age of 16 he was kidnapped by Irish pirates who took him to Ireland where he was enslaved for six years. It was during the years of his enslavement that his Christian faith became important to him.

After six years he escaped from his Irish slave master and returned to England.

He began to study Christianity, attending schools in Europe (principally at Auxerre in France) and was eventually ordained a Priest. A few years after returning home he claimed to have received a vision in which a man beckoned him to come back to Ireland. Acting on that vision he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop.





From the
Pastor
continued



While popular lore holds that St. Patrick was responsible for bringing Christianity to Ireland and converting the Irish, Christianity had already made its way to the country before his arrival. He certainly did have an immense influence on the spread of the Gospel in Ireland, though, especially among women and the lower classes of society, establishing congregations and ordaining priests throughout the Emerald Isle.

Many legends grew up rather quickly about Patrick, including the myths that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland, and that he used the shamrock to teach about the Holy Trinity. There are only two works penned by Patrick that scholars consider to be genuine – his Declaration [Latin: Confessio] and the Letter to the soldiers of Coroticus [Latin: Epistola].

His declaration, or Confession, is a theological treatise with some autobiographical material, like St. Augustine's Confessions.

March 17th is the supposed date of his death and has become his Feast Day. He is venerated as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Church of Ireland, and in the Eastern Orthodox Church as a pre-Schism saint whose influence on the spread of Christianity is equal to that of the Apostles. So, this St. Patrick's Day, while you are enjoying the "wearing O the green" and enjoying your traditional Irish dinner, take a moment to also say a prayer to God to thank him for the work and the example of Christian devotion and life of Patrick, the Apostle to the Irish.

*In the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Feast Days/Festivals are primary celebrations focused on events in the life of Christ, Apostles, or major saints, often requiring specific prospers (readings and prayers). Commemorations are lesser, optional days to remember saints or historical figures of faith with no assigned prospers.



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day



**A Note From
President,
Barb Mulford**

I hope this news article helps you become more familiar with the duties of your Church Officers and that you are getting to know those who volunteer to serve Atonement Lutheran Church. I am grateful for these many volunteers at ALC.

The next office I would like to highlight is the Church Council Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all transactions and resolutions of both the Voters' Assembly regular and special meetings and the Church Council meetings, submitting the minutes for approval at the next regular meeting, and entering the approved minutes into the church filing system, which remain the property of the congregation.

I'd like you to meet our Church Council Secretary, Diana Valdez. Three years ago Diana moved to the Columbus area permanently. She was already familiar with Columbus area, since she had relatives who lived in Dublin. She would visit in the summer and holidays over the past 30+ years so Columbus was like a second home to her. She came to Atonement Lutheran from Zion Lutheran in Edwardsville, IL where she served a Secretary. She is retired and a huge sports fan, especially hockey; she even has a Stanley Cup Ring (Blues won in the Cup in 2019). Her other hobbies include reading and baking. Atonement has enjoyed her baked goods at meetings, coffee hours and fellowship events. She is also a member of the incoming Comfort Dog team as a handler and she can't wait to go out into the community to support those in need. Diana brings a wealth of experience to this position, and we are grateful for your services to ALC and Church Council.



The King No One Expected

Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That's exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn't deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, "Here is your king." The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, "We have no king but Caesar!"

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. "What I have written, I have written," he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of "saying there is another king, Jesus." And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

"The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings." — Revelation 17:14



SHAPE UP: A LENTEN SERIES ON SPIRITUAL FORMATION

This will be our mid-week Lenten Worship Series. Did you know that it is God's plan that each believer be transformed into the likeness of his Son, Jesus Christ? This four-week series will focus on four practices of Jesus that will help us see that we can engage in some of the same spiritual disciplines that Jesus, patterning our lives on his, so that we learn to depend on who he is so that we become more and more who God want us to be.

Mid-week services during Lent are on Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Here's the series schedule:

Date	Topic	Description
March 4	Acts of Service	Jesus teaches his disciples that acts of service must come from the right motivation to accomplish the goal of serving others.
March 11	Worship	Worship of God is the catalyst for a life transformed by the power of God.
March 18	Meditation	Jesus's capacity to complete the task set before him was rooted in his ongoing practice of spending time alone and focusing on listening to the Father.

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent as we learn how to Shape Up to become more Christ-like.



Date	Title
Mar 1	Sticks and Stones
Mar 8	Hearts of Stone
Mar 15	Upon This Rock
Mar 22	Crying Stones
April 2 (Holy Thursday)	Stones to Bread
April 3 (Good Friday)	Rolling Stone
April 5 (Easter Sunday)	The Final Stone



Updates

Souper Bowl Donations - Wow!

