



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUR
MISSION

Saved by Grace.
Called to Worship.
Sent to Serve.

October 2016

INSIDE THIS EDITION

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

October reminds us that we are in the middle of fall, the leaves change, Halloween is close at hand, and the plague of the mosquitos finally ends. October is also the month of Reformation Day and Reformation Sunday. October 31st is the liturgical date for remembering the Reformation, but since it does not always fall on a Sunday, the Sunday before is referred to as Reformation Sunday.

On October 31, 1517, now 499 years ago, a Franciscan monk by the name of Martin, nailed 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Beginning this year on that now famous date, many Christians, in particular Lutherans, will remember the events, theology and principles that changed the church of the Middle Ages. The results or affects (depending on how you view them) on history, the world of the 16th century and beyond, and on the church of Jesus is astounding and significant. Therefore, beginning this year, 2016, the church will take a year to remember the Reformation.

Here at Grace, in our conference, throughout the synod and the ELCA, Lutherans will reflect on the many events and ideas of the Reformation. Classes on Luther's Small Catechism, the Augsburg Confession, history lessons on the 16th Reformation, and a host of events will be offered to the membership to help remember a process in history that has shaped and defined our church. This edition of the GraceGram is the beginning of a year of remembrance of the Reformation.

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A Look @ Next Month - November 2016
Theme: "One Year Ends and Another Begins"

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- *ELCA World Hunger Appeal*

*Deadline for inclusion in the October GraceGram is **October 17, 2016.***

Send your articles to Victoria Alt at: parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

On the Cover

by Pastor Paul

The design of the window we will talk about this month is a design nearly all Lutherans recognize—the Luther rose. For many centuries it was the defining symbol and logo of the church. It would appear on document seals, flags, banners, letterheads and certificates. How many of us know what the design is meant to portray?



In a letter dated July 8, 1530, Luther defines the meaning of the seal, which he used on all subsequent correspondence. Prince Frederick the Wise presented a signet ring of this same seal to Luther. Here is Luther's own meaning behind the seal:

Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. "For one who believes from the heart will be justified" (Romans 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my summary of theology. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.

President's Perspective

by Doug Neeb

The remodeling project is moving along, not as fast as we would like but, we are moving forward. It is nice to be able to see the changes we are working for take shape. There is still a lot of work that needs to be finished, and therefore a need for more help to finish the work. I have observed over the years that when I start a new project I have a lot of energy and will to complete the project but, as the project wears on, my effort and commitment seem to wane. That is until I can see the end of the project coming and then I am invigorated again. I think this is human nature.

I have seen signs that some of the commitment to get our building remodeling completed might be waning. What concerns me more is that as we try to remodel our church body there is no end in sight. We should always be looking to find the next way we can share the gospel. This will mean unending change, acceptance of that change and working together to accomplish the change. We have made improvements in how we accept change, see the need for change and work together. We need to be vigilant that we do not regress to any of our old habits.

Fall Festival

by Social Activities



On Saturday, Oct. 8th From 6 - ?

Social Activities would like to invite everyone to a fall festival at Doug and Diane's pole barn. Anyone young and old is welcome to come. There will be games for kids and adults. A bon fire to roast s'mores and hotdogs. Or to tell stories around. Please bring a dish to pass, table service will be furnished. We will provide some pop, cider and Hot dogs to roast if wanted.

You are welcome to bring your beverage of choice. We are not in the church so it could include some of your favorite alcohol. (Pastor Paul said it was acceptable.)

Come and enjoy some free time and celebrate the remodeling of our church.

Our address is 3561 Barber Rd. Hastings, just a short distance from the church. Phone 269-945-9470. If you need directions give us a call.

Notes from the Veep

by Chris Bush

October is a bittersweet month for me. I love watching the trees change color and hearing the geese and cranes call during their flights. I relish the humidity finally leaving the air and that in-between time when I can still have the windows open before I have to turn on the furnace. I anticipate drinking some cider and baking apple and pumpkin pies. It's the climax of the seasons, but there are good-byes – to warmth, to fresh food from the garden, to running outside in shorts and flip-flops.

We are reaching the climax of the church year too. Pentecost, the green season, is winding down. Reformation occurs at the end of this month, then All Saints and Christ the King next month. But instead of shrugging our shoulders and hunkering down until things warm up again, instead of saying good-bye to the church, we say hello again and launch right back into the new church year. God's work is ongoing.

Six of our young people will be affirming their Baptism in the rite of Confirmation at the end of this month (see related article). Confirmation is a passage, a transition, from being taught and guided in the faith to taking ownership and responsibility for continued growth as a Christian. It's not a finish line but a "hello again" to God and the church. When was the last time you said "hello again" to your faith walk?

