

The News of Grace

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“Encouragement”

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

It doesn't feel like the end of July as I write this first page, nor does it look like it is that time of year as things are cool, damp and green. It is usually oppressively hot, dry and things get pretty brown by this time in our summers here. I am not complaining but if it were as things normally are, I might be. Paula planted three cherry tomato plants in a pot and they produced pretty well up until a couple of weeks ago when the heat pretty much did them in. However those plants in the last week have once again put on new leaves and there are now some blooms on them again. Maybe we will harvest a few more cherry tomatoes in the coming days.

On the one hand I love summertime as you are able to be outside and work in your yard or your garden and enjoy the produce, whether that is flowers or vegetables. I have always loved tomatoes as my mother's family raised them for shipping, and one summer I worked picking tomatoes for my grandfather and uncles. That was eye-opening and very hot! On the other hand when the temperatures are oppressive it makes us want to stay inside.

When my brother Rick and I were youngsters (many years ago) my grandfather would give us baskets of tomatoes and peaches to earn some baseball card money. He provided us with a scale and we had a red wagon and we would go through our neighborhood selling tomatoes and peaches door to door for ten cents a pound. Our dad told us to weigh those pounds on the heavy side so that we gave the customer more than they paid for. Of course we did not have anything invested in this enterprise except for our time and we learned a few things about customer service and capitalism. We also learned about grandpa's generosity. I wish I still had some of the baseball cards that I bought with the profits, but that is a story for another time. Ultimately it was his encouragement to stay busy and the rewards that would follow that I will remember the most from that time many years ago. I also remember that he was faithfully in church every Sunday. That was encouragement that came from both sides of my family! Both sides of the family farmed and I think they recognized how generous the Lord was as He blessed their work even as some years would be better than others.

Certainly the Lord is generous and He is faithful despite our unfaithfulness and our failure to be as generous as we could be or should be. When we are faithful we must confess that it is God-given, when we are generous it is because the Lord has blessed us with the ability to do so. That generosity is not measured in amounts but in percentages and how one shares proportionately from what they are given. Together we do the work that has been given us to do collectively.

This time last year we were gearing up to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation after celebrating the 75th anniversary of Grace the previous year. Those are significant observances for us Lutherans who meet here at Hillcrest and Kavanaugh. Those who came before us left us a legacy to maintain and a mission to continue in Jesus' name. Our church sanctuary and this piece of property has significant meaning to many of our members even though most if not all who had something to do with funding the purchase of the old ice house property and the building of our facility in the late 1940s and its expansion in 1959 are no longer with us. It has been over twenty years ago since our Early Childhood program became a fulltime program. Think about all the children and their families we have had an opportunity to serve and share the love of God in Christ Jesus with during that time. It has been nineteen years since our Family Life Center was under construction and the initial five families who were responsible for the Challenge Development Fund that was initiated for future growth here before I came to Grace have now all gone to be with the Lord. Of course there are many of us who are still members here who gave sacrificially for the construction of the FLC, but we can also be thankful for the generosity of the Parker family in retiring our indebtedness on that project more than a decade ago in the Spring of 2007.

Each generation has its opportunities and challenges. We indeed are given gifts and abilities to support the mission and ministry given by our Lord Jesus to His Church. We are also responsible for raising up the generation who will come after us and modeling faithfulness and generosity for them, encouraging them to keep the faith and share the faith!

St. Paul in his second letter to the congregation at Corinth reminded them the basis for giving and supporting the work the Lord has given us all to do. God's all sufficient grace is found in the work of Jesus on our behalf. He left the glories, the riches of heaven, and poured Himself out for us so that through His impoverishment we might become rich unto eternal life. We are given forgiveness and life, eternal life, through Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We have become rich beyond measure and we are called to faith by this grace of God and then encouraged to be faithful and generous for Christ's sake. Let me encourage you think about such things and be committed to Him who gave Himself for you.

Pastor Walter



THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to Splash Canyon VBS. We had nearly 40 volunteers attend each evening. There were those who made & served dinner, served as site leaders or led the groups to these sites. We are also so grateful to those that donated food items and supplies for our dinners each evening! Special thanks John Ketcher for painting the backdrop and crafting a beautiful cypress cross that served as the focal point for our week. Finally, many thanks to Diane Roberts and Gina Junkans. Thank you all so much!

