

# THE WITTENBERG WAY

## PASTOR'S PAGE



Dear Grace Family,

The ebb and flow of our church year which is populated by the weeks of the liturgical calendar expose us to the highs and lows of contrition and celebration. This tidal swing reflects the experiences of our daily lives. The ups and downs propel us onward. Our church year works the same way, reflecting the natural rhythms of life.

The sober season of Lent ends with the commencement of the Paschal Triduum, the three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Contrition, confession, and repentance push this preparation to its intended outcome - The Feast of the Resurrection!

Easter Sunday is the Queen of the Festivals of the Church, the apex of our church year, truly warranting the brass ensemble to blast the sounds of victory! After crucifixion by the Romans, burial in a borrowed tomb, and the silence of death, the normal is shattered by the bursting of the sealed tomb and a very alive Savior! The punishment for our sinful self-centeredness has been meted out on Jesus and now the verdict is life! He is the firstborn from the tomb and we are second! No wonder we gather to celebrate Christ's resurrection because it is ours as well. Jesus has come that we might have life to the full and He freely, mercifully provides it. The preparation culminates with the words of the angels, "He is not here. He is risen!"

That angelic proclamation changes everything. We are now assured of an endless supply of life! Consequently, we step out in faith engaging the world with confidence.

It is my prayer that the hope reflected in the Easter message will provide you and your families with comfort and confidence, not in a world that is passing away, but in the surpassing richness that is yours in Christ Jesus.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Thomas

April 2021  
Volume 4, Issue 10

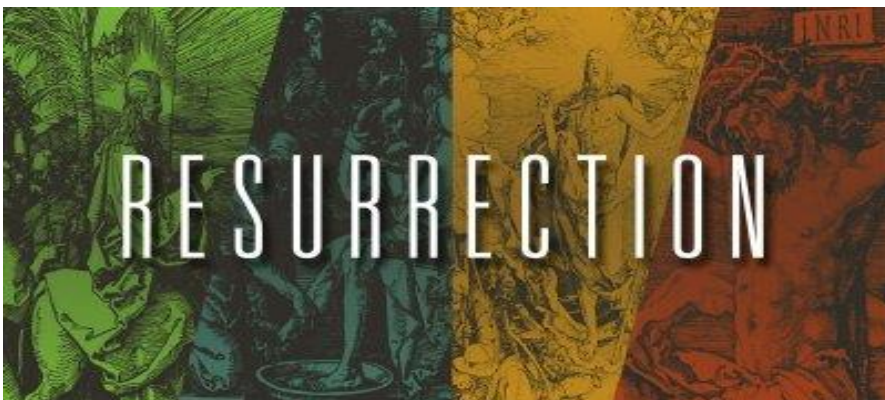
### WHAT'S INSIDE

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| ON THE THIRD DAY?       | PG. 2   |
| CAN YOU FIND THE WINDOW | PG. 3   |
| PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE       | PG. 4-5 |
| BEHIND THE MUSIC        | PG. 6   |
| WORSHIP SCHEDULE        | PG. 7   |
| PRAYERS & BIRTHDAYS     | PG. 8   |

### Seven Stanzas of Easter

by John Updike

Make no mistake:  
if He rose at all it was as his body;  
If the cells' dissolution did not  
reverse,  
the molecules reknit,  
the amino acids rekindle,  
The church will fall!  
It was not as the flower (each  
soft spring recurrent);  
It was not as his Spirit in the  
mouths and fuddled eyes  
of the eleven disciples;  
It was as his flesh: ours!  
The same hinged thumbs and  
toes,  
The same valved heart  
that pierced,  
died,  
withered,  
paused,  
and then regathered out of  
enduring might  
new strength to enclose!