Let's Beautify Our Church

by Property Committee

We are looking for volunteers that would like to help beautify the grounds of Grace Lutheran Church.

Skills needed:

- Helping out
- Having fun
- Playing in the dirt
- Enjoy watching God's plants grow
- Enjoy meeting and working with those you know and maybe a few you don't know

Date: Oct. 1, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM to ? (This depends on how many volunteers help out)

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Poholski, (269) 948-3655



Communion Bread Bakers Needed

by The Worship Committee



Five months of the year do not have a Communion Bread Baker volunteer who would make the bread used at communion each Sunday morning. Double the recipe and make enough bread for 4 Sundays (2 loaves each Sunday).

Do a trial run to see how it works out. If you like doing it and you want to volunteer, sign up on the calendar in the sacristy where the communion vessels are stored (ask Pastor Paul if you are not sure where that might be). Below is the recipe used by many of the Grace Bread Bakers:

COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Heat the oven to 350 degrees

Blend in dry ingredients and sift three times (this is important!)

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup white flour
- 1 ¼ tsp baking powder
- 1 ¼ tsp salt

Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

- ¾ cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 180° F)
- 3 Tbsp molasses
- 3 Tbsp honey

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. **DO NOT KNEAD.** Divide into four balls and flatten each into a ¼ inch thick disk.

With a knife, score the top of each loaf into four pie-shaped sections, forming a cross, so that the loaf can be broken easily into four manageable sections for serving at communion.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Once cool, place each loaf in a separate zip-lock bag, write the date of the baking on the outside of the bag, bring to church and place in the freezer in the church kitchen, in the plastic container marked, "Communion bread."

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.

Reformation Memories –

What really happened

499 years ago?

by Pastor Paul

The “official” day for the Reformation has been traced back to October 31, 1517, All Hallow’s Eve, (sound a little like Halloween?) the day before All Saints Day. On this day Martin Luther, a Franciscan monk at Wittenberg University, trained as a Doctor of Scripture, nailed “*Ninety-five Theses*” to the door of the church or cathedral of the same city.

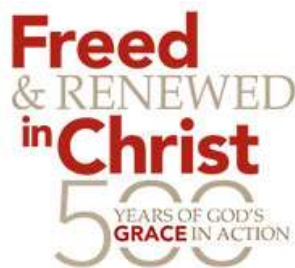
So, what’s the big deal? Were the people upset because he nailed the document to the church door? Did they hold the door in such great value, and not appreciate the new nail holes? Was he “protesting,” and in that day protests were uncommon and considered heretical?

Actually, none of the above. The church door was a common place at Wittenberg to publicize events—it was the community bulletin board. Luther was not-so-much protesting than proposing a debate or conference to discuss and banter ideas. So, what’s the big deal then?

Whether Luther actually posted the theses on the door of the church on this date, a later date or at all, is still a question among historians. What is important is that Luther sent a copy of the document to the new archbishop of Mainz and the university press. It was immediately printed in Latin and German and distributed throughout the city and province. Within months copies appeared in Italy, France, the Netherlands and Spain. So, tell us what is the big deal? Why did it get so much traction throughout the Christian world?

What Luther was objecting to or questioning was the sale of indulgences. The indulgences were papal decrees that would forgive sins, not only of the living but of the dead still trapped in purgatory. The Pope gave full support for the sale of the indulgences to help pay for the construction of the new St. Peter basilica in Rome. Luther wondered why the Pope, if he has the power to forgive the sins of the living and the dead, why he did not forgive all the sins out of Christian generosity and not oblige the poor to pay for indulgences.

There was yet another element in this issue of indulgences, one a pious Franciscan monk did not comprehend until later in the Reformation. There existed a practice in the church that when an important position like a bishop or archbishop became open, it was put up for bids and granted to the highest offer. It was called *simony* in those days—the selling of church offices.



Often times lay people from powerful or influential families would show interest in powerful Church offices, and papal authorities would help find the financial backing to conclude the deal, garnering loans from local bankers. The Pope then would grant a permit to sell indulgences to repay the loan, pay Rome for the appointment and build the coffers of the new archbishop. Since an archbishop had to be ordained to fill this post, the Pope would simply grant ordination; a practice commonly called *investiture*—ordination without call or theological education.

