

November, 2019

# Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool Newsletter

## *Pastor's Message*

Greetings Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

At the beginning of summer I started a conversation with your Congregation Council regarding the purpose and necessity of a monthly newsletter. In the past the newsletter served as a way to communicate with members of Grace what was happening with the various ministries of the church and to communicate other information such as the monthly calendar, birthdays and important events taking place at Grace. Recently it did function in that way with the one glaring exception of ministry reports of which we have few if any. So, the decision was made to discontinue the newsletter because it lacked most of the content it contained in the past. Well, a few of you have voiced your displeasure over that decision, so we decided to bring it back. The newsletter, moving forward, will still have birthdays and important dates to be aware of, but you may not always have a Pastor's article or any other content of note. But, at the very least you'll know what's happening in and around Grace.

Currently the Council is preparing for our annual congregational meeting which includes, among other things, the important task of approving a budget for 2020 that we will recommend to you, the members of Grace. And when I think about a budget my thoughts immediately move toward stewardship. This is one of those church words that elicit a number of different thoughts or emotions in folks. For some it is akin to a pledge drive where you're encouraged to give more of your money to the church. And if that's the reality of what stewardship is I can understand why it is a word that can produce some negative thoughts. But, the truth is stewardship isn't any more about the church extracting more money from you than prayer is a way to get God to do whatever you ask of Him. A proper understand of prayer is necessary in order for prayer to be effective in your faith life just as a proper understanding of stewardship is important if it to be a vital part of your faith life.

The first thing one must know about stewardship is God doesn't need your money. Never has, never will. And that's because He is the source, or the reason why you are blessed with any and all of your finances. As the creator of heaven and earth and all that is seen and unseen God has provided you with gifts and abilities and the opportunity to earn money. And as your creator He is the source of all of your gifts and abilities and every second of every day that you draw breath. The point is the first thing one must believe in order to under-

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### Upcoming Events

- November 17—Annual Meeting
- November 27—Thanksgiving Eve Service



## Pastor's Message (cont.)

stand what a stewardship is is that God is the source of *everything* in our world and in our life! This means we are simply caretakers, or stewards, of all that God has given us. And having the perspective that God is the source of everything should elicit a response of gratitude and desire to not waste or take for granted the abundant blessings we have from God.

If I said the word 'worship' to you your mind would likely go immediately to what we do on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening in our sanctuary. But the truth is that is only one aspect of what worship truly is. On Sunday mornings we come to church to intentionally gather to celebrate who God is and all He's done for us, and to experience the means of grace together as a 'family', if you will. All that we do in the sanctuary is a response to grace in the form of public worship. But, worship isn't a thing we do only for an hour or so whenever we attend church on a Sunday morning because God's grace is ever present in our lives and in our world 24 hours a day and 7 days a week and so the truth is how we live our lives in response to grace is worship 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Going back to worship in our sanctuary I assume, or at least hope, when you leave church you feel better than when you arrived. One of the reasons for that, I believe, is that you made a conscious decision to intentionally worship God for that period of time. Intentional worship connects us with God in a supernatural way, thanks to the Holy Spirit, that is life-giving. Sure, we can connect with God, or rather God connects with us, simply as a by-product of the Spirit living within us, but it is elevated when there is intention on our part to focus on our relationship with Him and that's what produces that elevated sense of joy, or peace, or wholeness.

So, if stewardship is worship, or our response to God's abundant blessings and grace, then being intentional about living a life that reflects our awareness and understanding of God as the source of everything more often than for the time we spend at church then it is possible that we will experience more often that same feeling that public worship produces. Or at least that's what I'm proposing with regard to stewardship. It isn't giving your time, treasures or talents to the church for the sake of the church. The church is one avenue instituted by God to give us all an opportunity to be intentional about how we utilize and allocate our time, treasures and talents as a tangible response to Him. There are countless other avenues that allow us the same opportunity to respond to God, but the Church (not just Grace Lutheran, but the global, universal church) is the one instituted by God for our sake, so ought we not to take advantage of the opportunity given to us by God?

I know, I know, this is a long article and it is quite dense in terms of its concepts. But, the bottom line is stewardship matters. Not so much to God because remember everything is His to begin with and He isn't impacted by our stewardship. And it isn't even important to the Church in terms of the universal or global church because even if we ceased to exist the Church as the entire body of Christ throughout the world will continue to exist. It matters most of all to each of us as individuals and in our relationship with God because stewardship means being more intentional in our relationship with God and in our worship of Him.

