

The News of Grace

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November 2018

“Built on the Rock”

“As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.’ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:4-10)

We had a great Reformation Service on Sunday! I am grateful for all those who served in many and various ways. The special music was great and I am appreciative of those who play in the Bell Choir, sing in the Adult Choir and play with the Brass here at Grace. We have many gifted and talented folks here and we are blessed that they use their gifts and talents in service to the Lord and this congregation. My thanks as well to all who assisted with the set-up and serving of the Reformation Potluck, especially the Board of Parish Fellowship and for those who attended, to welcome our new members since Reformation 2017. I was a little disappointed that more folks did not attend or stay for the meal, but I realize that everyone is busy with many things. Some may choose not to be here for other reasons however, and that can be concerning. St. Peter reminds us that “once we were not a people, but now you are God’s people,” and if we are the Lord’s we should

want to be in His house, receiving His gifts through Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

Sunday afternoon we gathered at First Lutheran downtown for the joint Reformation Service and one of the points made in the sermon that was preached is that the church is a place for sinners, indeed it is a hospital for sinners. Just as one would not resist going to the hospital in the event of sudden illness or another kind of emergency or physical need, maybe that should also translate into seeing the benefit and even the necessity to gather around Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of everlasting life through the Rock, who is Jesus Christ. The Church is for sinner-saints! Since we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God it is the place for all of us.

St. Peter points out that the church is really built of living stones. That would be believers in Christ Jesus, who are built upon the cornerstone, the stone that is chosen and precious. In the waters of Holy Baptism we were given new birth. We were made God's children. We were made disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were given new life and a righteousness not of our own doing. We were made God's holy ones, His saints. Peter reminds us in the above portion of his first epistle, "once we were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." This was not because of anything that we have done, but by everything done for us in Christ Jesus. This gives us reason to celebrate the Reformation and to observe All Saints' Day.

The church is an assembly of people who have been made holy through the transforming power of the Gospel. This is the merciful and redemptive work of Jesus that has been applied to our lives by God's grace. Day in and day out we are called to remember that we are the baptized of God and through daily contrition and repentance drown the old Adam, the old sinful nature in us. Those are Luther's words to us and they are significant as we recognize that we struggle with temptation and sin and are in need of God's forgiveness and love. Remember, God loves the sinner and hates the sin! Standing before God we are His saints, forgiven sinners, "being built up together into a

spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Because of what has been done for us through Jesus we should be willing and anxious to find ways to serve Him, even as He continues to serve us as we gather together as brothers and sisters in His name.

So let me encourage you to be rock solid in your confession of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Let me encourage you to recognize that the Lord has been faithful to you and you are called to be His faithful son or daughter. Peter made the good confession on behalf of the twelve, saying to Jesus, “You are the Christ, the son of the living God.” He got that right, but he also had his moments when he spoke but should have kept silent, when he took charge for all the wrong reasons, when he chose to deny that he even knew Jesus and he was left to wonder, after a time, what he needed to be doing with his life. He thought he would return to the fishing business that he left behind in order to follow Jesus in the first place. Jesus had other ideas as He restored Peter and told him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep. Fishing for men was what Peter and Andrew, James and John were called to do, and so have you. Let’s reach out to someone we know who needs to hear some Good News and share it or invite them to come and see.

Nikolai Grundtvig wrote the verse for the hymn, “Built on the Rock.” It is a powerful hymn for us to sing and reflect upon devotionally. I include the first and the sixth verse below:

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand

Even when steeples are falling.

Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling.

Calling the young and old to rest,

But above all the souls distressed.

Longing for life everlasting.

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,

That when the church bells are ringing.

Many in saving faith may come Where Christ His message is bringing:

“I know my own; My own know Me.

You, not the world, My face shall see.

My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

Pastor Walter

“For All the Saints”

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us... (Hebrews 12:1)

Greetings in Christ!

We had an absolutely wonderful celebration of the Reformation this past Sunday! I am deeply appreciative of all those who sang in the Adult Choir and played with the Handbell Choir and Brass Ensemble. We are certainly blessed with many gifted and talented people, and it is wonderful to be able to share those gifts with the congregation in praise and service to the Lord!

This coming Sunday, we will observe All Saints' Sunday. Originally a commemoration of the martyrs of the ancient church, All Saints' Day is traditionally observed November 1st. On this day, we commemorate those who have died in the faith and gone before us to their eternal rest with their Lord Jesus. By God's grace through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are all saints together. All Saints' Day invites us to celebrate the saints of old, to share in faith with those living, and to rejoice in those yet unborn. When we confess the Apostles' Creed, we repeat this truth by speaking of our belief in “the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.”

The first hymn we will sing on All Saints' Sunday is “For All the Saints” (LSB 677). The text was written by William Walsham How (1823-97), an English Anglican bishop. It was first published in *Hymns for Saints' Day, and Other Hymns* (1864). The hymn originally contained 11 stanzas, though is usually sung with 8. There are many other hymns that speak of the saints, but there is one line that stands out in the first verse of this hymn: “all who by faith before the world confessed.” This is the most important line of the hymn, as it points to the essential trait of sainthood: *faith*. Fred Precht writes that “we are reminded of Hebrews 11, where the

author writes of the heroes of Old Testament history, each introduced with ‘By faith.’”

The tune used for this hymn, “Sine Nomine” (“Without Name”), was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams specifically for this text. It first appeared in *The English Hymnal* (1906), and was the third tune to be used for the hymn. Percy Dearmer describes it as “one of the finest hymn tunes written during the present century.” This hymn and tune first appeared in a Missouri Synod hymnal in *The Lutheran Hymnal* (1941), with the current stanza 6 appearing as stanza 8. One of my professors at Concordia tells a story about the introduction of this hymn and its reception by congregations. There were many complaints regarding it, and how the tune was “too difficult to sing.” Yet, once learned, Lutheran congregations have sung this hymn with vigor and joy, and it has become a standard of sorts for All Saints’ Day.

As we celebrate All Saints’ Day, we remember those who have gone before us, and we look forward with joy to the day when we join the saints of old in paradise. We have the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ alone, because of God’s grace and without any merit of our own. Through Him alone, we are made holy and righteous in His sight.

In His Service,

Charlie Russell, Director of Parish Music

Are You Asking: What In The World Is A Deaconess?

By: Eileen Esget, Deaconess Student

What we are and what we are not: A deaconess is not ordained. A deaconess works under the supervision of her pastor. A deaconess is not age specific. A deaconess has a uniform. A deaconess does not work at recruitment. A deaconess directs inquiring souls to the church for catechesis. A deaconess does not concern herself with the 'rich and famous'. A deaconess is a servant.

May I tell you how I got to this Deaconess study? I have long loved learning the Christian doctrine, and particularly theology. I took on self-study about 20 years ago, reading everything I could get my hands on, plying my pastor with questions and ideas, initiating theological book clubs, and helping stock my parish library with sound doctrinal books. Then came the Treasury of Daily Prayer, (a publication of Concordia Publishing House) with its scheduled Book of Concord sections. (If you haven't picked up this book, don't hesitate any longer.) Here I found the beauty of 'All Theology Is Christology.' And the tomes of Dr. Luther, whose writings, books, sermons invoked laughter, joy and truth. I was hooked on Lutheranism. Not just the name, but the treasure that is ours in the LCMS truth, the deepness of Luther's 'we are beggars'. I have a need for the liturgy, hymnody, weekly confession, absolution and the Holy Supper. Sins confessed, sins forgiven.

Here is the official explanation from the LCMS website: "LCMS deaconesses are women who are professional church workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. 'Deaconess' is from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means 'servant'. Phoebe, named in Romans 16:1-2, was a helper to St. Paul and others. She often is considered the first deaconess."

