

The News of Grace

Volume 41, no. 9

September 2018

“Changes”

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
(Hebrews 13:8)**

There is that old saying that goes, “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” (Actually I have found that it is an old French Proverb, but that is probably more information than you need to know. I took French in High School and College, but all I remember besides ‘bonjour’ and ‘au revoir’ is ‘I don’t understand you.’ Gervais LeBlanc would certainly have difficulty understanding any of my French.) Nevertheless, while I am not too sure about that saying and its origin, I do know that things change and that we are most comfortable when things stay the same. Maybe you have heard that joke, “How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? None, Lutherans don’t change.” But we do!

As we do our day to day duties and as we interact in our daily relationships it is not easy to see the progression of change. Looking at ourselves in the mirror every day doesn’t allow us to see how we are changing over time until we pull out the old pictures and are confronted by the changes. In that case the change is the fact that we are getting older, not to mention that we are left scratching our heads wondering why we would ever be seen wearing some of the things that we wore in those pictures. So you see, we are aware of the changes that we have in our lives because appearances and styles change, but so do some of our routines and even some of our needs.

Every year at this time things change here on Hillcrest and we are reminded between 7:30 and 8:00 in the morning and 3:00 and 3:30 in the afternoon that school is once again in session as the girls at Mount St. Mary either drive themselves in to school or are brought in and picked up by their parents. Traffic up here at those

times is problematic. This time of year our children go through a change from summer vacation to another year at school. In hindsight there were many changes in the years I went to school and it is no different today. There is more to learn today and more ways to access information needed for learning. I would imagine that none of our children have the responsibility of taking out the board erasers and beating the chalk out of them. Fads come and go and each year our children need to figure out a new set of teachers and their requirements, not to mention new fashions and new friends. Some of our young people have moved on to college which means a different kind of change in their homes. Parents are left to wonder how that happens so quickly!

The more time that we have in our pasts magnifies the changes that confront us. There are many points of comparison that reflect those changes. Thankfully the writer to the Hebrews pointed out that one of the divine attributes of Jesus is that He stays the same and will continue to do so. We can count on that. There is a sense of constancy there even as we deal with all of the changes we encounter in life.

Of course change is not always a bad thing. Changes can be real blessings for us. Think about the changes we have all been witnesses to as it relates to the technologies that help and support us in our day to day living. My Grandmother Walter once shared with me how she had witnessed so much change during her lifetime. She pointed out that the one change that seemed to impact her life the most was refrigeration. We take that for granted, don't we? What would we have done this summer without it and without air-conditioning? My Grandmother and Grandfather Walter never lived in an air-conditioned house and it did get hot in Ohio, but they were just used to that. This past August 1st also saw a change in my schedule as I did not go home to Paducah to be with my father to celebrate his birthday. That is a significant change in my life, even as Paula and I look forward to having another granddaughter the first part of November.

Over time there are always changes in the life of a congregation. Families come and they go. Some of our young people fail to return to Grace to be strengthened in their faith and

life as a Christian. Some of them move on to live in other places where they thankfully join another congregation. Dear and faithful members go to receive the goal of their faith. That too has been magnified in my life the longer I am here at Grace. Allen Deislinger was a faithful member of this congregation and we said goodbye to him the later part of August. Such is the movement of this life, but I know from God's Word that there is also everlasting life and I get to share that with God's people here at Grace week in and week out. When Paula and I came to Little Rock in late January of 1995 to visit after receiving the Call to serve as Pastor here, Allen and Dorris were the first people we met and we had dinner with them. There was not anything Allen wouldn't do for me while he was able. He was like a father to me in Little Rock. So saying goodbye to a dear and faithful member is not an easy thing for me to do. But in doing so I get to share the Gospel about what Jesus has done for us and that truth will never change.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that among the manifold changes of this life there is one constant that doesn't change, our Lord Jesus Christ. Certainly the need we have for His grace and mercy does not change either, nor does our need to give Him our thanks and praise, the glory due His name because He does not change. We can also rejoice that through the Gospel the Holy Spirit has changed us. We have been changed from His enemies to His redeemed and forgiven people. The Gospel clearly shares with us this fact: "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Romans 5:10-11)

The cross and the empty tomb give us a picture of God's great love for us, and that will never change!