So, I'll wrap this up by asking, "How intentional are you in your response to all that God has blessed you with? How do you spend your time and money and how do you use the gifts He's given you? Do you give to God the best you have to offer or does He get whatever is left over after you've taken care of yourself?" When put in those sobering terms our response to God's grace can seem wholly inadequate sometimes. The good news is God doesn't demand or require our best or even our least. Regardless of your response or the breadth of your worship His love for us is truly unconditional! That's grace. Amazing grace! It's something we all need more of and being a more intentional steward, I believe, allows us to experience more deeply His grace in our lives and in our world.

By His Grace,  
Pastor Steve

*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry - Psalm 34:15*

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Please let us know of any changes or updates to prayer requests!*

**Please pray for those with medical needs, including:** Annalisa Morgan, Hailey, Linda Osdale, Lorraine Thorne, Trina Clay, Walter Hoke, Charlene Bergerson, the Davidson Family, Jaxon Turner, Sarah Encabo, Susie Galleta, Tom Entrikin, Shiloh Truman Charles, Mickie Spangler, Kevin Ardery, Jack Kantola, Sylvia Gilmour, Michael Van Raalte, Susan Blonksky, Lennon & family, Harper, Steve Schantz, Tory Strada, Ed McGee, Suzanna Auckland, Dakota Gorske, Briana Bader, Roland Palmer, Marybeth Wilson, Aria Labrum, Kari Watson, Peggy Salcido, Cliff & Nancy Lansdown, Karyn Yamate, John Carlin, Brian Hauptman, Roger Willanby, Gary Wilson, Tom Prager, Cherie Drysedale, Lynn Allison, Lynn Relf, Kathleen Richter, Jason Foutch, and William Wengel.

**Please pray for others in need of prayer, including:** Clair Atrach, Rocio Orozco, Chris Schantz, Miguel Ventura, Pam Elparia, and our Grace neighbors.

- **Please pray for the men and women who are currently serving in the military who are bravely protecting us and our country, including Andrew Ranabarger (Marine Corps).**
- **Please pray for all victims of natural disasters.**
- **Please pray for those who are being faced with grief, and all who know violence and hate.**
- **Please pray for our Grace Lutheran Church Congregation and partners in ministry.**
- **Please pray for our pre-school and infant care program, for Ben Lomond Elementary School, for our school districts, and that all schools will be safe.**
- **Please pray for the firefighters, police force and the leaders of our world, state, and local governments.**
- **Please pray for the ACTION Food Pantry, the homeless that they serve, and all those in need.**

*“The Prayer of the Righteous is Powerful and Effective.” James 5:16*

### ***Please let us know...***

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed  
If you have a special announcement  
If someone in your family is sick or in the hospital  
If you move or change your telephone number  
If you will be away for a period of time  
If you feel the church can assist you in any way

### ***Our Prayer Book is...***

Also located in the back of the Sanctuary. You can write your prayer request in this book each Wednesday or Sunday. Remember, you can also contact the church office with your prayer request and updates for the prayer list.

## **Worship & Music: Altar Guild**

I am appealing those of you that appreciate attending church and participating in Holy Communion. Behind the scenes are the very few people that set up communion every week and at all worship services, bake bread, and wash the linens.

If you could volunteer to help us in any way, please talk to Vicki Jacobs. Even if you can just help on occasion or in one of the above aspects of the program please talk to me. For one or two people to handle all of the above by ourselves is very tedious!

Thank you for caring!

