

## Contributors

Rev. Matthew Brackman  
Peace Lutheran Church, Texas City, TX

Rev. Eric Brown  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Herscher, IL

Rev. A. Daniel Guagenti  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Shelbyville, KY

Rev. Benjamin Micheel  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, La Grange, KY

Rev. Jonathan Mueller  
Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Taylorsville, KY  
Peace Lutheran Church, Louisville, KY

Rev. William G. Sabol  
Lutheran Church of the Triune God  
Brooklyn Center, MN

Rev. Michael Salemink  
Executive Director, Lutherans for Life

Rev. Charles St-Onge  
LCMS Office of International Mission  
Ascension Lutheran Church, Quebec, Canada

Rev. David Tannahill  
Pastor Emeritus

## Editors

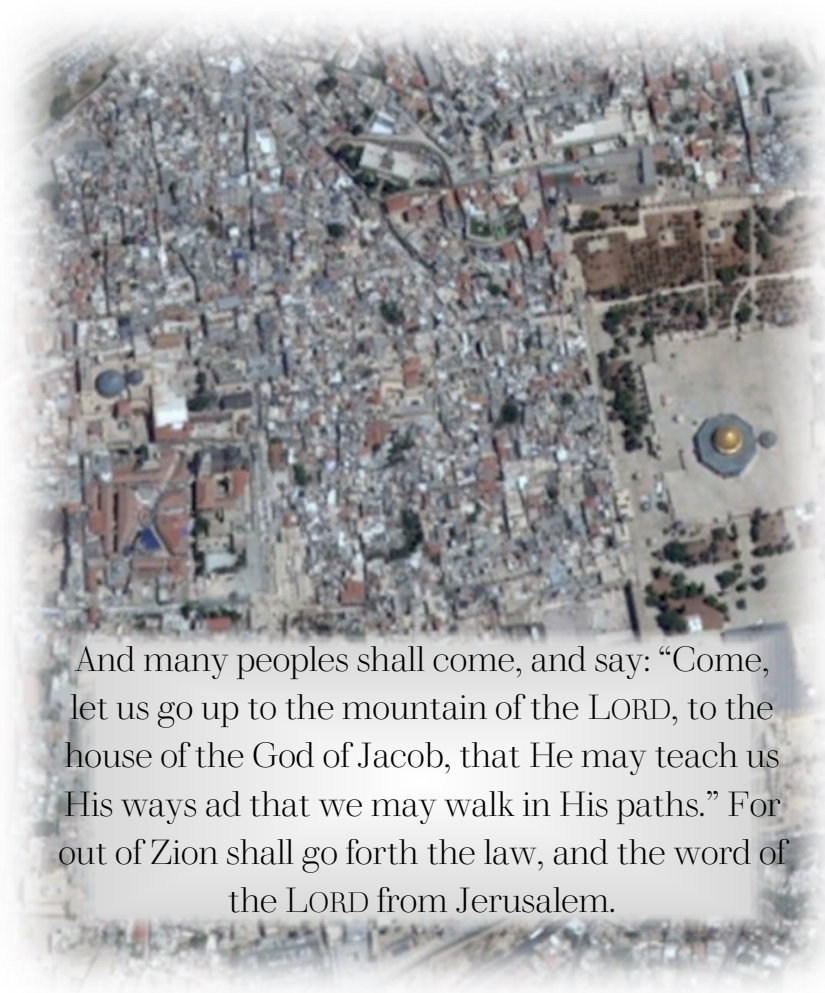
Rev. A. Daniel Guagenti  
Alena Guagenti

## Additional Material

Missionary material is found at [prayercards.lcms.org](http://prayercards.lcms.org)  
Cover map from Google Earth © 2020 Maxar Technologies  
stretches within Jerusalem from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre  
on the left to the Temple Mount on the right

# The Word of the Lord Grows

Forty Day Lent Devotions



And many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**February 26-29**

Genesis 3:14-21

Acts 3:1-10

Revelation 3:7-13



## Pray for

REV. JACOB WILLIAM GAUGERT  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR  
SERVING THE LORD IN TOGO



Rev. Jacob William Gaugert serves the Lord as a missionary through The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Togo. Jacob teaches courses in Lutheran theology at The Centre Luthérien d'Etudes Théologiques (CLET), or Lutheran Center for Theological Studies, in Dapaong, Togo, in West Africa. He also teaches distance learning and continuing education courses in Central Africa as needed. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he assists with coordinating visiting professors and supervising LCMS projects in the region.

Jacob was born in Sullivan, Wis., and was baptized and confirmed at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sullivan. He graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in theological and classical languages. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2010. While in seminary, he spent a year as an exchange student at the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule (LThH), an LCMS partner seminary in Oberursel, Germany. Before becoming a missionary, Jacob served as a pastor at The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther (LCMS SELC District) in Chicago, Ill., where he was involved with urban/cross-cultural mission work in the Latino community. In his free time, Jacob likes to read and work in his garden.



Pray for Jacob as he serves in Togo and Central Africa. Pray that God provides him with continued prayer and financial supporters in the United States. Pray that the Lord blesses CLET, its supporting congregations and other African partner churches. Pray that the burgeoning Lutheran churches in francophone Africa practice good stewardship in supporting the pastors and leaders of their church bodies with prayer and adequate salaries. Ask the Lord to raise up African theological leaders to serve as teachers of the Good News of Jesus Christ in the community. Let us give thanks to God for Jacob serving in this part of the world.

