

# The News of Grace

Volume 38, no. 10

October 2015

## FREE!

**For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery...For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:1, 13)**

As I write this first page it is overcast outside. We could certainly use some rain as it has been really dry of late. That is good for the farmers as they harvest their crops. Though the temperatures have been somewhat cooler, I am ready for another ten to fifteen degree drop in the temperatures we are still experiencing. It still feels like summer even though we are almost a week into fall. I know that the cooler temperatures will come and we will want things to warm up for us when we have had some colder weather. That is the way it is with us, isn't it? We seem to always want things to be something other than what they are.

Isn't that how it is with life? We might have everything we need and many of the things that we want, but the things that we have sometime lose their luster and we want something different. In Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings we have been looking at St. Paul's letter to the Galatians and what it means to be free. Of course as citizens of the United States we are a free people. We are free to live where we wish and how we wish, as long as we can afford to do so. We can choose a career and change along the way to pursue something completely different if we wish to do so. We are free to travel throughout this country, stay where we want, eat at the restaurants of our own choosing and find venues for entertainment that suit our taste. We can gather here at Grace and worship the God who has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one true God. Our neighbors have the same opportunities and the same freedoms. I am sure that you can add to this list and I encourage you to do so. It is good for us to take time and reflect upon the freedoms that we have and then thank the good Lord for these freedoms that we enjoy even as we know there are limits as our freedoms end where those of our neighbor begins.

St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians was reminding this group of Christians that the Gospel that he had first delivered to them had set them free to be God's people and further empowered them to give thanks to Him for freeing them from their slavery to sin and its consequence, which is death. Unfortunately after Paul had shared this Good News with them when he was present with them, others sought to add requirements to the Gospel, which meant that the Gospel would become something that it was not. In opening his letter to the Galatians he was adamant that these Christians should not turn to another "Gospel" of which there was not one. In other words the Galatians were once again being subjected to earning their salvation by observing the Law.

This was the struggle that an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther found in the early sixteenth century. He found that in his efforts to please God, to be righteous before Him, he was a complete failure. He was desperate to provide God with a righteousness of his own doing to the point that he was a slave to the Law. He was yoked to it, so to speak, and it proved to be a burden that was impossible for him to bear. In his study of the Scriptures he began to understand that the righteousness that God demanded of us was in fact something that He freely gave to us. This was made possible for us because Jesus took all that made us unrighteous upon Himself and took it to the cross so that we could be declared righteous through the forgiveness of our sins! He exchanged His righteousness for our unrighteousness so that we could, by the very power of this Gospel message, be set free from the curse of the Law!

This is a freedom that we do not want to exchange for the rules and regulations of the Law, which would in fact make us slaves again. Certainly we must know that we cannot satisfy the demands of a holy God by being holy as He is holy. Yet we must also remember that with the freedom that God has given to us through Jesus Christ, comes responsibility. The Law serves as a guide for us to live responsibly as God's forgiven and redeemed children. We are not to use the freedom given to us as license, "as opportunity for the flesh" as St. Paul puts it above. We are to use it as opportunity to serve one another in love. We are to use it to serve our neighbor so that through our loving service they may come to know that love of God in Christ Jesus that sets us free.

**Make sure that you mark your calendars for a One Service Sunday on October 25. The Service is at 10:00 a.m. and is followed by our Reformation Potluck in Parker Hall. We use that time to welcome our new members. Please come for this time of fellowship!**

*Pastor Walter*

# Director of Parish Music

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

With October comes Reformation Day, and so this month we will study Martin Luther's hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (LSB 655). It is a hymn of prayer addressed to each person of the Trinity, asking God's protection as we sojourn through a world that hates Christ and His Church.

The hymn text was written by Martin Luther and was originally published in 1543 with the title "*A children's hymn to be sung against the two arch-enemies of Christ and His holy Church, the Pope and the Turk.*" It is likely that Luther wrote the text in 1541 for a special service in Wittenberg against the threatening Turkish army. We do not know for sure who wrote the hymn-tune, ERHALTS UNS, HERR, but it is thought that Luther wrote it as well.