# ON THE THIRD DAY?

## Answering a Common Question about the Resurrection

by Pr. Brian Thomas

Every year during Holy Week, people are often perplexed about Jesus' being raised "on the third day." We celebrate Good Friday on Friday, but Sunday is only two days later. How can we possibly say that Jesus rose on the third day? Jesus clearly predicted His death and resurrection, including the three-day time span. In fact, He compared it with the time Jonah spent in the belly of the fish:

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt 12:40)



If the three days and nights were counted the way we count them, then Jesus would have to rise on Monday (the fourth day). What's going on here? The problem arises because the way we typically count a day is different from ancient Jewish culture. Throughout the Bible, Jews counted time this way: today, tomorrow, and the third day. What they often refer to as the "third day" we would call "the day after tomorrow." Here is an example from the Old Testament:

The Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments and be ready for the *third day*." (Exodus 19:10-11)

The idea is not to count 24-hour time spans but to name successive days, including the day of an announcement, which was understood as the "first day." Seen in this light, if Jesus died and was buried on Friday, it would be completely logical that Sunday would be understood as the "third day." The chart below shows how they would have understood the time span from Good Friday to Easter.

| Day One                                    |                           | Day Two                                  |                           | Day Three                                  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| FRI<br>starts at<br>sundown on<br>Thursday | FRI<br>ends at<br>sundown | SAT<br>starts at<br>sundown on<br>Friday | SAT<br>ends at<br>sundown | SUN<br>starts at<br>sundown on<br>Saturday | SUN<br>ends at<br>sundown |
| Night                                      | Day                       | Night                                    | Day                       | Night                                      | Day                       |
| Crucifixion                                |                           | Sabbath                                  |                           | Resurrection                               |                           |

Understanding how the Jews counted days helps solve one mystery for us. But another insight comes from looking at Jesus' words about "the third day" more theologically. This is actually far more important. In several places, Jesus spoke about his death, but then how he'd be raised on "the third day." In fact, after running the money-changers out of the temple, He predicted that it would be destroyed and in three days He would raise it up (John 2:19). John later notes that Jesus was speaking of His own body as a prophetic reference to His resurrection. Jewish scholar, Pinchas Lapide, notes that Jesus did so because of a prophetic promise that Hosea had made centuries earlier:

Come, let us return to the Lord;  
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;  
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.  
After two days he will revive us;  
*on the third day*, he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him. (Hosea 6:1-2)

## ON THE THIRD DAY? Answering a Common Question about the Resurrection

Hosea had rebuked the people of Israel for their unfaithfulness, and they knew they were suffering from God's displeasure. But then the prophet invited them to return to the Lord, issuing a gracious promise that God's forgiveness would soon come. Today might be a terrible day of his anger, but tomorrow would be better, but "on the third day" He will raise us up. When the rabbis looked back on the Scriptures in light of Hosea's words, they noticed several places where the "third day" was the day when God's promise was vindicated. It made perfect sense to Jesus' first Jewish followers that the Messiah would be raised to life "on the third day."

Lastly, the three days were significant for another reason. Jesus died on a Friday, Nisan 14, the day when the Passover lamb was sacrificed. His death represents the death of a perfect, unblemished sacrifice on our behalf. His resurrection on the third day took place on the first day of the week, illustrating a new beginning and new life to all who trust in

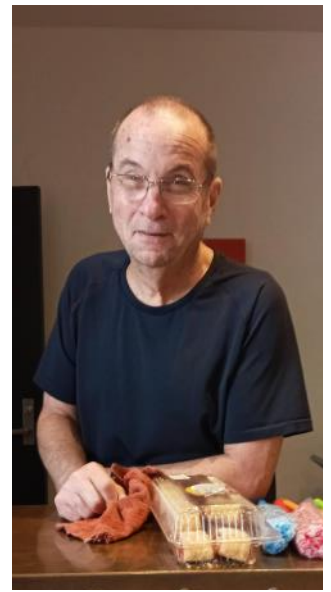


### Can You Find the Easter Window?

In the lower portion, we find Samson in His God-ordained mission to deliver Israel from the tyranny of the Philistines. He gave his life at Gaza, thus he is considered an Old Testament "type" of Christ. In the upper portion of the window, we find the risen Lord, who delivered His people from the tyranny of sin, death, and the devil by giving His life as a ransom. However, death could not hold Him in the grave, thus He defeated death, and as the writer to the Hebrews put it:

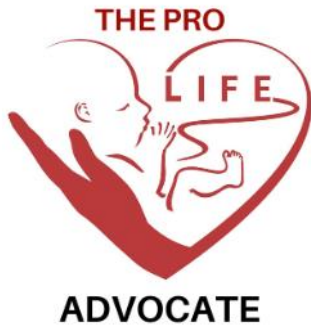
Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

### Faces of Grace: Clean-Up Day



Plenty of cleaning, polishing and shining went on this past Wednesday as our volunteers worked to beautify the sanctuary and grounds for Holy Week. Above from left to right are: Leigh Ann Bozung, Pr. Lee, Geary Thompson, Harold Nichols. Other helpers were Pastor Brian and Rachel, Ted Nilsen, Shannon Carreiro and Gretchen Jordan. Many thanks to you all!