• BIRTHDAY: May 25

• HOME DISTRICT: SELC

• SUPPORTING DISTRICT: South Wisconsin

- **Pray daily for Jacob** — and how you can support and tell others about his ministry. Visit [lcms.org/gaugert](https://lcms.org/gaugert)
- **Learn about LCMS international work** at [lcms.org/international](https://lcms.org/international)
- **Support and adopt an international worker.** Call 888-930-4438.

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February 28, 2020

Read Revelation 3:7-13

## **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour.**

“Patient endurance.” These words sum up an extremely important part of the Christian faith. We must be patient in our lives of faith. We patiently await the return of our Lord. And as we await that great and glorious day when Jesus returns, we endure the sin and struggle of this life. We see the awful effects of sin in this world. We experience the hurt and pain that sin brings into our own lives. And we continue on in our patient endurance, strengthened by the promises of Jesus and the forgiveness and righteousness that He has earned for us through His death and resurrection.

We patiently endure this life, knowing that our salvation is secure through the work of Jesus for us. We continue on in our lives looking ahead to the glory that is promised to all people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. And we rely on Jesus to give us the strength that we need each day as we wait in joyful anticipation of His glorious return.

So we live our lives in this patient endurance that can only come from Jesus, we continue to share the gospel with others through our words and actions. We show them the cross of Jesus. We share with them how He bore the weight of our sins as He hung upon the cross. We look with them into the empty tomb and share the wonderful news that even though He died, Jesus is alive! And we help them to see that regardless of what they are enduring in their lives, Jesus wants to take it from them and carry the weight of their struggles as well. We share our faith and help others to patiently endure, as together we look ahead to the promised return of Jesus.

- Rev. Benjamin Micheel

We pray

Gracious God, strengthen us in our faith in You. Encourage us as we live our lives in Your grace, patiently enduring this sinful life until we are brought into Your perfection forever. Amen.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

For the forty days of Lent, many practice some form of fasting, a giving up of something good in order to focus on something even greater. Giving something up is paired with taking up something else. A meal of food is missed, replaced with time in the Word, the bread of life. Social media is shut off, replaced with prayer, connection to the Creator of all.

These devotions are meant to be an aid towards those ends. Our theme this Lent is the mission and mercy of our Lord Jesus. We will have written devotions for each weekday. On Saturday, we will offer a different meditation. Each Saturday we will highlight a missionary in the field. We ask you to read their story and pray for them.

Throughout, our hope is that we will embrace our own callings, finding the nourishment God gives us within those callings. As Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.”

We encourage you to pray for your own opportunities, and we encourage you to take up the support of prayer for our missionaries. Finally, we ask that after each weekday devotion you pray for the ministry and fellowship of the pastor who has provided that day’s devotion.

God bless you on your Lenten journey!

February 26, 2020

Read Genesis 3:14-21

## **You are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

A human being seems so much more than dust. Lay your head on a silent beloved and you hear a heart beating. Yet that will not be all. For you cannot lay your ear to just anyone's chest. To be that near physically, there must be another nearness. Your attention to the heart beating may draw a smile or a question or a hug.

I lay my ear to a grave and there is nothing but my grief. "Love is stronger than death," in that we do not forget those who have crossed the veil. Our hope in our Creator is that "Love is stronger than death" in another way. As those grieving see and feel the departed returning to dust, over those seeds the Lord Creator yet says, "You were made in my image and to my image you will return."

We are aiming toward our celebration of the Son of God's death and resurrection. In forty days, we will exclaim that He is risen indeed, not dust, never to be dust. We believe He has tethered us to Him in this journey, so that we will follow Him out of the grave. We are more to Him than dust, for He loves us.

So when the first declaration of death came down, when Adam and Eve heard their punishment, that condemnation could not stand alone. To the tempter, ultimate defeat is promised: "He shall bruise your head, but you shall bruise his heel." The Savior will be bruised but not ended. The serpent will not rise from the dust, but we will.

Dust cannot be the last word. Shame cannot. Neither guilt nor fear can be the last word. To every tribe, in every age, from every tongue, today and tomorrow, we who are dust are yet loved by the Almighty.

- Rev. Daniel Guagenti

We pray

We thank You that Your Gospel has the first and last word. Fill our mouths with its telling in all times and all places. Amen.

Read Acts 3:1-10

February 27, 2020

## **I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.**

We often do not think we have much to contribute in the way of missions. Peter healing the paralytic dissuades us of that opinion. Peter reaches out with God's Word and love. He speaks healing to the man in Jesus' name. He then literally reaches out, grasps his hand, and lifts him to his feet. Peter did not have to search this man out in a far away place. He was right along the path Peter was walking.

Our Lord places people in our paths who need to hear His Word. We may know them personally. They might be strangers. We speak God's Word to them. God's Word brings healing, and all healing comes from the cross. Whether the Word we share lifts them out of a wheelchair or not, it can lift them out of sin and death.

Sometimes we think that in order to support missions, we need to give gold or silver. This type of support is absolutely needed, but it is not a requirement for you to be involved in missions. Peter gives no money to this man, and apparently, he didn't have a huge budget of his own. He gives what he was given. He gives God's Word. He gives the man his hand.

Peter reached out, grasped the man's hand, and lifted him to his feet. We reach out with our Lord's love in deeds of service. These deeds of service can be directed to people who are recovering from a disaster like a hurricane or fire. They can be as simple as helping a person with a small chore. The reaching out with God's love in deeds of service is outreach.

We reach out with God's Word and love to those around us. We give to them as our God has given to us.

- Rev. Matthew Brackman

We pray

Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the people You have placed in our path. Grant us wisdom in reaching out to them with our Savior's forgiveness and love. Amen.