The course of long-distance study at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne is....intense. We have started with the first

century, learning the foundations of the faith: the male/female roles, the thoughtfulness of the theologians puzzling out the doctrine, the martyrs torn apart rather than denying Christ, the work to be the “begotten not made” of the Nicene Creed right, and now up to the fifth century. The exams are tough, and the papers many. The memory work is beginning with weekly recitation of the Ten Commandments with their meanings. The Practicum component is work within the congregation, under the supervision of Pastor. (You might want to give Pastor Walter encouragement and a pat on the back for taking me in ... I suspect I’m a handful!) That is why you are seeing the occasional email with Sunday’s readings, hymn of the day, etc. I expect I will start visitations in the near future. The LORD willing, graduation is in 2020.

I have much to share with you, and would welcome the opportunity to answer your questions by coming to your board meetings, groups, or just have coffee or a glass of wine with you. I have often wondered what I wanted to be when I grew up. A few weeks ago a long-time friend told me that she thought I had found it! She’s right!

I am energized and eager to utilize the Deaconess study for the work of the church. I am more than convinced that as the world becomes more opposed to Christ, we will need to be diligent to hold our confession as the answer to the brokenness in the family and in the church. The world won’t stop long enough to inhale the sweet voice of the Gospel, the sweet taste of the Body and Blood, the sweet Face of our Bridegroom. But you can stop long enough to show love for your church family and your neighbor. Let me encourage you in your daily walk with our Redeemer. Please call or email me with your questions, concerns, and book reading selections! eileen.esget@gmail.com (612-817-9401)

Regards,

Eileen Esget

Thanksgiving Day Service

November 22nd
9:00 a.m.

Join us on Thanksgiving Day as we come together for worship and to give thanks for the many blessings the Lord has provided.

Invite your family and friends!!

We have provided invitations for you to send to your family and friends. They are on the tables located at each entrance to the sanctuary.

THOSE WHO SERVE in NOVEMBER

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Emma Schnackenberg

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Elijah Goodrich

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

November 4th – 10:45 Service – Jeff Ralston

November 11th – 8:15 Service – Claude Riffin

November 18th – 10:45 Service – John Calvillo

November 25th – 8:15 Service – Raymond Harrill

USHERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Usher Team

Tommy Borchert, Chuck Fandrei

Jim Marvin, Paul Nichols, Carter Stein

10:45 a.m. Worship Services Usher Team

Paul Krueger, Gervais LeBlanc

Jeff Ralston, Ken Ross

CANTORS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Paula Walter

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Ron Krueger

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Tommy and Judy Borchert

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Chris and Betty Pils

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Bev Sanders

10:45 a.m. Services – Ken and Becky Ross, Karolyn Ziemer

Wednesday 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 October 21	\$452,928
Actual expenses through October 21	\$437,660
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$393,782*
Average weekly contribution through October 21	\$9376

In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$43,878 less than actual expenses.

Non-budget giving to designated funds through Oct. 21 \$26,918

*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.

GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Christopher and Summer Middaugh on the birth of their daughter Lillian Riley Middaugh on Thursday, October 18th. Riley Middaugh is Lillian's grandmother.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Kirby and Aaron Walter on the birth of their daughter Lillian Constance Walter on Sunday, October 28th in Chicago. Lillian is Pastor and Paula's third granddaughter.

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR

November 8th – 12:00 noon

Parker Hall

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR is **Thursday, November 8th, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall.** Pastor Walter shares a devotional Bible study with us so bring your Bible and a sandwich. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and Bible Study.
Come and bring a friend with you!!

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The Fellowship Club **WILL NOT MEET** in November...but are planning an enjoyable Christmas celebration in December. Plan to join us for a great time of fun, fellowship and delicious food provided by our ACTS friends.

Watch for more information in the December newsletter and the December bulletin.

Grace Lutheran Fall Craft Fair

**Saturday, November 10, 2018
9:00-3:00**

Begin your Christmas shopping here! More than 20 quality vendors - Back by popular demand- the **Grace Bakers**

Tickets for the **Raffle Quilt** will be on sale in the Bridgeway between services. Or you can contact Susan Mahnken (920-3066) for information.

Check Facebook for more information:
www.Facebook.com/groups/gracecraftshow

One of the best ways you can help this effort is by inviting people to attend through word of mouth or your social media networks. Help us have great attendance at our event!

Contact Riley Middaugh at 240-4035 or email at ram0220@aol.com for more information or to volunteer.

Proceeds benefit Josh Ralston in his last year at Concordia Seminary

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

COFFEE HOST SIGN UP

Volunteers Needed to Serve - 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 **November, 2018** is:

November 4	Craft Fair Committee
November 11	Jack and Pat Funk
November 18	_____
November 25	_____

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

December 2	_____
December 9	_____
December 16	Cookie Walk in Parker Hall
December 23	_____
December 30	_____ \

Thanks!! We appreciate your help!!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to

Grace Family Members in the month of November:

- 1 – Harper Hicks, Sheri Rivers
- 2 - Nora Robinson, Bruce Robinson
- 3 - Leah Sheridan, Barb Warren
- 4 - Maxine Biggers
- 5 - Sean Wallace
- 6 - Chris Pils
- 7 - Tammy Hill
- 8 – JoAnn Bischof, Lauren Faulkner, Margaret Schulz
- 9 - Erich Cline
- 11 - Alicia Eustice, David Faulkner, Mary Kathryn Stein
- 12 - Greg Keppel
- 14 - Joyce Wilhelm
- 17 - Emily Junkans, Robert Guy Middaugh
- 18 – Asher Found
- 19 - Diane Bruce
- 20 - Debbie Penny
- 21 - Pam Welling Smith
- 23 - Bill Allaben, Nash Langlais, Florence Marvin, Verna Rieve
- 25 - Randy Yovanovich
- 26 - David Jones, Emma Schnackenberg
- 29 - Morgan Yovanovich
- 30 - Mary Ellen McAllister

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in November:

- 4 - Diane and David Roberts
- 5 – Taylor and Daniel Loyd
- 17 - Danielle and Keylon Wilbert
- 27 – Sue and James Hulsey

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 a study of St. Peter’s Epistles as we continue the study of 2 Peter.

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 . .

Whoa! Can you believe October is almost over? This year has really flown! We had a great month at ECDC. The Juniors/Seniors went to Schaefer & Collins Pumpkin Patch – we went on a beautiful Fall day! A hay ride AND a train ride, picking out our pumpkins, a picnic and spending a lot of time running and playing in the sunshine were all on the agenda! The Sophomore, Freshman and Woddler classes had a special pumpkin patch day all their very own – finding mini-pumpkins hiding on the playground! To round out the month we had our annual Fall, Reformation, Halloween PJ Party.

Now that November is almost here it's time to dust off the our special stone and enjoy our annual Thanksgiving celebration – the 21st Annual Stone Soup Feast – complete with kid-prepared soup, cornbread and pumpkin pies! It is such a fun meaningful way to learn about giving, sharing, and saying thanks. Consider having lunch with us – there is always plenty and we love sharing and showing off our Thanksgiving attire! Please mark your calendars for Friday, November 17th – we start serving around 11:30 a.m.

In class we will be learning about the food groups, nutrition, manners, and community helpers. Jesus Time will find us learning about saying “thank you” for all God’s many blessings, and praising God through our music, prayers, and actions. We’ll learn about the one man that told Jesus thank you while nine went on their way – where do we find ourselves in this group? And, Parent/Teacher Conferences – a great time for parents and staff to interact and hear how each of God’s little lambs are learning and growing!

Thanks to everyone who has registered their KrogerPlus Card with ECDC! We are so grateful for the financial support it –

YOU – provide! If you still need to register, are having trouble or need more details give Catherine Manchester (821-4140) or me (663-0755) a call. Hope if you are an “Amazon” shopper you’ve started using Smile.Amazon.com with Grace as your charitable organization. To help here is our direct link: smile.amazon.com/ch/71-0299147. All your efforts supporting ECDC are very much appreciated!



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