By Shannon Carreiro

## THE PLANNED PARENTHOOD AGENDA: EXPAND THE BRAND

Planned Parenthood has been very successful at branding. Repackaging abortion as essential reproductive health care was marketing genius. This article explores how they turned that lie into an international brand and how they are expanding it.

### THE STRUCTURE

In just over 100 years, Planned Parenthood has grown from a single Brooklyn clinic to an international non-profit with considerable political clout, \$2 billion in assets and a billion dollar annual budget. The corporate structure consists of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, its advocacy and political arm. Also under the brand umbrella are two global entities overseeing initiatives in Africa and Latin America.

PPFA built their brand presence like a franchise operation. Each local affiliate is a separately incorporated entity operating medical centers in an assigned territory. In return for the branded territory, each affiliate agrees to abide by PPFA's rules for the provision of services and to pay annual dues. The structure was initiated to gain public support and give donors a local entity they could see as their own. At its height in 1978 there were 191 affiliates operating 700 medical centers.

Over the last decade or so, Planned Parenthood has shifted away from the local affiliate strategy, closing unprofitable centers and consolidated aggressively to achieve greater profitability. Today, there are just 49 affiliates operating 600 clinics. In 2019 PPFA turned a profit of \$244 million.

### DEATH ON OUR DIME

For decades the Hyde Amendment restricted the use of federal funds for abortion. And for decades Planned Parenthood has found ways to circumvent the restrictions, usually by using Medicaid given at the state level. Last year, they grew bolder. Thirty-eight individual affiliates applied for and received SBA loans via the federally-funded Paycheck Protection Program intended to assist small businesses affected by COVID. A total of \$83 million was paid out. Under SBA rules these loans were eligible only to businesses with 500 or fewer employees. Because PPFA has managerial control over its local affiliates the total number of employees collectively exceeds the 500 threshold. Consequently, the applications were seen by some, SBA included, as fraudulent. Planned Parenthood pushed back, denying managerial control. As of March 2021, the money had not been returned. It is doubtful whether the SBA under the current administration will pursue recovery.

### FOLLOW THE MONEY. DON'T TRY TO FOLLOW THE LOGIC.

When the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act became law on March 11, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund issued a giddy press release hailing it as a "major win." Tucked into the 628-page bill purportedly intended for COVID relief was a \$50 million carve out to support the Title X Family Planning Program. The press release called Title X, "the nation's only program dedicated to affordable reproductive health care, like birth control." And they were excited because that \$50 million was openly earmarked for Planned Parenthood through state-administered Medicaid funds (and over the grave of the Hyde Amendment).

If you're wondering what reproductive health care and birth control have to do with COVID relief, welcome to Wonderland, Alice. The Action Fund explains it with this bit of circular logic:

"(If anyone—probably not you—wonders why sexual and reproductive health care need to be included in COVID-19 relief: it's because it's essential health care and we're in a pandemic. Easy.)"

What will our \$50 million buy? According to the Action Fund:

"The plan has incentives for states to expand Medicaid coverage. Medicaid is the BIGGEST payer for reproductive health care coverage in the country—helping people who have always faced systemic health barriers in our nation get the care they NEED, and further expanding access to COVID-19 vaccinations."

Head swimming yet? Here's more Planned Parenthood Through the Looking Glass logic:

"As you know, access to sexual and reproductive health has been inextricably tied to health and safety during the pandemic—especially for [those] who are disproportionately harmed by COVID-19 and who already face barriers to care due to centuries of systemic racism and oppression."

# THE PLANNED PARENTHOOD AGENDA

## WHO KNOWS WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The Susan B. Anthony List called the \$50 million payout a “slush fund for the abortion industry.” Planned Parenthood’s 2019-2020 annual report provides a hint of how they’ll be using their slush to address “essential health care” concerns like:

#DefundThePolice. Planned Parenthood supports the call to #DefundThePolice and invest in community-based solutions, education, and health care instead of militarizing police forces.

“Ours To Tell.” This award-winning short film showcases four abortion storytellers of different backgrounds and was featured in 66 community and classroom screenings and at 33 film festivals.

