

March 2025

*Spring has sprung,
The grass is riz'
I wonder where
the flowers is.*

I may be dating myself, but this is one of the poems I grew up with. It was brought to mind by the sudden return of warm weather after a long period of below zero temperatures. (Although, truth to say, it has been many years since we endured this type of cold that used to be considered normal). It certainly feels like Spring although we're only at the beginning of March. I'm sure there will be some surprises yet to come, but we'll take it. *We'll take it!*

Change can be a welcome thing. It can also be a terrifying thing. Right now we are living through the greatest political upheaval since the founding of the Republic and no one knows where it will all end. For some it feels like it has been long needed, for others it feels like the end of life as we know it. But both views arise from the same source: Original Sin. You don't hear much about this today, but in Christian circles it is the desire to replace God with ourselves. We want to be in control, to run the world as we see fit, and if anyone disagrees with us they must be punished for they are standing in the way of god's (little "g", not big "G") will. It seduces us with the idea that *we* have perfect judgment in knowing right from wrong. But this is an illusion. We can't read each others minds, and we can't know everything: these abilities lie solely in God (big "G", not little "g").

As we struggle to see what the future may bring, all we really can do is guess. But must also remember to trust God, who brings light out of darkness and good out of our human failings. Only time will reveal whether the decisions being made at this time are for good or ill, but I suspect it will be a little bit of both. That is after all, the history of the world. And the best way to appreciate this is by taking a careful look at scripture. There are those who say that times have changed and the teachings of the past have nothing that applies. But this tends to be a view of those who have never opened the book. Times may change, but human nature doesn't. And when we look carefully at scripture we find that "there is nothing new under the face of the sun" (Ecclesiastes). We will always have pride, arrogance, hate, and self-centeredness to deal with. But over and over we see God triumphing over these, even if it takes awhile (I suspect because He knows that Hard lessons are often the best teachers.

In the meantime Jesus gives us guidance. In Luke 6 he says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you . . . Do to others what you would have them do to you . . .and your reward will be great . . .Judge not, and you will not be judged." It may seem impossibly hard, but Jesus does exactly these things in the face of the cross. If we pray for help, He will provide it. So even if you're afraid of what might happen, remember to let God be the final judge. And if you're sure your right, a little humility before God is probably in order.

We plant in hope. Some of what is planted will bear rich fruit, some will turn out badly. But it is the Lord who gives the growth, not us. As always, He will salvage what He can for the sake of those who believe in Him. Just as Spring continues to follow winter, God will continue to bring good out of the bad. On this, and not the promises of politicians, we can rely.

Pastor Pete

Tri Parish Events

ELM RIVER SERVING TEAM

<i>Date</i>	<i>Usher & Bell</i>	<i>Communion</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Church Cleaning</i>
March 2 nd 9am	Dave & Kathy	Kendall	Kathy & Shawn	Beth & Bonnie J
March 12 th 7pm				
March 16 th 9am	Fred & Kristi	-----	Kristi & Kayla	
April 2 nd 7pm				
April 6 th 9am	Jeremy & Jana	Beth K.	Jana & Bonnie H.	Kristi & Shelly

NORMAN COMMITTEES

<i>Calling Committee</i>	<i>Cleaning Groups</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Head Usher</i>
Helen Knudsvig	Aarsvold Family's	Audrey – 2nd	Eric Anderson
		Martina – 9 th	
		Kayla – 16 th	
<u>Flowers</u>	<i>Altar Cloths</i>	Inez – 23rd	
Shelia	Shirley Sand		

CIRCLE NEWS

Elm River – Wednesday, March 5th @ 1pm

Norman - Wednesday, March 16th @ 1pm, Bertha Sand Hostess

Stordahl WELCA

- March 19th 6pm Lent Supper, Barb H. & Kriss E. servers
- April 7th Stordahl WELCA serves Clifford Annual Elevator Supper
- April 9th 6pm Lent Supper, volunteers needed to serve
- April 23rd 7pm Stordahl Bazaar

COUNCIL

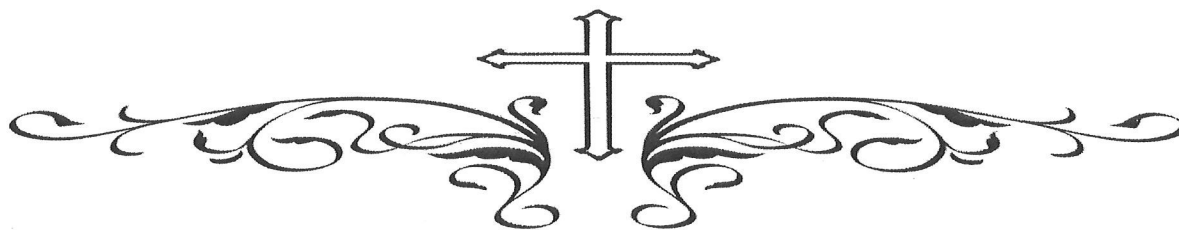
Tri Parish council following the March 2nd Lent service at Norman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PASTOR PETE ON MARCH 2ND

6pm Supper

Free will offering or bring an item
to donate to the food pantry

7pm Worship Service



Ash Wednesday, March 5th Norman

Tri Parish Council following Worship

Wednesday, March 12th Elm River

Wednesday, March 19th Stordahl

Wednesday, March 26th Norman

Wednesday, April 2nd Elm River

Wednesday, April 9th Stordahl

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ...