



The News of Grace

Volume 40, no.10

October 2017

“Sola Gratia”

“We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” (Acts 15:11)

“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:22b-24)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” (Ephesians 2:5)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.” (Titus 2:11)

God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense! That is **GRACE!** What a great name for a Christian congregation. Our name reminds us of God’s great and undeserved love for us and for all. We are saved by grace, through faith, for Christ’s sake. Our justification before God is not our own doing, but it is God’s gift to us. Because it is a gift what we receive is not what we either earn or think we deserve, but what has been given to us freely through the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was God’s plan from eternity which is a mystery.

GRACE therefore is **GOOD NEWS!** That is what the Gospel delivers to us and the Gospel, according to St. Paul, is the power to salvation (Romans 1:16). In the hymn, “*Rock of Ages. Cleft for Me,*” the hymn writer puts forth, “Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling. Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.” (LSB 761 stanza 3)

“The biblical definition of grace is God’s unmerited favor in Christ, His love active in the salvation brought about by Christ (Titus

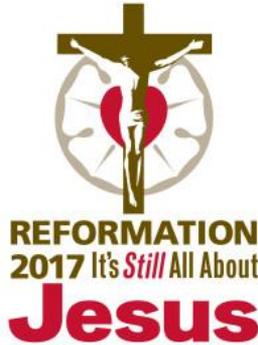
2:11). Saving, or justifying, grace, is the undeserved kindness that God gives sinful people because of what Christ has done (John 3:16; Titus 3:4-5). Grace stands in stark contrast to the works that human beings do. The Bible clearly teaches that since our salvation is purely by grace, all human works are entirely excluded from justification (Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9). This biblical definition of grace is important. If we relied on ourselves for justification before God, one of three things would happen: we could despair of our efforts to earn God's favor, we could become self-righteous hypocrites, or we could completely reject our Savior." (Concordia – The Lutheran Confessions Reader's Edition pg. 118 "The Apology of the Augsburg Confession")

During this time leading up to our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation I have chosen to write about the three "Solas" that were the watchwords of the Reformation, "Sola Fides" (Faith Alone), "Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), and "Sola Scriptura" (Scripture Alone). These watchwords are just as relevant today as they were in 1517, the year that Dr. Martin Luther began working to reform the Church catholic by posting the Ninety-Five theses on the door of the Castle Church in the town of Wittenberg. It was there, where as an Augustinian monk, he served as a university professor and a Pastor of St. Mary's congregation.

Following the normal course of the day Luther nailed the theses on the door of the church which also served as a bulletin board in order to call for the discussion of certain issues. The Ninety-Five Theses were written against the Roman Catholic practice of selling indulgences. By the purchase of an indulgence a parishioner could tap into the *Treasury of Merit* and obtain the merits of the saints and Jesus Himself for the forgiveness of sins. Officially entitled, "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of the Sale of Indulgences," Luther hoped to bring to light the waywardness and deception of this church practice. Because of the purchase of an indulgence the members of Luther's congregation saw no need to make confession of sins and receive Absolution. Luther saw that this false sense of security brought about by the purchase of forgiveness could be eternally deadly and so his posting and the fallout that ensued proved to be a line drawn in the sand by which we can look back and say that this was a watershed event in the life of the Christian Church, a call to return to the pure Gospel of God's grace, Sola Gratia!

Let's continue our celebration of God's grace by gathering together to celebrate The Reformation here at Grace!

Pastor Walter



The Reformation was not about anything new, but about returning to the unchanged and unchanging truth. So it is still today. The celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not a time for novelty. It is a time to return: to the truth, to the basics, to the foundation.

Do you remember the Small Catechism? Many of us were made to memorize the catechism (or at least part of it) during our Confirmation classes. Some of us might have even suffered through a public examination over its contents.

How much do you remember? Say it with me: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him...” Can you finish? Do you remember where that is found? (It’s in Luther’s explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed.)

It’s time to return. Luther wrote the Small Catechism for the instruction of laypeople. Luther intended the Small Catechism to be used at church and in the home to instruct children in the faith and to reinforce the faith in the hearts and minds of adults.

There is no better time than in this year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation to review the catechism.

Read it for yourself. Refresh the theology in your mind. Pray the catechism daily. Memorize it.

But even more, teach it. If you are a parent, teach it to your children. As you have opportunity, share it with your friends and peers.