## THE FUTURE

For some time now, the entire abortion industry has been shifting from surgical abortions to dispensing the RU-486 drug Mifeprex to induce abortions up to 10 weeks’ gestation. Expect this trend to continue and PPFA to command the lion’s share of the market.

PPFA is also expanding its health care brand to provide transitioning hormone therapy. This is a highly lucrative target audience who require a lifetime of repeat service. PPFA already offers it in 31 locations.

Finally, the 2021 Issues webpage of one of the largest PPFA affiliates has a long list of agenda items including this portent of things to come:

“The right to bodily autonomy and self-determination is not constrained to one aspect of being, but rather the spectrum of life. PPESA supports passage of the Medical Aid in Dying Act, to provide adults with the agency to make end-of-life decisions for themselves, with dignity and compassion.

Any guesses who’ll be waiting to assist?

| Planned Parenthood abortions and Government revenue: 2000 to 2019 |              |                   |                         |                    |                              |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Year  | PP Abortions | Guttmacher Ab TTL | PP Abortion Marketshare | Gov \$ In Millions | Excess Revenue Over Expenses |
| 2019  | 354,871      | N/A               | 41.15*                  | 618.1              | 69.7                         |
| 2018  | 345,672      | N/A               | 40.00*                  | 616.8              | 110                          |
| 2017  | 332,757      | 862,320           | 38.50                   | 563.8              | 244.8                        |
| 2016  | 321,384      | 874,100           | 36.70                   | 543.7              | 98.5                         |
| 2015  | 328,348      | 899,500           | 36.50                   | 554.6              | 77.5                         |
| 2014  | 323,999      | 926,200           | 35.00                   | 553.7              | 58.8                         |
| 2013  | 327,653      | 958,700           | 34.20                   | 528.4              | 127.1                        |
| 2012  | 327,166      | 1,011,000         | 32.30                   | 540.6              | 58.2                         |
| 2011  | 333,964      | 1,058,500         | 31.50                   | 542.4              | 87.4                         |
| 2010  | 329,445      | 1,102,700         | 29.90                   | 538.5              | 155.5                        |
| 2009  | 332,278      | 1,151,600         | 28.90                   | 487.4              | 18.5                         |
| 2008  | 324,008      | 1,212,400         | 26.70                   | 363.2              | 63.4                         |
| 2007  | 305,310      | 1,209,600         | 25.20                   | 349.6              | 85                           |
| 2006  | 289,750      | 1,242,200         | 23.30                   | 336.7              | 114.8                        |
| 2005  | 264,943      | 1,206,200         | 22.00                   | 305.3              | 55.8                         |
| 2004  | 255,015      | 1,222,100         | 21.00                   | 272.7              | 63                           |
| 2003  | 245,092      | 1,250,000         | 20.00                   | 265.2              | 35.2                         |
| 2002  | 230,630      | 1,269,000         | 18.10                   | 254.4              | 36.6                         |
| 2001  | 213,026      | 1,291,000         | 16.50                   | 240.9              | 12.2                         |
| 2000  | 197,070      | 1,310,000         | 15.00                   | 202.7              | 38.9                         |

Numbers based of Planned Parenthood annual reports or census surveys - most recent report for 2019-2020 Graph: Live Action News



By Beth Schleusener

## THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

THE AUTHOR – ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS, 700s AD

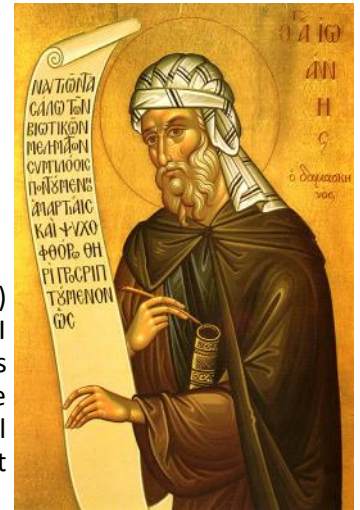
John, an Arab Christian born in Damascus during the rule of Muslim caliphs, was a famous preacher and influential theologian. Christians of that period in the East were generally better educated than Muslims, so the caliph would often employ Christians; John came from a long line of city administrators. John had an outstanding literary and philosophical education, and became well known in Constantinople as a powerful thinker and writer. Tradition suggests that when he became a monk he travelled to Jerusalem, and this is where he spent the rest of his life. St. John of Damascus is one of the most important hymn writers of the Byzantine (Eastern) church.