Catherine Manchester

Pastor's note: What a great group of volunteers that we had to make this year's Vacation Bible School the success it was as Catherine mentioned above. My thanks to Catherine for her tireless efforts putting another VBS program together. Catherine had great helpers which made it possible to serve our children and their friends sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus. In addition to Diane and Gina, I would like to thank Sheila Wilimzig for helping Gina in the kitchen, Laura Schnackenberg for coordinating the crafts, Carter Stein for leading the games and activities, Karen Klein for leading the Bible Story time, Chaplain Shawn Found for his work in the Bible Challenge section and Charlie Russell for leading the Music section. Without them and all the team leaders, dinner servers and those responsible for set-up and take-down, we could not have a successful program. Thank you again to all who served and contributed to the success of our Vacation Bible School!

Stewardship - - - What it Really Means

Introduction. Most of you may often think of “stewardship” as being strictly associated with church building programs and budgets. Later this Fall, when Grace comes before you with an eye on stewardship after hammering out a list of “church project priorities” for 2019 and beyond, and wrestling with where we are financially as far as making the 2018 church budget in light of the moving away of some of our families, faithfulness in church attendance and greater expenses for 2018, you may in fact say to yourself “see I told you so - - - stewardship really is just a function of church budgets and building programs.”

More on these specifics to come in the Fall. However, in the interim please do not be fooled by such a simplistic definition of stewardship. Stewardship, in fact is much more than building programs and church budgets, as it is where the concepts of faith, hard work and economics all intersect and come together as one. At the end of the day stewardship is defined by four basic principles of ownership, responsibility, accountability and reward.

Ownership. The Psalmist puts forth that “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1) Simply put God owns everything. We are simply managers put on earth by God to administer everything that the Lord has provided for his glory and good. Stewardship is the commitment of one’s self (i.e. through personal service) and one’s possessions (i.e. gifts of money, time and/or talents) for the benefit of the Lord and His mission to the world through His Church.

Responsibility. We are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. We are asked by Him to manage His holdings well and in accordance with His desires and purpose. This is a big responsibility that God has laid on our shoulders that should not be taken lightly on our part. Nevertheless He has given us the ability to do this as His redeemed and forgiven people.

Accountability. This is the maxim taught by the Parable of the Talents as found in chapter 25 verses 14 through 30 in the Gospel according to St. Matthew. At some point in time, each of us will be called on by the Lord to give Him an account of how we administered everything we have been given by Him. Such an accounting includes how we manage our time, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, resources and authority. At the end of this accounting, how refreshing would it be to hear the Lord say these words as found in Matthew 25:21 “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

Reward. Colossians 3:23–24, states: “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.”

Conclusion. As you know, we came into this world with nothing and one day we will all leave this world with nothing. For this reason everything we have belongs to God. God has blessed each of us with many gifts. Often times these gifts and talents vary from one individual to another. It is up to each of us to be good stewards of the gifts bestowed upon us by the Lord and to willingly give back to Him a portion of these gifts through our time, talents and other resources. St. Paul in 2 Cor. 9:6-8 states “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

Dave Graf
Chairman
Board of Stewardship

“Lutheran Hymnody in America: Part 3”

Greetings in Christ!

I hope that all are having a great summer, so far! Continuing in our series on Lutheran Hymnody in America, this month we touch on the effects Rationalism, Unionism and Revivalism had upon Lutheran hymnody, and the movement to a more confessional hymnody.

In the eighteenth century, rationalism (seeking in human reason the answer to religious questions) ultimately replaced pietism (seeking religious assurance in human feelings). During this time, there were also feelings of religious indifference. This led to Unionism, which appeared to be a prudent way of evangelizing the nation. Others sought to adapt Lutheranism for the American scene, meaning bringing Lutheranism closer to the theology and experience of the Second Great Awakening, which swept the country in the mid-nineteenth century.

Rationalism made its mark on Lutheran hymnody most clearly in an 1814 hymnal published by Frederick Quitman, President of the New York Ministerium. This hymnal “completely rejected the heritage of the Lutheran chorale,” looking instead to English sources. The theology of this hymnal even went to criticize dogma including the Trinity. Schalk refers to this as the “lowest point in American Lutheran hymnody.” Unionism took a path which saw Lutheran and Reformed groups share church buildings in addition to a hymnal, 1817’s *Das Gemeinschaftliche Gesangbuch*, which contained only one hymn of Luther. For revivalism, the General Synod’s *Hymns, Selected and Original, for Public and Private Worship* (1828) set the benchmark for approval of revivalism. It’s interesting to note that this hymnal included sections devoted to “Temperance” and “The Millennium,” yet they are found.