In our *Lutheran Service Book* the first stanza is as follows:

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.*

This stanza is a prayer to God the Father that He would protect His Church from her enemies, which Luther lists in his Small Catechism as, "the devil, the world, and our sinful nature." The original text, however, is much more specific about the enemies of the Church in Luther's day. Here is a translation from the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book* (1931 edition), the predecessor to *The Lutheran Hymnal*:

*Lord, keep us in Thy Word and work, Restrain the murd'rous Pope and Turk, Who fain would tear from off Thy throne Christ Jesus, Thy beloved Son.*

(The "Turk" referenced in the text are the Muslims who were attempting to conquer Europe, and had in 1529 laid siege to Vienna.)

Stanza two is as follows:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Your power make known, For You are  
Lord of lords alone; Defend Your holy Church that we May  
sing Your praise eternally.*

This stanza is a prayer to God the Son to make His power known to the enemies of His Bride, the Church, and save her from their clutches, where after the whole Church will praise Him for what He has done.

The third stanza is as follows:

*O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on  
earth; Support us in our final strife And lead us our of  
death to life.*

This stanza is a prayer to God the Holy Spirit to bring peace on earth, which is something only God can do. It prays that we be kept in the faith throughout the strife and discord of this world, and finally brought to the glories of eternal life with Christ.

Luther wrote the three stanzas that we have in our hymnal, but in 1544 Justus Jonas, a close friend of Luther's, wrote two additional stanzas. The fourth stanza is a plea to God to destroy the enemies of the Church, a strong dose of Law. The final stanza is the Gospel counterpart, praying that the enemies of the Church would come to know that the Triune God is the only true God and come to faith in Christ.

*Destroy their counsels, Lord our God, And smite them with  
an iron rod, And let them fall into the snare Which for Thy  
Christians they prepare.*

*So that at last they may perceive That, Lord our God, Thou  
still dost live, And dost deliver mightily All those who put  
their trust in Thee.*

We will sing this hymn on Reformation Sunday, which is October 25<sup>th</sup> (with one service at 10:00 am). I hope this short study provided a bit of insight into this great hymn of the Reformation

*Peace in Christ,  
Nathan Beethle, Director of Parish Music*

# THOSE WHO SERVE in OCTOBER

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Ethan Andrews

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Michael Gipson

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 4<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 Service – John Calvillo

October 11<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 Service – Robert Nichols

October 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:45 Service – Craig Schluterman

October 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. – One Service – Shaun Baker

## USHERS SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Robert Wilimzig’s team  
Robert Jones, Robert Nichols

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Tim Sweeney’s team  
Shaun Baker, Ron Krueger, Greg Warren

## CANTORS SCHEDULE

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

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Jonathan Cline

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Debbie Craig and Mildred Wilkins

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

## ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Sheila Wilimzig

10:45 a.m. Services – Lou Alice May

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.*

# GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

## HOLY BAPTISM...

On September 13<sup>th</sup> William Duke Metzler, son of Michael and Alison Metzler, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. His sponsors are Doug and Mary Katherine Eddy.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> Weston Gray Allaben, son of Tim and April Allaben, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. His sponsors are Amanda Hatfield and Heather Saco. Weston has a big brother Will and his grandparents are Bill and Anita Allaben.

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Dr. Robert Wade who died Wednesday evening, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, in North Canton, Ohio. Dr. Wade is the brother of Jim Wade. Please keep Jim and Nancy and their family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Mr. Erwin Eberle who died last week in Las Vegas, Nevada. Erwin is the brother of Judy Seidenschur. Please keep Judy and Peter-Paul and their family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of the Rev. Richard Rickus, who died Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, in Columbus, Indiana. Pastor Rickus formerly served as pastor at First Lutheran Church, Little Rock. Please keep his wife Emmy and their family in your prayers.

## CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS...

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Cethlinn Cunningham and Marc André LeBlanc who were married September 6<sup>th</sup> in Estes Park, Colorado. Marc André is the son of Gervais and Sharon LeBlanc. God's blessing to Cethlinn and Marc André.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Christopher and Summer Middaugh on the birth of their son, Andrew Joseph Middaugh who was born on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, in Fayetteville. Andrew has a big sister Ruth and his grandparents are Randy and Riley Middaugh. Congratulations and God's blessings to the Middaugh family.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Phillip and Kristin Wilkins Roberts on the birth of a son, Phillip Alan, born Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. He has a big sister Bailey. Relatives include his grandparents Billy and Tina Wilkins, great-grandmother Mildred Wilkins, aunts and uncles Debbie and Joe Craig and Kelly and John Wilkins with their son Clayton.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Matt and Kristin Dumont St. Clair on the birth of their twins Charlotte Ann and Harper Grace who were born September 20<sup>th</sup>. Charlotte and Harper's grandmother is Lori Bloom, their aunt is Natalie Dumont and uncle is Brian Dumont. God's blessings to Matt and Kristin and their family.

**CONGRATULATIONS...**

**GOD'S BLESSINGS** to Rev. Christopher Esget, son of Leo and Eileen Esget, as he has been appointed by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to replace Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn as 6<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the LCMS serving the East-Southeast Region. Rev. Esget is Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia. Dr. Kuhn resigned his office due to health reasons.

**CONGRATULATIONS** - On September 16, Justine Baker attended The CALL's (Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime) Church Rep Rally and luncheon. At the luncheon Justine was awarded the Church Representative of the Year for 2015. This award reflects the way Grace Lutheran has been mobilizing Christian families to foster or adopt children from the Arkansas foster care program. Some of the events where Grace members have been active are: The Disney Extravaganza, CALL Information meetings, Walk for the Waiting, prayers for Marvin to be adopted and assistance for the local DHS office. Congratulations, Justine, you have been a blessing to our program!

## STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

2015 budget totals \$537,041  
which is an average weekly  
General Fund contribution requirement of \$10,328

Budget needs through August 31	\$361,480
Actual expenses through August 23	\$335,771
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$334,887*
Average weekly contribution through August 23	\$9568

**In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$ 884 less than actual expenses.**

Non-budget giving to designated funds through August 23      \$18,405

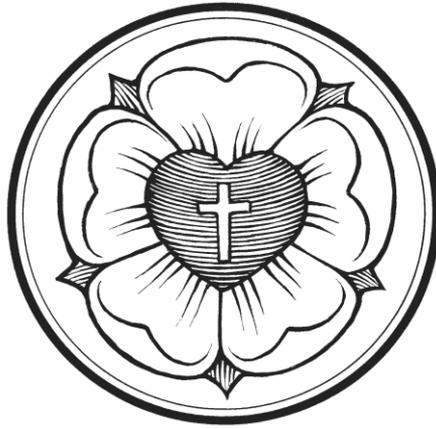
\*These contributions include a monthly payment from ECDC to help offset expenses. They also include some memorials and honorariums which are not designated to specific funds.

## Festival of the Reformation CENTRAL ARKANSAS REFORMATION SERVICE

First Lutheran Church, Little Rock

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.

**First Lutheran Church**, Little Rock, will host the annual **Central Arkansas Festival of the Reformation Service** at **3:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. This year's guest preacher is The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and he will be assisted by Lutheran Pastors from the Central Arkansas Area. Following the service, a German meal prepared by First Lutheran Men's Network funded by Heartland AR Chapter of Thrivent Financial will be served. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!!!



**REFORMATION SUNDAY**  
**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m.**

**ONE SERVICE**  
**with Holy Communion**

**Sunday School and Bible Class at 8:45 a.m.**

A **Potluck Dinner** will follow immediately after the Sunday morning Worship Service. Everyone is asked to bring a large dish of your choice to share. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Following the meal, we will recognize all of our new members who have joined this year. Mark this date on your calendar. Let's join together in worship, fellowship and celebration of our church heritage.