Albert of Mainz committed to such a contract with the Pope and German bankers to become archbishop of Mainz. Luther’s protest through the publication of his “*Ninety-five Theses*” was the spark that lit a firestorm of criticism of the abuses of indulgences, simony and investiture through Europe. If Albert of Mainz could not sell indulgences to pay back the loan, he would lose the power he had and the whole system would collapse. Any wonder they wanted to silence Martin Luther, the monk?

Luther’s 95 theses represent a direct challenge to a practice that had become corrupt. The following “theses” became the church’s major grievance against Luther:

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (Mat 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
36. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.
37. Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters.
66. The treasures of indulgences are nets with which one now fishes for the wealth of men.
82. Such as, “Why does not the pope empty purgatory for the sake of holy love and the dire need of the souls that are there...?”

Put Your Foot Down!

by Chris Bush

We are making great progress on our building renovations! Phase One is nearing completion (opening up the Welcoming Space) and we are transitioning to Phase Two (opening up the Worship Space). Part of Phase Two includes replacing the flooring (carpeting, some linoleum). To help achieve this goal, we are asking the congregation to make contributions to the flooring fund. Mark your donation “Flooring” and watch for a progress chart that will go up in November. Flooring will go in toward the end of Phase Two, so you won’t see a change as quickly as you have with the other renovations, but the change, when it happens, will be evident and welcome!



Reformation Sunday

A visit by Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper Assistant to the Bishop

by Pastor Paul

October 30th, Reformation Sunday, Grace will be blessed with the preaching of Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper, Assistant to the Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA. She brings a host of experiences and gifts to her position on the synod staff, and will bring them to us through her preaching.

The last Sunday of October, the 30th is a “fifth Sunday,” so we will only have one service at 10:00 am. This will give us some time to have a conversation with her at coffee hour. She will also be present at our Adult Forum Class, when we begin our study of Luther’s Small Catechism. She is personable, knowledgeable and fun to be around. Come and welcome her on October 30th!

Trunk-O-Treat 2016

by Pastor Paul

“I’m back!” That was the theme of the Energizer Bunny and that is the reality of Trunk-o-Treat. We are planning a return performance of this important outreach program. Hundreds of children and their parents graciously enter our building, giving us the opportunity to welcome them, give them free gifts, and send them on their way with the blessing of the Body of Christ. It does not get any easier or better than this kind of project.



Like last year, we want to divide the door-opening up among people who would like to decorate the openings and sit in them to hand out candy. Please sign up on the Participation Card or the bulletin board if you would like to do that. Don’t just do it alone, ask a few of your friends to join you, put on a costume and decorate a doorway with fun Halloween decorations.

We hope to offer popcorn and cider to all who come. We invite you to donate bags and bags of candy so that the kids have a pleasant welcome to our generosity. Bring your donated candy to church and place in the barrel below the bulletin board.

Outreach was never made easier or more fun than Halloween at Grace. Plan to be a part of Trunk-o-Treat, dress in costume, watch the smiles of children and parents alike, and welcome our neighbors to our worship home. There is a place for all our member who wish to volunteer and attend. If you have small family members nearby, bring them by as well. All are welcome!

Confirmation Class - 2016

by Chris Bush

On October 30th, we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism of six of our young people, as they go through the rite of Confirmation: Emmalee and Hope Peck, Jackson and Gabe Barnaart, and Gavin and Grayson Patton. There will be one worship service at 10 AM that Sunday and a celebration following worship.

All of Grace’s members are invited to write cards or letters to each of the confirmands, letting them know what gifts you see God has given them, what the confirmand means to Grace and to you, and how they have touched your life. There will be baskets set out for each confirmand on the 30th for you to leave your card/letter.

Adult Forums at Grace

by Pastor Paul

1. **Sunday AM Adult Forum:** between services, beginning at 9:30 am, Pastor Paul will complete the study of the parables of Jesus in October. Beginning October 30th he will lead a class on Luther’s Small Catechism.
2. **Monday PM Adult Forum:** A study of the Gospel of John, beginning every Monday at 6:30 pm, will continue. We will meet in the pastor’s office.

Adult Leaders—Pastor Paul is *not* the only person who can offer classes at Grace. If you have a thought, idea or push from the Holy Spirit for an Adult Forum, run it past Pastor Paul, and together we can work to publicize it. The more opportunities for study and reflection, the better for the faith of the community.

Reformation Hymn Festival

by Pastor Paul

The Grand Rapids Conference is sponsoring a Reformation Hymn Festival on October 30th, beginning at 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church; 2700 Fulton, Grand Rapids. John Ferguson, retired organist and composer from St. Olaf College (that is one of ours, people) will be the special guest to lead us at the organ in a festival of hymns and anthems.