While rationalism, unionism, and revivalism were “wreaking havoc on Lutheran hymnody,” the Confessional Movement (originating in Germany in the first half of the nineteenth century) advocated returning to unaltered Reformation texts and returning to original melodies to restore congregational singing. A group that followed in Muhlenberg’s footsteps formed the General Council, which published the *Church Book* (1868) and adopted the *Common Service* in 1888 (Divine Service Setting Three in LSB). Lutherans were now drawing upon the Oxford Movement of England, which brought early Latin and Greek hymns into English, along with German texts. Two immigrant groups also aided in these efforts: a group of Prussian Lutherans led by J.A.A. Grabau who emigrated in 1839 and settled in Buffalo, New York and later Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Saxon Lutherans led by Martin Stephan and C.F.W. Walther, who settled in St. Louis and Perry County, Missouri and founded the Missouri Synod. Walther’s *Kirchengesangbuch* (1847) sought to reclaim Reformation hymnody, along with Grabau’s 1842 hymnal.¹

Next month, we will conclude the Lutheran Hymnody in America series by focusing on twentieth-century developments to where we stand today. Have a blessed rest of your summer!

In His Service,

Charlie Russell
Director of Parish Music

¹ Carl F. Schalk, “The Roots of Lutheran Hymnody in America” in *Singing the Church’s Song: Essays and Occasional Writings in Church Music* (Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2015), 164-168.

THOSE WHO SERVE in AUGUST

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Service – Johnna Litwa
10:45 a.m. Service – Samantha Morrison

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

August 5th – 10:45 Service – Tim Sweeney
August 12th – 8:15 Service – Richard Sanders
August 19th – 10:45 Service – Gervais LeBlanc
August 26th – 8:15 Service – Claude Riggan

USHERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Service – Roy Andrews, Mason Andrews, Ethan Andrews, Roy Bullard, John Ketcher, Gary Proud
10:45 a.m. Service – Jon Cline, David Faulkner, Chris Pils, Wes Mainard

CANTORS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Service – Aug. 5th – Joel Junkans
8:15 a.m. Service – Aug. 12th, 19th, 26th – Emily Junkans
10:45 a.m. Service – Jonathan Cline

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Service – Roy and Ame Andrews
10:45 a.m. Service – Ann Stoker and family

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Service – Aug. 5 – Brenda Parscale
Aug. 12 – Sheila Wilimzig
Aug. 19 and 26 – Angie Proud
10:45 a.m. Service – Aug. 5 and 12 – The Cline Family
Aug. 19 and 26 – Ken and Becky Ross
Wednesday Mid-Week Service – Suzanne Raddle & Wilma Richter

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

GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MEMBER...

WELCOME - On July 19th, Ms. Karolyn Ziemer was received into membership as she transferred her membership to Grace from First Lutheran Church in Little Rock. Please welcome Karolyn to our Grace Family

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS...

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Mark and Rachel Seidenschnur Slobodien on the birth of their daughter, Anna Claire Slobodien, on June 27th, in Washington, DC. Anna's grandparents are Peter-Paul and Judith Seidenschnur.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

OUR CHIRSTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of Robert Wessels who died Sunday, July 8th, in Oklahoma City. Mr. Wessels is the uncle of Debbie Penny. Please remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR

**Thursday, August 9th – 12:00 noon
Parker Hall**

Noon Devotions with Pastor is **Thursday, August 9th, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall.** Bring your sandwich and join us for Bible study and fellowship. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided. We eat first and then Pastor Walter shares a devotional Bible study with us. **Bring a friend and join us ...this is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!!**

Wedding Shower
for
Rachel Chester and Joshua Ralston

August 13th - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Church Parlor

Please join us for a meet and greet wedding shower for Joshua Ralston and his bride, Rachel Chester, on **Monday, August 13th from 6-7:30 p.m.** in the Church Parlor. A light supper will be served. They are registered at Amazon, Kohls, and gift cards are welcome. Hostesses: Lori Bloom, Sharon LeBlanc, Stephana Loyd, Colleen Moorman, Beverly Sanders, Margaret Schulz, Ann Stoker, Paula Walter, and Sheila Wilimzig.

Music at Grace

Music Kickoff
Tuesday, September 4
6:00-8:00 PM ~ Parker Hall
All are welcome!