*Vicki Jacobs (909)374-4678*

## **Help Needed**



**ALTAR GUILD**

# November

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

						
					1	2 8:30am-9pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 10am Al-Anon
3 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 8:30am Traditional 10:30am Contemporary 1pm Apostolic Assembly	4 12:30 Deborah Circle 4-7pm Action Food Pantry	5 10am Prayer Group 7pm Apostolic Assembly	6 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30 Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	7 9:30am Lydia Lois Circle 10am-1pm Action Food Pantry	8 6-10pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 7pm Friday Night Rest & Recover	9 8:30am-9pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 10am Al-Anon
10 8:30am Traditional 10:30am Contemporary 1pm Apostolic Assembly	11 Veterans Day :00pm Staff Meeting 4-7pm Action Food Pantry	12  6:00pm Church Council 7pm Apostolic Assembly	13 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30 Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	14 10am-1pm Action Food Pantry	15 6-10pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 7pm Friday Night Rest & Recover	16 8:30am-9pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 10am Al-Anon
17 10:00am Combined Service 11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 1:00pm Apostolic Assembly	18 4-7pm Action Food Pantry	19 10am Prayer Group 7pm Apostolic Assembly	20 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30 Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	21 10am-1pm Action Food Pantry 5:45pm Heathdale LDA	22 6-10pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 7pm Friday Night Rest & Recover	23 8:30am-9pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 10am Al-Anon
24 8:30am Traditional 10:30am Contemporary 1:00pm-5:00pm Apostolic Assembly	25 4-7pm Action Food Pantry	26 7pm Apostolic Assembly	27 11am Preschool Chapel 11:30 Bible Study 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service / Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Covina	28 Thanksgiving—Campus Closed  Happy Thanksgiving	29 Campus Closed 6-10pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 7pm Friday Night Rest & Recover	30 8:30am-9pm Everlasting Gospel Ministry 10am Al-Anon

### Sunday Service Times

8:30am Traditional Worship  
10:30am Contemporary Worship  
1:00 pm Apostolic Fellowship

### What's Happening at GLC?

Exciting things are always happening here at Grace! Please take a moment to look at the bulletin board and the table in the narthex and see what's going on. You can also check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranCovina](http://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranCovina)

## November Birthdays

Tim Said	November 4
Keith McHugh	November 4
Jacobs, Brian	November 8
Francie Yarber	November 11
Jeffrey Saltonstall	November 11
Kenny Colwell	November 15
Kevin Colwell	November 20
Jaxon Turner	November 22
Cindy Skolaski	November 27
Marie Dabbs	November 29



Plan to join a gathering of five churches, including Grace Covina, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 100 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave in Covina on Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00pm for Thanksgiving Eve Service.

## ACTION Food Pantry



Each month we collect a new food item for the ACTION Food Pantry. The month of November's featured food item is **canned fruit**. For the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving distribution, we are collecting **boxed dressing**.

On the first Sunday of each and every month, we collect a special offering for the Action Food Pantry. This is another opportunity to give thanks to God.



**Sunday, November 17**, we will have one combined service at 10:00 am, followed by a potluck brunch and the **Annual Congregational Meeting at 11:30am.**

Your participation in the life of the church is essential and appreciated, so please plan on being there!

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*Something to hold on to...  
A friend. A neighbor. Hope. Faith.  
We are all looking for something...*

***Welcome to Grace***

*This is who we are.  
This is what we do.  
You are welcome here.*

**This is who we are...**

Grace is a family of believers who gather in the name of Jesus Christ to experience God's love and acceptance through each other. Our intimate community is one where all are welcome, all are accepted, all are filled and all are sent out to give as they have received.

Though we are a community of faith, Grace is not a place for those who feel they have found everything they need regarding their faith journey. The people of grace feel that we are on a journey that is just beginning for some of us, while for others, that journey is much further along. Wherever we might be in that individual journey, we feel we are called to walk together, as no one should ever have to journey alone. No matter where you are in your beliefs, no matter where you feel you place in life is, you are welcome here.

*"One person can have a profound effect on another. And two people...well, two people can work miracles. They can change a whole town. They can change the world."*  
- Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider, Northern Exposure, Cicely (1992)

**This is what we do...**

Our community prays for one another. It is part of our duty, as people of faith, to lift up each other's joys and sorrows.

Our community chooses to offer back to God what God has so greatly blessed us with—ourselves, our time, our possessions—all signs of God's gracious love. Our community gathers together for many different reasons and in many different places.

Below are just a few:

**Grace Gatherings:**

- **Traditional Worship & Holy Communion** (every Sunday at 8:30am)
- **Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion** (every Sunday at 10:30am)
- **Midweek Worship & Bible Study** (Bible study at 11:30am and Worship at 7pm every Wednesday)
- **Deborah Circle** (every FIRST Monday of every month at 12:30pm in homes)
- **Lydia Lois Circle** (every FIRST Thursday of every month at 9:30am in Room 6)