Pastor Walter

“Lutheran Hymnody in America: Part 4”

Greetings in Christ!

At the beginning of this month, we held the Music Kickoff to begin another wonderful year of music at Grace! I am thankful to all who attended and helped out, and I am looking forward to beginning choir and handbell rehearsals next week! In last month’s article, we ended by hearing about the movement to a more confessional (returning to original texts and melodies) hymnody in the nineteenth century. As the twentieth century arrived, it brought with both a movement towards the English language and consolidation among the many Lutheran denominations.

With the resurgence of unaltered texts and melodies of the Reformation, a new struggle was found in translating these hymns to English. Much discussion over this was held, and many were concerned chiefly with literary quality. Early attempts at translation often left plenty to be desired (some criticized inelegant texts and “rhymed dogma”), though these attempts set the stage for further work. Three hymnals, *Lutheran Hymnary* (1912), the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book* (1913) and *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941), are prime examples of early attempts at translating Norwegian and German hymns.

We also find evidence of consolidation in early twentieth-century hymnals. For a few examples, *Lutheran Hymnary* brought together Norwegian groups; the *American Lutheran Hymnal* (1931) brought together the Iowa, Ohio, and Buffalo Synods; and *The Lutheran Hymnal* brought together the Synodical Conference, which included the Missouri Synod. In the 1950s, eight Lutheran church bodies participated in creating the *Service Book and Hymnal* (1958). Most of these hymnals “involved bringing together groups of similar ethnic origins or compatible theological viewpoints.”

While English became the language of worship and hymnody among Lutherans in America, additional concerns were brought forward, including concerns for cultural factors and additional hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion. The Missouri Synod in 1966 sent an invitation to other Lutheran church bodies to form the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship (ILCW), and the Synod shared materials it had prepared in connection with a revision of *The Lutheran Hymnal*. This material was published in 1969 as *Worship Supplement*.

By 1977, the ILCW had authorized the new hymnal, *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW), which had already been approved by the American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church in America. However, the church body that initiated the new hymnal project had not yet given its approval. Through the late 1960s and 1970s, the Missouri Synod had seen the election of a more theologically conservative leadership, which resulted in the 1977 Synod Convention appointing a committee to study *Lutheran Book of Worship*, which was ultimately published in 1978. The committee recommended revising LBW, and the revised hymnal was published in 1982 as *Lutheran Worship*. When placing the two hymnals side by side, it is clear that they are closely related both in hymnody and liturgical music (both hymnals were the first to include what we know as Divine Services One and Two).

Schalk writes that Muhlenberg's dream of one hymnal for all American Lutherans was "shattered," though we see in these events the clear differing paths taken among Lutherans in America. The denominations that adopted *Lutheran Book of Worship* merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which published its current hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, in 2006. The Missouri Synod for years struggled to find consolidation among its congregations when it came to hymnals, as many opted to retain *The Lutheran Hymnal* as opposed to *Lutheran Worship*. After years of preparation, the Missouri Synod published *Lutheran Service Book* in 2006, which retained the best of the 1941 and 1982 hymnals, while including many new liturgical settings and hymns.

While the story of American Lutheran Hymnody is one of consolidation followed by diverging paths, we rejoice that this rich heritage of hymnody has been passed down to us! Though there are multiple hymnals in use among Lutherans and Christians in our country, we are reminded that the song we sing is that of Christ crucified, songs through which we sing of the joy that has filled Christians throughout time. When we sing the hymns of our faith, we know that our voices are joined with those in heaven in one praise of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In His Service,

Charlie Russell, Director of Parish Music

THOSE WHO SERVE in SEPTEMBER

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Heidi Litwa

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Elias Found

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

September 2nd – 10:45 Service – Jonathan Cline

September 9th – 8:15 Service – Raymond Harrill

September 16th – 10:45 Service – _____

September 23rd – 8:15 Service – _____

September 30th – 8:15 Service – _____

USHERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Tim Loyd's team
Robert Bemberg, Sr., Daniel Loyd, Ed Mahnken, Claude Riggins