For more information,
contact Charlie Russell
charles@glclr.org

STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

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

Budget needs through July 29	\$323,520
Actual expenses through July 29	\$310,679
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$287,815*
Average weekly contribution through July 29	\$9594

In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$ 22,864 less than actual expenses.

Non-budget giving to designated funds through July 29 \$19,436

*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

Parker Hall

Tuesday, August 21st – 5:30 p.m.

The **Fellowship Club** will meet for an “*Indoor Summer Cook-out*” on **Tuesday, August 21st, at 5:30 p.m.** in Parker Hall. Pastor and Paula will host the Cook-out.

More details will follow in the bulletin. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

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 August, 2018 is:

Aug. 5th Christina Junkans and Emily Junkans

Aug 12th _____

Aug. 19th _____

Aug. 26th _____

The schedule for September, 2018 is:

September 2nd _____

September 9th _____

September 16th _____

September 23rd _____

September 30th _____

Thanks! We appreciate your serving!!



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 August:

- 1 - Natasha Graf
- 3 - Jeff Ralston, Elwanda Wells
- 8 - Ginger Litwa, Greg Warren
- 11 - Melanie Davis
- 12 - Janet Killough
- 13 - Stephen Nichols, Charles Stein
- 15 - Megan Gipson, Benjamin Hardman
Doris Holzhauer, Garett Yovanovich
- 19 - Elijah Reeder
- 20 - Jane Schroeder
- 21 - Roy Bullard, Patti Wolfenberger
- 22 - Samantha Morrison
- 23 - Daniel Woodyard
- 24 - David Mainard, Charlie Stein
- 28 - Josh Schnackenberg
- 29 - Hope Hammond, Amber Solomon, Faye Stillman
- 30 - Alexander Goodrich, Angie Wright

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in August:

- 1 - Suzanne and John Lambert
- 4 - Paula and Pastor Walter
- 7 - Sandy and Jon Lindemann
- 8 - Tammy and Terry Hill, Angie and Jeramy Stephens
- 9 - Stephanie and David Cannon
- 10 - Pat and Jack Funk
- 13 - Ginny and Jeff Ralston
- 14 - Lisa and Jeff Hicks
- 21 - Patti and Klaus Wolfenberger
- 23 - Katie and Michael Litwa
- 26 - Ann and Owen Stoker
- 27 - Kelley and John Wilkins
- 30 - Linnea and Tommy Weed

We apologize if we have missed your birthday or anniversary; please let us know in the church office so we can update our records. Thank you!!

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 .

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Soon we will be saying good-bye to some of our children. Our prayers go with them as they go off to Kindergarten and other programs around town. And, we'll be saying hello to new children who will be a part of our ECDC family! Our returning kids are looking forward to moving into a new classroom and learning all sorts of new things. The staff will spend August 15th through 17th in staff development days making preparations and getting rooms ready for new kids and the new year. The 2018-2019 school year begins with a bang Monday, August 20th!

Guess I'm jumping ahead a little – 'cause we aren't done with our summer fun YET! The circus is coming, the circus is coming! We'll be exploring all about the three rings and animals! During Jesus time we will be learning about being "fishers of men" – a pretty appropriate send-off for our oldest friends! Plus, exploring other jobs we find in the Bible and about the Holy Trinity (as we review all that we have learned from the Bible the last twelve months).

The Board of Christian Education reviewed the results of this year's parent survey at their July meeting. As always the number of replies from our families was awesome! The majority of the responses and comments were very positive – what a blessing! But there is always room for improvement so as we head into the new school year we will be addressing some of the concerns shared. First and foremost, the Board wants you – our Grace Lutheran congregation as well as the families we serve – to know that ECDC will continue its commitment to being a child-care program that provides quality care addressing all areas of care, including appropriate developmental and educational opportunities; and as our mission statement states in part "The play-based and child-focused curriculum at Grace, therefore, aims to develop well-rounded individuals who acknowledge the daily presence of Christ in their lives." What a challenge – what a blessing!

One more thing – an INVITATION! Friday, August 10th we will be having our end of year program and party. The festivities begin in Parker Hall at 3:30p.m. with our program and graduation. We'll then move downstairs to a party hosted by the Board of Christian Education. Please come join us if you can – it would be an excellent opportunity to view firsthand this ministry of our congregation, and to meet and thank the many families that entrust us with their children!

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