## 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 **October, 2015** is:

October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Grace Youth
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tim and Sandy Sweeney
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Stacy and Charlotte Johnson and Jim and Florence Marvin
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Reformation Sunday – One Service

The schedule for **November, 2015** is:

November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Craft Show Committee
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley and Verna Rieve
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mildred Wilkins and Debbie Craig
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	_____
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	_____

**Thank you for serving!!!!**

**FELLOWSHIP CLUB**  
**October 20<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon**

**Fellowship Club** will meet on Tuesday, **October 20<sup>th</sup>** at 12:00 noon in **Parker Hall**. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a delicious lunch provided by our ACTS friends and a great time of fun and fellowship. Call the church office for more information.

**NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR**

**Noon Devotions with Pastor** is **Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**, at **12:00 noon in Parker Hall**. Bring a 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!!**

**GRACE WOMEN IN MISSION**  
**Lutheran Women's Missionary League**

**Grace Women in Mission** will meet on **Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup>** at **5:30 p.m.** on the bridge to assemble the LWR School Kits. Thank you for supporting our Lutheran World Relief project. Contact Ginny Ralston, 425-1487, for more information.

**SIT AND SEW**

Bring your project and join the **Sit and Sew** group on **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**, at **12:00 noon** in the downstairs classroom in the church. For details call Carole Nichols, Riley Middaugh or Sammye Sue Harrill.

# FALL CRAFT SHOW AND USED BOOK SALE

**Applications now being accepted  
for booth rentals  
at the Grace Fall Craft Show**

Mark your calendar for the **Fall Craft Show and Used Book Sale**. We gladly accept donations of used books beginning mid-October. The Fall Craft Show and Book Sale will benefit Kevin Ray, 4<sup>th</sup> year student at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, and Josh Ralston, 1<sup>st</sup> year student at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Matching funds will be donated by Thrivent Financial. Contact Riley Middaugh at 954-9281 or email at ram0220@aol.com for more information.

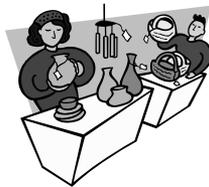
The **Raffle Quilt** will be on display on the bridge starting Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, for the Fish Fry and ticket sales will begin at the Fish Fry. Tickets are \$1 and sales benefit our Seminary students Kevin Ray and Josh Ralston. The winning ticket will be drawn during the craft show on November 14. You do not have to be present to win.

**Needed:** Volunteers to help with the Book Sale and Craft Show

Please sign up on the volunteer list in the bridge if you can help with set up on Friday, November 13 or with the show on Saturday, November 14. Contact Riley Middaugh (954-9281) if you have any questions.

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/gracecraftshow](https://www.facebook.com/gracecraftshow).

Grace Lutheran Church  
Hillcrest and Kavanaugh  
Little Rock, AR



Mark your calendars!

# **Almuerzo Santo Taco**

## **a Holy Taco Lunch**

Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Youth

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, following 2<sup>nd</sup> Service

Parker Fellowship Hall

### **Ticket Prices:**

Adults - \$7.50

Children (3-10) - \$5.00

Children (2 and under) – Free

Tickets will be sold by the Youth in the breezeway in between services  
each Sunday

Come and enjoy a lunch of chicken or ground beef tacos, Spanish rice,  
chips and dip, and Mexican Chocolate Cake!