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – David Roberts' team
Charlie Buchanan, Bryan Gipson

CANTORS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Chuck Fandrei

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Jeff Ralston

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Robert and Carole Nichols

10:45 a.m. Worship – Gervais and Sharon LeBlanc

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Sally McNabb, Brenda Parscale

10:45 a.m. Services – Ginny Ralston, Karolyn Ziemer

Mid-Week Services – Suzanne Raddle, Wilma Richter

*If you are unable to serve please ask someone to fill in for you
and then call the church office.*

STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

2018 budget totals \$560,751
which is an average weekly
General Fund contribution requirement of \$10,784

Budget needs through August 26	\$366,356
Actual expenses through August 26	\$352,744
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$322,300*
Average weekly contribution through August 26	\$9479

**In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$ 30,444
less than actual expenses.**

Non-budget giving to designated funds through August 26 \$22,358

*These contributions include a monthly payment from ECDC to help offset expenses. They also include some memorials and honorariums which are not designated to specific funds.

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Tuesday, September 18th
12:00 noon
in
Parker Hall

Fellowship Club will meet on Tuesday, **September 18th**, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall. Our ACTS friends will serve another delicious meal. Mark your calendar and plan to come and have a great time of fun and fellowship.

GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBERS....

NEW MEMBERS - Kevin and Barb Melcher and their son Zachary have transferred their membership to Grace from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Carson City, Nevada. Please welcome the Melcher family to our Grace Family.

NEW MEMBER - Mrs. Mary Rosenkoetter has transferred her membership to Grace from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Escondido, California. Please welcome Mary to our Grace Family.

CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS...

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Rachel and Joshua Ralston who were married Saturday, August 4th, at St. John Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Illinois.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Brian and Kelli Dumont for the gift of twins, daughter Emmie Dumont and son Evan Dumont, born on Thursday, August 9th. Lori Bloom is their grandmother.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Philip and Sarah Bemberg for the gift of a son, Charles Richard Bemberg, born on Friday, August 10th. Charles' grandparents are Bobby and Lydia Bemberg.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to David and Rachel Shobe for the gift of a son, Andrew David Shobe, born on Thursday, August 16th, in Chicago. Andrew's great-grandfather is Jack Funk.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of Allen Deislinger who died Tuesday, August 21st. Allen's funeral service was here at Grace with Pastor Walter officiating. Please remember Dorris and all of the Deislinger family in your thoughts and prayers.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of Tom Parsons, who died Saturday, August 18th. Mr. Parsons is the father of Kristen Parsons. Please remember Kristen and her mother Jane in your thoughts and prayers.

Youth Group

Sept. 22nd – 7:00 a.m. - Bargain Rummage Sale

**Sept. 16th – 5:00 p.m. – Youth Group
Planning and Information meeting**

FALL CRAFT SHOW

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 10, 2018** for the **9th Annual Fall Craft Show**. We will have 24 amazing vendors and crafters selling items from jewelry to Christmas décor. It is a great place to begin your gift shopping or just to enjoy. And look forward to the delicious pastries sold by our Grace Bakers. If you wish to showcase your talents, applications are now being accepted for booth rentals. Follow us on Facebook at **facebook.com/groups/gracecraftshow**. Invite friends and family to attend. Tell them about the handmade raffle quilt. Those tickets go on sale in October. Contact Riley Middaugh at 240-4035 or email at **ram0220@aol.com** for more information.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Volunteers Needed to Serve

COFFEE HOST SIGN UP - Please take a minute and sign up for the Sunday on which you wish to serve. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parlor.

The schedule for **September, 2018** is:

Sept. 2 nd	Shirley Rieve and Diane Roberts
Sept. 9 th	Sammye Harrill and Myrna Smith
Sept. 16 th	Board of Parish Fellowship
Sept. 23 rd	Youth Group
Sept. 30 th	Debbie Craig and Mildred Wilkins

The schedule for **October, 2018** is:

Oct. 7 th	_____
Oct. 14 th	_____
Oct. 21 st	_____
Oct. 28 th	Reformation – One Service Sunday

Thanks!! We appreciate your help!