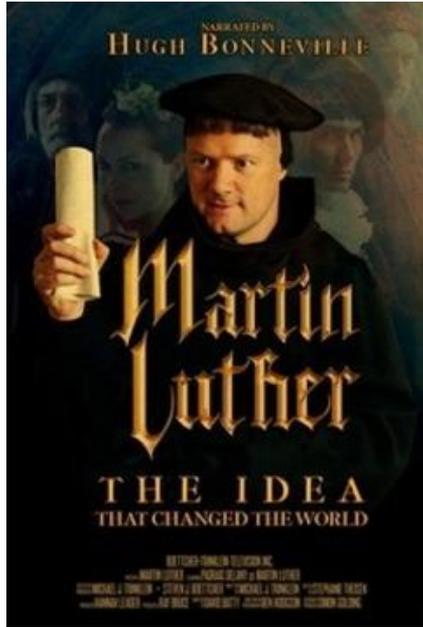
The catechism teaches the fundamentals of the Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar and the Office of the Keys and Confession. This small book is well worth your time and study.

May this celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation be a time when we return to the Word and Sacraments, when we turn to Christ and His love. It's *still* all about Jesus.

The
REFORMATION
CAMERON A. MACKENZIE

THE REFORMATION, a 250 page coffee table—style hardback book, provides a richly illustrated and engagingly written overview of this amazing time of change and renewal in the Christian Church. Concordia Publishing House is offering ***The Reformation*** for this special pre-order price of \$22.49 which is valid through October 16th. We have a sign-up poster on a table on the bridge for you to place your order. The last day to sign up is Sunday, October 15th. Please make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and turn it in to the church office. We will place our order with CPH on Monday morning, October 16th.

How To Get Your Tickets For Luther: The Idea That Changed the World



On Monday, October 30, at 6:30, Grace is sponsoring the recent film “Luther: The Idea That Changed the World.” The movie will be shown at the Breckenridge Theatre, 1200 Breckenridge Drive.

We would like to fill all ninety seats that evening with members and their friends. The tickets are free while they last and will be given out on a first come, first served basis. A sign-up sheet will be on the Bridge beginning on Sunday, October 8. We ask that those who wish to receive a ticket are committed to attending the movie. If you have a friend that you wish to bring we will provide them a ticket as well. Once again we just ask that if **YOU GET A TICKET YOU USE THAT TICKET!**

We will begin ticket distribution on Sunday, October 15. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

The Origins of Lutheran Hymns

“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” (Psalm 95:2)

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise...After all, the gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music, namely, by proclaiming [the Word of God] through music and by providing sweet melodies with words.”

These words of Martin Luther speak to the importance Christians have placed on music throughout the history of the Church. For those of us here at Grace, the singing of hymns sounds like a routine part of worship and other gatherings. However, this was not the case in the Church at the time of the Reformation.

Luther recognized that the central problem with church music at the time was that the congregation was not involved in singing. The music of the Catholic Church was stuck in the vein what is known as *ars perfecta* (a level of musical “perfection”), which consisted of music that was technically challenging, sung in Latin and not easily understood by the congregation. Early church councils discouraged congregational hymn-singing in native languages due to theological problems at the time. However, at the time of the Reformation, the people desired to express their faith in their own language, and Luther insisted that the music of the church be in the language of the people.

As the Reformation continued, not all of the hymns used by Luther and others were entirely new compositions. The hymns that were used, including many that we sing today, came from a variety of sources, including Latin hymns, non-liturgical hymns, religious folksong, secular music, and newly-composed

hymns. Older music was often re-written to fit the translated text and enable singing by the congregation.

Two examples of Luther using older sources are common hymns, today. LSB 332 “Savior of the Nations, Come,” is a version of “Veni Redemptor gentium,” written by St. Ambrose in the fourth century. LSB 358 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” is an example of what originated as a secular song. The melody is taken from a garland song, which told of an individual traveling from a distant land to bring good tidings to the people. Luther’s version, which retained the secular melody, speaks of Christ coming from Heaven to Earth to bring good news to everyone. Luther later composed a new melody, which is the version used to this day.

While previous sources were being used for Lutheran hymns, the combination of these differing styles is seen in the new hymns being written by Luther and others. LSB 656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is an example of this combination. Luther was well-versed in music, having received training during his time as a monk. The rhythm sounds very much like a folk-song, but the melody is very similar to Gregorian chant. Luther’s text is extremely personal in describing the Christian experience, confession and foundation.

As we sing hymns of prayer and praise at Grace, let us always remember that the hymns of the Church are part of its great heritage. While our hymns take a variety of forms and come from Latin, African, Greek, German, English and other traditions, all of them share the same message, that being the Word of God. As God’s redeemed people, we take part in worship of Him who saved us, and through song we join our voices in common praise and thanksgiving unto Him.