Questions can be directed to Anna Kate and Jack Manchester



## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

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

- 1 – Anne McIntyre
- 2 – Wyatt Price
- 3 – Pastor James Walter
- 4 – Daniel Stewart
- 5 – Lyle Catherine Dunlap, Betty Pils, Milo Witte
- 6 – Stephanie Cannon
- 7 – Sherry Clawitter, Catherine Manchester
- 8 – Karen Stewart
- 13 – Ken Carle, Judy Fastenau, Laura Schnackenberg
- 14 – Jenny Conrad, Sally McNabb
- 15 – Suzanne Lambert
- 16 – Sheila Wilimzig, Anna Kathryn Wallace, John Wilkins
- 21 – Billy Wilkins, Jr.
- 22 – Terry Bradshaw
- 23 – Kristin Parsons, Ron Stewart
- 24 – Elizabeth Gipson
- 25 – Jennifer Morrison
- 26 – Colleen Moorman
- 27 – Holdyn Bryant, Christina Junkans, Kathleen Smith
- 28 – Brian Dumont, Lauren Schluterman, Robert Wooley
- 29 – Anna Junkans, Stephana Loyd, Nick Nichols, Craig Schluterman
- 30 – Nathan Beethe, Betty Bryant
- 31 – David Graf, Jordan Rowe, Madison Starr

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in October**

- 6 – Melanie and Wesley Davis
- 9 – Debbie and Joe Craig, Faye and Larry Stillman
- 12 – Sarah and Bryan Gipson
- 13 – April and Tim Allaben
- 16 – Nancy and Terry Clawitter
- 21 – Courtney and Jason Sutterfield
- 22 – Barb and Greg Warren
- 26 – Carol and Robert Jones
- 27 – Kristin and Phillip Roberts, Jr.
- 28 – Catherine and Scott Manchester

*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 during Sunday School/Bible Class time.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - Pastor Walter's Bible Class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Parker Hall. Pastor continues with a study from the series **God's Word for Today: Galatians – The Cost of Freedom.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** for children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Questions? Contact Colleen Moorman for more information.

**JUNIOR YOUTH** class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in their classroom downstairs in the church. John Calvillo leads the class each Sunday morning.

**SENIOR YOUTH** class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in their classroom downstairs in the church. Dave Roberts leads the class each Sunday morning.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY** group has resumed after a summer break and meets every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. at David and Megan Witte's house, 63 Belle Meadow Lane in Little Rock. Their next times to meet are Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Email Chaplain Witte at [drwitte@gmail.com](mailto:drwitte@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** class meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at St. Vincent Hospital in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room (off the main elevator). Pastor Walter leads this Bible Study. All men of Grace are encouraged to attend.



# ECDC News & Notes

We're just over a month into the new school year and are finally pretty settled into our new routines – although each and every day is a new adventure when you are a child or an adult taking care of Jesus' little lambs! We've got a great bunch of kids, parents and staff this year – drop by sometime and say “hello” and get a big smile, or if you are lucky a hug!!

September was busy with our annual trek to the Little Rock Zoo – as usual the kids had a blast. We rode the train to wrap up the trip. Then our little friends came back to school for lunch and a much needed nap while the older kids had a fun picnic at Prospect Park before heading “home” for their nap. Such a great way to cap off the month as we learned all about Creation and God's first promise to send us a Savior!

October will be busy as well – Fall, pumpkins, leaves, acorns, and learning all about the life and adventures of David. Mid-month we'll be off to the Pumpkin Patch for a fun day in the country with all sorts of adventures – a petting zoo, picking our very own pumpkins, a picnic, and I'm sure a nice long nap as we drive home. Then to end the month we'll have a special pajama party and activities to celebrate Reformation Day (aka Halloween☺). October 14<sup>th</sup> it's time for **Early morning Complimentary Donuts & Coffee** for our parents – one of everyone's favorite Grace Lutheran Church's activities thanks to the Board of Evangelism!

For those of you “swiping” your KrogerPlus Card for ECDC you can now renew your support online for 2016. If you aren't sure how to do this give me a call. Also, now is the perfect time to register your KrogerPlus Card for ECDC. It benefits our program each time you shop. If you are interested in learning more or having trouble signing up give me a call and we'll get you set up!

Okay I'm about out of room – See ya again next month, until then—

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