### The Form – Kanon (or Canon)

The kanon is a structured hymn in the Eastern Orthodox church. The earliest kanons were based on Biblical canticles, containing nine sections called odes. Each ode relates to a specific song from Scripture, strictly in this order:

- Song of Moses at the Red Sea
- Second Song of Moses
- Song of Hannah
- Song of Habakkuk
- Song of Isaiah
- Song of Jonah
- Song of the Three Children (Dan. 3:26-56)
- Song of the Three Children (Dan. 3:57-88)
- Songs of Mary and Zachariah

John of Damascus (we should know his nickname - Chrysorrhoas, “golden speaker”) developed the kanon to include thematic hymns for the festivals of the church year. I think it seems like John’s hymnody was to the Byzantine church what Isaac Watts’ hymns were to the English Calvinist church. They both took the form of the day, literal bible reference set to song, and added deep poetic expression that has artistic and doctrinal significance. “The Day of Resurrection” enjoys the distinction of being called “The Great Canon,” “The Pascal Canon,” or “The Queen of Canons.”



### Setting – Easter Vigil

The Easter Liturgy (Easter Vigil) is the most elaborate festival to Eastern Christians. “The Day of Resurrection” was written for this service, alluded to themes of the festival, and still kept the kanon odes in place (omitting Ode 2). The English translator of this hymn, John Mason Neale, documented a modern account of the Easter Vigil in Athens, “beautifully described by a modern traveler:”

The scene is laid in Athens, Easter Eve. The midnight hour is drawing near. The archbishop and the priests, together with the king and the queen, come out from the church and ascend a large platform from which they may be seen by the crowd. The people stand round about in silent expectation, reverently holding their torches which are ready to be lighted. A muffled song of the monks is heard from a distance. The firing of a cannon announces the midnight hour. The old archbishop raises the cross toward the heavens and with a powerful and jubilant voice he exclaims: “Χριστός ἀνέσται” (Christ is arisen). The silence is broken by the triumphant shout of joy coming from the multitudes who repeat the grand message: “Christ is risen! Easter Morn is breaking, darkness fades away.” In a moment thousands of torches are lighted as by a magic stroke and the light is reflected from the many faces beaming with enthusiastic joy. The air is filled with the playing of instruments, the roll of drums and the roaring of cannons. The people shake hands and embrace each other. From the olive groves the rockets shoot up towards the sky. Christ is risen! He has conquered death, trampled it under foot, and by the power of His resurrection all the faithful, whose bodies are in their graves, shall arise unto eternal life. Thus the hymn of the priests, re-echoed by the multitudes, rings out exultingly with an impassionate spirit, which only the true Easter joy can create. [in Dahle, *Library of Christian Hymns*]

Stanza 1 of The Day of Resurrection reminds us that Easter is the second Passover (the first Passover is described in Exodus – Ode 1). Paul places the first Passover in the context of the suffering of Christ in 1 Corinthians 5:7: “Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.” The movement “from death to life eternal” is a reference for those being baptized during the Easter Vigil, who are buried and rise with Christ in the baptismal waters.

The original odes of this Great Canon were translated into three English stanzas. A doxology stanza was added later. We will sing this hymn (LSB 478) on Easter 2, April 11.



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## EASTER 2

April 11, 2021

Psalm 148

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

Gospel: John 20:19-31

## EASTER 3

April 18, 2021

Psalm 4

First Reading: Acts 3:11-21

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel: Luke 24:36-49

## GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

April 25, 2021

Psalm 23

First Reading: Acts 4:1-12

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel: John 10:11-18

## EASTER 5

May 2, 2021

Psalm 150

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Second Reading: 1 John 4:1-11