In His Service,

Charlie Russell, Director of Parish Music

Reformation Choral Concert
Friday, October 13, 2017 • 7:15 pm

University of Memphis Rose Theater
 (470 University • Memphis, TN 38111)

Jeremy T. Warner, Conductor

FREE and Open to the Public

This Event Is Generously Sponsored by **THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

Oktoberfest

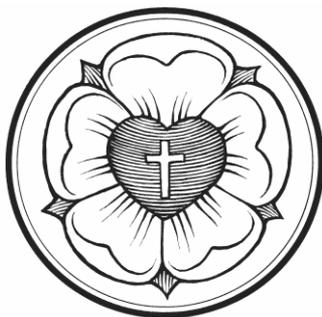
Saturday, October 14, 2017
 10 AM-2 PM, Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
 (6325 Raleigh LaGrange • Memphis, TN 38134)

Adult Tickets • \$10
 Includes German meal & 2 craft beers/beverages

Ages 4-12 • \$5
 Includes meal & beverage
 Free admission under age 4

This Event Is Generously Sponsored by **THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

Join the Mid-South District for Exciting Reformation Celebrations as they look forward to a great weekend to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation! The official District events will be a **Choral Concert on Friday, October 13** and an **Oktoberfest event on Saturday, October 14**. Both events will be held in Memphis and are generously sponsored by our friends at Thrivent Financial. The Choral Concert is FREE and open to the public, but with limited seating. Tickets for the Oktoberfest event (\$10 for ages 13 & up, \$5 for ages 4-12; both include a meal) can be purchased online or at the event. To learn more about both of these great celebrations and to reserve seats or purchase tickets, simply go on line <http://reformation.mid-southlcms.org/>.



Celebrating

REFORMATION

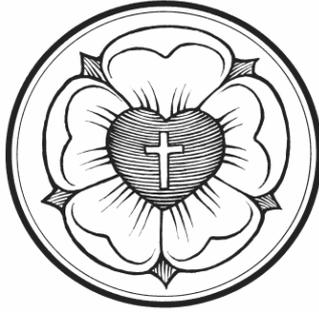
500

REFORMATION SUNDAY
October 29th - 10:00 a.m.

ONE SERVICE
with Holy Communion

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

Following the Service we will recognize our new members with a Potluck Luncheon.



Continuing to Celebrate

REFORMATION 500

Monday, October 30th 6:30 p.m.

**THE MOVIE – Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed
the World**

at the UA Breckenridge Theater

Tuesday, October 31st 6:30 p.m.

RECITAL AND VESPERS SERVICE

Featuring Alisa Coffey - Harpist and Charles Russell - Organist

Grace Lutheran Church

THOSE WHO SERVE in OCTOBER

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – James Junkans
10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Owen McCrory

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 1 – 10:45 Service – Gervais LeBlanc
October 8 – 8:15 Service – Richard Sanders
October 15 – 8:15 Service – Tim Sweeney
October 22 – 10:45 Service – Claude Riggan
October 29 – **10:00 a.m.** – **One Service** – Jonathan Cline

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 – Joel Junkans
10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Suzanne Lambert

GREETERS SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Debbie Craig, Mildred Wilkins
10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Sharon and Gervais LeBlanc

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Linda Riggin, Pat Funk
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.*

STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

2017 budget totals \$573,932
which is an average weekly
General Fund contribution requirement of \$11,037

Budget needs through September 24	\$430,443
Actual expenses through September 24	\$360,599

Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$368,006*
Average weekly contribution through Sept. 24	\$9436

**In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$ 7407
more than actual expenses.**

Non-budget giving to designated funds through September 24	\$43,959
---	----------

*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 October 24th – 12:00 noon

Fellowship Club will meet on Tuesday, **October 24th** at 12:00 noon in **Parker Hall**. (Note the change of date.) 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.

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 **October, 2017** is:

October 1	_____
October 8	Raymond and Sammye Sue Harrill
October 15	Bob and Sheila Wilimzig
October 22	Jim and Florence Marvin
October 29	Reformation Sunday – One Service

The schedule for **November, 2017** is:

November 5	Junkans Kids
November 12	_____
November 19	_____
November 26	_____

GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME...

COMMISSIONING OF CHARLES RUSSELL - On Sunday, September 3rd, we commissioned and installed Charles Patrick Russell as our Director of Parish Music. Following the Service we celebrated with a Potluck Luncheon in Parker Hall as we greeted and welcomed Charlie to Grace. Charlie is a 2017 graduate from Concordia University Wisconsin and moved to Little Rock from Luxemburg, Wisconsin. We have received Charlie's transfer to Grace from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Luxemburg, Wisconsin. Please welcome Charlie to our Grace Family.

NEW MEMBER - Ms. Janet Louise Elwood has transferred her membership to Grace from Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church in Maumelle, Arkansas. Please welcome Janet to our Grace Family.

HOLY BAPTISM...

In our 8:15 Service Sunday, September 17th, Laura Jean Hettman was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Laura's Baptism is also her Adult Confirmation. Please welcome Laura into our Grace Family.

In our Service Sunday, September 9th, Elinor Katherine Golladay, daughter of Carly and Matt Golladay, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Elinor's sponsors are Beth Luem and Scott Linck.

CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS...

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Emily and Robert Bemberg on the birth of their daughter, Evan Adalie Bemberg on Wednesday, August 30th. Evan's grandparents are Lydia and Bobby Bemberg. God's blessings to the Bemberg family.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

OUR CHRISTION SYMPATHY to the family of Alice Beethe, who died September 8th in Lincoln, Nebraska. Alice is the grandmother of Nathan Beethe. Please remember the Beethe family in your thoughts and prayers.

Festival of the Reformation
CENTRAL ARKANSAS REFORMATION SERVICE
First Lutheran Church, Little Rock
Sunday, October 29th, 3:00 p.m.

The Reformation service will start at 3:00 p.m on Sunday, October 29th. The featured guest preacher for the service this year is the Rev. Dr. Jacob Corzine, professor of theology at Concordia University, Chicago. The service will feature rock solid Lutheran hymns, the faithful proclamation of the Word of God from Dr. Corzine, and the opportunity of gathering together with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Immediately following the service, Oktoberfest will take place right next door in the Luther Building. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Reformation service where we will reflect on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as well stay afterwards for some great food and fellowship.

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR

Noon Devotions with Pastor is **Thursday, October 19th, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall.** (Note the change of date.) 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!!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to
these members in the month of OCTOBER:**

- 1 – Anne McIntyre
- 2 – Wyatt Price
- 3 – Pastor James Walter, Scott Manchester
- 4 – Caroline Wright
- 5 – Lyle Catherine Dunlap, Betty Pils, Milo Witte
- 6 – Stephanie Cannon
- 7 – Sherry Clawitter, Catherine Manchester
- 11 – Shaun Found
- 13 – Ken Carle, Judy Fastenau, Laura Schnackenberg
- 14 – Jenny Conrad, Sally McNabb
- 15 – Suzanne Lambert, Ana McWilliams
- 16 – Sheila Wilimzig, Anna Kathryn Wallace, John Wilkins
- 21 – Billy Wilkins, Jr.
- 23 – Kristin Parsons
- 24 – Elizabeth Gipson, Hedy Billmayer
- 25 – Jennifer Morrison
- 26 – Colleen Moorman
- 27 – Holdyn Bryant, Christina Junkans, April Allaben
- 28 – Brian Dumont, Lauren Schluterman
- 29 – Anna Junkans, Stephana Loyd, Nick Nichols, Craig Schluterman
- 30 – Betty Bryant
- 31 – David Graf, Jordan Rowe

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in OCTOBER:

- 6 – Melanie and Wesley Davis
- 7 – Kestin (Schulz) and John Christi
- 9 – Debbie and Joe Craig, Faye and Larry Stillman
- 12 – Sarah and Bryan Gipson
- 13 – April and Tim Allaben
- 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

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 meets Sunday morning upstairs in Parker Hall in the Family Life Center. This month the focus of the study will be centered in the 500 Anniversary of the Reformation using the Lutheran Hour Ministries video, “A Man Named Martin Part 3: The Movement.” Please come join us!

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 is leading the class each Sunday morning.

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

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY class meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at St. Vincent Hospital in the 4th floor conference room (off the main elevator). Pastor Walter leads this Bible Study each week.



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 – it was definitely a HOT success! But 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 hopefully COOL fall 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☺).

For those of you “swiping” your KrogerPlus Card for ECDC you can now renew your support online for 2017. 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! And, don't forget our newest way to painlessly support ECDC – smile.amazon.com!

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

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



Did you know your Kroger Card needs to be re-enrolled **each year** to ensure participation in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and to continue painless support of ECDC by “swiping” your KrogerPlus Card?

Now is a great time to check your card!

It only takes a few seconds . . . Enroll or Re-enroll TODAY!

Go to **Kroger.com**

1. In the top right corner, click on “Sign In”
2. Type in your email & password.
If you have forgotten, click on “Forgot My Password” & Kroger will immediately email you the opportunity to reset your password.
3. Under the “Community” tab, click “Kroger Community Rewards.”
4. Select “Enroll” or “Re-enroll Now” in the orange box (click “edit” if re-enrolling).
5. Type “Grace Lutheran” in the search box, then choose “Grace Lutheran ECDC” from the list which appears & click “enroll.”
(Your enrollment date will be updated)
6. You’re done and good to go for another year! Thank you!!

Just as simple— let **Amazon.com** send money to ECDC each and every time your shop at Smile.Amazon.com (Amazon’s charitable giving site). All you have to do is designate Grace Lutheran ECDC as your charitable organization! And, once done you never need to renew! Here’s our link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/71-0299147>

(It will say “Grace Lutheran Church Little Rock, AR—but that is us—ECDC).

**Thanks so much for
all your support!**