Thank you, thank you for your donations for the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb 8. We collected 57 items of food and an amazing financial total — \$1,612. LSS will be able to purchase \$4.50 of food for every \$1 given. Thank you, Atonement folks! No worries if you couldn't donate on Feb 8. Your gifts to the Food Pantry are always needed and appreciated. Feel free to put cash or a check payable to Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry in an envelope marked Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in the offering plate. We'll make sure your gifts get to LSS. Or just mail it to Lutheran Social Services, 1105 Schrock Road, Ste 100, Columbus 43229.



Comfort Dog Ministry Update

Atonement's Comfort Dog Ministry is alive as the team for our next dog meets, plans, trains and waits. As we wonder when we will get our next dog, we trust God that He will bring our dog at the right time — and the right dog for Atonement! The folks at Lutheran Church Charities (who are training our comfort dog) prayerfully consider all dog placements. God will and is guiding them. In April, Top Dog, Linda Hunt will be going to a special gathering for all Top Dogs in Chicago. Team Members: Linda Hunt, Top Dog; Christine Herridge, Caregiver; Nancy Stohs & Dave Bush, Backup Caregivers. Handlers: Dorene Henschen, Diana Valdez, Tim Pritchard, Hope Boring (Beautiful Savior), Pam Rankey (Beautiful Savior), Tonia Kennedy (Winterset Elem). Communications: Sara Middleton, (Beautiful Savior), Dan & Mary Ludlum.



Coming Soon



A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. This new support group will be led by Becky Hoberty. A co-leader is still needed. If you are looking to volunteer and help others, this co-leader position might be perfect for you. Training and guidance will be provided for the leadership roles. Please reach out to Becky if you are interested or have any questions.

Member Spotlight

Memories, moments, and more with members Dan and Mary Ludlum



Dan and Mary met in their early 20s at Capital University, following the path of both of their parents and many relatives who also attended. It became a shared tradition that shaped their story.

What is one word that describes your family?

Blessed

Favorite family tradition?

Annual Easter Egg hunt that started when Dan was a child. His mother loved this day and was able to enjoy one last Easter Egg hunt before passing away a few days later.

What is your favorite thing about being a grandparent?

Both-Watching both Stephen and Heizel being parents. Dan-babysitting and not having to clean up before heading home. Mary-enjoying this age of 18 mo. and watching Eloise change and grow.

Mary-What is your favorite hymn?

"Just As I Am"-played during communion at the church she grew up in.

Dan-Would you rather witness Jesus walking on water or turning water into wine?

Jesus walking on water

Mary-Would you rather have courage like Esther or be devoted like Ruth?

Devoted like Ruth

Dan-What small thing brings you joy?

Their ice maker-likes the crushed ice

Mary-Finish this sentence: People might be surprised to know-

she was an administrator, as well as a librarian and in public relations.

Dan-If you could perform one biblical miracle, what would it be?

Healing people

When did you start attending ALC, and what led you here?

Dan and Mary spent years attending church with Dan's parents on the Eastside of Columbus. When their son Stephen turned three, Mary began to feel that the long Sunday drive was becoming too much. One day at Lazarus in northwest Columbus, they happened to see Pastor Bell in the parking lot. They knew him only as the father of three boys Dan had taught, not realizing he was a Lutheran pastor. He shared that he served at ALC nearby. Mary visited one Sunday and immediately felt at home. Dan joined her a little later—and once he did, they stayed for good.

Special Dates In March

March 1 ~ Fellowship
Mexican Luncheon
March 14 ~ National
Pi(e) Day
March 17 ~ St. Patrick's
Day
March 29 ~ Palm
Sunday-Easter Egg
Hunt- Pancake
Breakfast

Contact Us

Church Phone: 614-451-
1880
Preschool Phone: 614-
451-5212
coa@atonementchurch.c
om
atonementchurch.com

March Birthdays

March 1- Sandy Robert
March 2- Aaron
Clemans
March 3- Sandy
Kersten
March 4- Kevin Arnold
March 7- Marc
Schroeder
March 11- Debbie
Sichko
March 12- Avalene
Munson
March 18- Michael
Wilson
March 19- Kathy
Gibson
March 26- Joan
Kappler
March 27- Dottie May
March 29- Mike
Mulford

Happenings Around Town

-Dublin's St. Patrick's
Day Parade, March 14

- Shamrock Club of
Columbus St. Patrick's
Day Parade, March 17,
Downtown Columbus

-Greater Columbus
Cherry Blossom Festival,
Starts March 25,
Franklin Park

-Upper Arlington Civic
Association's Easter Egg
Hunt & Bunny Trail
March 28, Thompson
Park

March Anniversaries

March 16- Al and
Stacy Seretny
March 19- George and
Laura Brown
March 26- Brad and
Faith Rechel

Irish Fairy Door Trail

To start, [download the
Trail Guide](#), or pick
one up at Dublin
Visitor Information
Center located at 9 S.
High Street in Historic
Dublin. There's a fairy
door there too, so you
can start your journey
right away!