Our Grace Lutheran Sunday School Staff!

We'd like to recognize and thank the women and men who volunteer their time Sunday mornings to share God's Word with our Sunday School children and youth. Several of these folks have volunteered for years in this capacity, and some just answered our pleas and joined this great team.

- Cradle Roll – Susan Mahnken
- Pre-K 3 & 4 and Kindergarten – Gina Junkans and Beth Goodrich
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades – Dawn Cline and Sharon LeBlanc
- 4th, 5th and 6th grades – Suzanne Lambert and Diane Roberts
- Junior High – Joel Junkans and Angie Stephens
- Senior High – Dave Roberts and Jonathan Cline
- Subs – Megan Calvillo, Christina Junkans and Emily Junkans
- Pianist – Debbie Craig

When you see them please say “thank you” for their willingness to serve God's little lambs here in this place!

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR September 13th – 12:00 noon

Noon Devotions with Pastor is Thursday, September 13th at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall.

Bring a sandwich and join us as Pastor Walter leads us in a Bible study. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided.



Lutheran World Relief

The Women Of Grace (formerly LWML) will be collecting school supplies again this year to send to areas in need. In 2017, 214,490 school kits were sent to 15 different countries. These families often need to choose between a meal or buying supplies for school. If they don't have the supplies they need, they often cannot attend school. Grace Lutheran has an ingathering every year to collect kits from area churches. These kits are loaded onto a truck and shipped to one of LWR's warehouses in Minnesota or Maryland. Here they are sorted, checked and repacked for efficient shipping. LWR staff work with partners overseas to determine where and what items are most needed. Once prepared for shipment, they travel by ocean freight to the receiving partner in countries around the world. Here they are cleared through customs, and transferred to storage until they can be distributed according to local needs. Much care and effort goes into each kit to ensure it arrives to the intended recipient in good shape.

Supplies needed for each kit include:

- 4- 70 count notebooks
- 1-ruler (with cm or cm and inches)
- 1-pencil sharpener
- 1-blunt tip 5 inch scissors
- 5-pencils
- 5- ball point pens
- 1-pink eraser
- 1-box crayons
- 1-drawstring backpack (14inx17in)



Thank you in advance for all you do to make this possible. Our goal this year is 75+ kits from Grace.

If anyone is interested in sewing backpacks for these kits, I can supply you with the cut fabric and instructions to make them.

For questions call/text Ginny Ralston: 501-425-1487 or e-mail ginny.ralston@gmail.com

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Grace Family Members in the month of September:

- 1 - Sarah Gipson, Robert Johnson, Donna Middaugh
- 3 - Ethan Andrews, Jack Stephens, Hannah Whitney, Mildred Wilkins
- 4 - Carrie Eubanks, Paulette Goldsby, Raymond Harrill
- 5 - Kyla Bryant, Kari Schulz, Megan Witte
- 6 - Anastasia Teske
- 7 - Eileen Esget, Lisa Hicks
- 9 - Lyndsey Dilks, Eric Sanders
- 10 - Robert Nichols
- 12 - Nick Worden
- 13 - Dawn Cline, Sydney Manchester
- 15 - Oliver Goodrich, Laura Hettman
- 16 - Zachary Johnson
- 20 - Megan Calvillo, Jeramy Stephens
- 22 - Maxwell Baker, Emily Esget, Leah Sanders
- 24 - Tim Allaben
- 25 - August Stein
- 26 - Madison Derden
- 27 - Terry Hill
- 28 - Daniel Loyd, Jadelyn Ralston
- 29 - Kaylee Hammond, Robert Middaugh
- 30 - Kiera Klein

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in September:

- 1 - John and Emma Jane Ohnemus, Ruth and Lance Whitney
- 5 - Stephana and Tim Loyd, Beverly and Richard Sanders
- 6 - Becky and Ken Ross
- 15 - Jennifer and Jeremy Hammond
- 16 - Judy and Jim Keppel
- 21 - Cynthia and Scott McCrory
- 25 - Laura and Brad Schnackenberg