Gospel: John 15:1-8

## EASTER 6

May 9, 2021

Psalm 98

First Reading: Acts 10:34-48

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-8

Gospel: John 15:9-17

## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 16, 2021

Psalm 47

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

### Servers for April 11 through May 16, 2021

| 8 AM     |                    | April 11                      | April 18           | April 25         | May 2                         | May 9            | May 16             |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|          | <b>Elder</b>       | Jason Huntley                 | Steve Hollman      | Jason Huntley    | Steve Hollman                 | Jason Huntley    | Steve Hollman      |
|          | <b>Altar Guild</b> | Leigh Ann Bozung              | Jack & Judy George | Leigh Ann Bozung | Jack & Judy George            | Leigh Ann Bozung | Jack & Judy George |
|          | <b>Crucifer</b>    | Spencer Huntley               | Connor Russert     | Rachel Houts     | Connor Russert                | Spencer Huntley  | Devin Houts        |
|          | <b>Ushers</b>      | Harold Nichols                | Heath Russert      | Harold Nichols   | Heath Russert                 | Harold Nichols   | Heath Russert      |
|          | <b>Cantor</b>      | Dennis Hooks                  | Dennis Hooks       | Dennis Hooks     | Dennis Hooks                  | Dennis Hooks     | Dennis Hooks       |
|          |                    |                               |                    |                  |                               |                  |                    |
| 10:30 AM |                    | April 11                      | April 18           | April 25         | May 2                         | May 9            | May 16             |
|          | <b>Elder</b>       | Travis Wheeler                | Daryl Newton       | Ted Nilsen       | Travis Wheeler                | Daryl Newton     | Ted Nilsen         |
|          | <b>Altar Guild</b> | Cindy Hansen<br>Kelly Schmidt | Thomas Family      | Fullam Family    | Cindy Hansen<br>Kelly Schmidt | Thomas Family    | Fullam Family      |
|          | <b>Crucifer</b>    | Claire Latham                 | Citlali Gomez      | Kariff Gomez     | Lily Thomas                   | Claire Latham    | Citlali Gomez      |
|          | <b>Lectors</b>     | Chris Latham                  | Daryl Newton       | Jeremy Fullam    | David Yow                     | Andrew Burke     | Chris Latham       |
|          | <b>Ushers</b>      | Harold                        | Harold             | Harold           | Harold                        | Harold           | Harold             |
|          | <b>Counters</b>    | Renee                         | Renee              | Renee            | Renee                         | Renee            | Renee              |
|          | <b>Cantor</b>      | Richard Segarra               | Andrew Burke       | William Baker    |                               |                  |                    |



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Office Manager  
Gretchen Jordan  
gjordan@gracesandiego.com

Divine Service  
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Nursery available

#### IT'S EASY TO DONATE TO GLC

Scan the QR code below with your phone or text a dollar amount to 84321 to donate. Give through your online banking, use your giving envelopes or just drop your donation in the offering plate.

Thank you!



Hearing Assistance is now available in our sanctuary.



Please see one of our ushers who will be happy to provide you with a listening device.

## PRAYERS

### PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH

Marie, Judy, Victoria, Christy, Walter, Joyce, Dave, Bill, Dennis, Steve, Molly and Grant Mellor

### PRAYERS AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF A CHILD OF GOD

Jeremy & Jessika Belgau

### PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Rev. James May (Kenya), Daniel Conrad (Central America),  
Rev. Dr. Ron & Mary Anne Rall (Papua New Guinea),  
Rev. Dr. John & Melinda Bombaro (Latvia)

### PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY

William Baker, Andrew Burke, Tajy George, Jack George, Jr.,  
Philip Hawthorne, Dylan Jensen, Jack Ogden, Josh Martin,  
Matthew Morgan, Gavin Robillard, Heath Russert, Linka Schleusener,  
and Holly Schmidt

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES

Lorna Winterstein, Joyce Rochester

## BIRTHDAYS

### APRIL

10- Steve Hollman  
14- Linnette Hollman  
13- Elanor Janiak

17- Henry Janiak  
20- Barbara Angelo  
22- Rev. Yong Mo Lee  
24- Beth Bicknese

26- John Hansen

### MAY

4- Valda Houts  
10- Geary Thompson

If we missed your birthday email the church office at: gjordan@gracesandiego.com

## Faces of Grace: Clean-Up Day



### John 20:1 – “Now on the first day of the week ...”

All is made new by the Resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament's Saturday Sabbath to the Lord's Day of the New Testament. For the Lord has made all things new. He has begun a new week for a new creation in rising from the dead as the New Adam. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, and a new outlook toward God. All this comes from our Risen Lord's grace. Especially after the sort of year we've had since last Easter. It's sure good news to hear that the Lord makes all things start afresh.