If we missed your birthday or anniversary; please let the church office know

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE

Our nursery, downstairs in the church, is also available to take care of the infants and toddlers on Sunday morning not only during both Worship Services but also during Sunday School and Bible Class time. Mary Ann Dyer is our nursery attendant.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS – Pastor Walter’s class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. upstairs in the Family Life Center of Parker Hall. This month Pastor Walter will continue with a study of St. Peter’s Epistles.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for children ages 3 through 6th grade are held in the lower level of the Family Life Center. Parents are invited to join us for the opening service at 9:45 each Sunday. If you have questions, contact Colleen Moorman for more information.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH - Their class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in their classroom downstairs in the church. Joel Junkans leads the class each Sunday.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH - Their class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in their classroom downstairs in the church. Dave Roberts will lead the class each Sunday.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY class meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. in the Parlor here at Grace. Pastor Walter leads this Bible Study each week.



ECDC News & Notes . .

A new school year has begun! And excitement can be found throughout ECDC! We've got "old" kids in new classes checking out all the new toys and learning opportunities – and seeing just what their new teachers expect and have to offer! We have several new staff joining our awesome team of teachers – all geared up to share their love of children. And, we have "new" ECDC family members whom we are really glad have joined us for lots of fun and learning!

We finished last school year with a great graduation and program – if you weren't able to come you really missed something! A special thank you to the Board of Christian Education for once again hosting the reception following the program – as always it was very yummy! The staff then spent three days getting ready for the new year. We spent the time cleaning and meeting and organizing and getting familiar with our all sorts of necessary resources. It was an awesome couple of days that were well used and most appreciated by the staff!

September finds us at the beginning – the alphabet, counting, shapes, learning all about "me", my senses, family, and friends. AND of course "in the beginning God created . . ." We will learn about how our Heavenly Father has GIVEN us everything we need – all our gifts are freely given out of Fatherly love; and, He promised us a Savior – all at the very beginning! If that isn't enough we'll go on our annual all school trip to the Little Rock Zoo! I'm tired already😊

Please take time to read "Painless Ways to Support ECDC" in this newsletter – these three programs are real budget helpers. And, so easy to use! If you need help registering or re-registering give me a call and we'll get you started with the "painless" process. Thanks so much!

Come visit us sometime – it'll be fun for sure! See ya again next month,

Until then God's continued blessings to each of you — *Colleen*

Painless Ways to Support ECDC!

Many of you already take advantage of company programs that provide financial incentives for Grace Lutheran ECDC that don't cost you any extra money — for that we all say THANK YOU! These programs are really an untapped resource that benefits our early childhood ministry by providing funds for all type of budget needs! And all the programs are very user-friendly and simple! Please consider these painless ways to support ECDC!



KrogerPlus Cards

Kroger Community Rewards – This awesome program is a real budget helper! ECDC receives 5% of every eligible purchase made, and receives a check at the end of each quarter. Additional details are available on the Kroger website.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Register your Kroger PLUS Card at: krogercommunityrewards.com
- 2) Select Grace Lutheran ECDC (enter WB921) as your community rewards organization.
- 3) At "check-out" be sure to scan your Kroger PLUS Card or hand it to the checker – that's all there is to it!

If you are currently "swiping" for ECDC you must renew each year. To check if you are current sign into your Kroger.com account and check the status of your designated community reward partner – Grace Lutheran ECDC – and when it asks, simply renew. **Keep every swipe of your card benefitting ECDC?! Please contact Catherine Manchester or Colleen if you need help registering your Kroger PLUS Card.**

OfficeDEPOT & OfficeMax

GIVE BACK to Schools is a program available for you to use when you make in-store or online purchases at OfficeDEPOT or OfficeMax and ECDC receives 5% back. It's easy! Just inform the sales clerk (or at the end of your online purchase say "yes" to GIVE BACK to Schools) and follow the prompts. Our ID is –

70724785



smile.amazon.com

This is Amazon.com's charitable giving site. If you shop Amazon simply log into Smile.Amazon.com, when asked to choose an organization – select "Grace Lutheran Church Little Rock" as your charitable organization (only need to do this once) and wah-la ECDC receives 0.5% of all purchases. Just always remember to make your purchases through **Smile.Amazon.com.**