Members from the conference churches are invited to be a part of the choir for the hymn festival, and are invited to participate in the rehearsals weeks prior to the festival. The Conference Choir will help lead the singing. Call Trinity for rehearsal dates, 616-949-2510.

Youth Outreach

by Jenn Rosenberger

When I felt the Holy Spirit tugging at me to become more involved with the youth, I had no idea it would be in the role of a leader. I am grateful this is where that small tug has lead me and I am eternally grateful that I opened my mouth and said something about feeling the Holy Spirit moving around me. Now that I am here, I want to thank all the parents for letting me work with your children. There is nothing greater that I could possibly have imagined. I knew, stepping into this role, I needed to treat it more like a service opportunity rather than a volunteer position. When I think of service I am reminded of the vision I have of Jesus kneeling before his disciples washing their feet (John 13). He humbled himself before them, in this great act of service and love, to show them he was no greater than they were. My husband and I washed each other's feet on our wedding day instead of lighting a candle together or mixing sand. We wanted to humble ourselves before one another and show we were taking on each other's burdens and that we were equal; constantly in service to one another. Being a volunteer is giving of my time or resources for a cause, but it's not giving my everything and putting all my love into that project. An example: I can go and volunteer at a dog shelter for a day, I can show up at the time I said I would be there and enjoy the day full of puppies and dogs, mixed with hard work and cleaning. When it's time for me to leave, I can get in my car and drive home feeling content but that isn't a focus of my everyday life. These kids have become a part of my everyday thought process. I am constantly trying to think of ways to reach them, ways to raise money to help them have a better view of the world, to find ways to teach them and help them grow.

During my search for ways to teach and help them grow, an opportunity came. A friend was telling me about an amazing farm their group had helped on, that the farm had community days where outside people were asked to come and help. I was excited! When I was informed that the farm was right over in Lowell I was sold! I asked who ran the farm, he told me it was the Franciscan Nuns. That peaked my interest to a completely new level. I started doing some research and they are an amazing group. Each month there is one day where they ask the community to come in and help, they provide lunch for the workers and a great opportunity for fellowship. I realized that this opportunity was far more than volunteering, I saw this as a great moment to also show the kids that we are all Christians. Even though we have a different label, according to some of the different traditions, we all still serve the same God. Reaching out to our neighbors to help will be a moment to show the kids that traditions are traditions but the core of our faith is something different. My best example: My family, the four of us, spend each Friday night having snacks and popcorn and we watch a movie together. I know

there are some families that love to go to football games or spend time doing other things together. Looking at this plainly, we have a different tradition for Friday nights than some other families, but at the core of it, we are still a family unit. We can't be judged based on our traditions because our family is still a family. This is the same with being ecumenical, we still are all Christians at the most basic plain level but we have some different traditions.

I cannot wait to show the kids what service can do, what their two hands can do to help.

Our trip will be on Saturday, October 8th. We will be arriving in Lowell at 9:30am and lunch will be provided around 11:30(?). I am planning on leaving church around 8:00am on that Saturday. Please encourage your high schooler to come and join us! If you don't have a high school student please pray for us that day. Any questions contact Jenn Rosenberger or Traci Wales.



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Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

How Well Do You Know the Reformation?

by Pastor Paul

Following a suggestion by the Worship Committee, I will run a brief "test" of your knowledge of the Reformation. There will be ten questions each month that are to be answered "true" or "false." The answers to the questions appear on page 10.

1. True or False: The beginning of the Reformation is tracked back to the day, October 31, 1517, when Luther nailed the "Ninety-four" thesis to the church door of the cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany.
2. True or False: When Luther became a monk he often found ways to avoid all the demands of the monastery in order to study scripture.
3. True or False: John Tetzel, the major salesman of indulgences around Wittenberg, used the following phrase as his sales pitch: "When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory to heaven springs."

4. True or False: Luther studied law first before becoming a monk.
5. True or False: Luther promised to become a monk when he was stranded in a snow storm. Out of fear he promised to St. Anne to become a monk if she would save him that night.
6. True or False: Luther joined the Benedictine order so that he could withdraw from society devote his time to work and prayer.
7. True or False: Luther was sent to Rome, early in his career as a monk, at the same time Michelangelo was painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
8. True or False: After Luther became a Doctor of the Church, in 1513 he began teaching from the Psalms, his favorite and first love of the books of the Bible.
9. True or False: When Luther was sent to Wittenberg to teach at the university, Wittenberg was a large and growing city with an old and established university, under the direction of Frederick the Wise.
10. True or False: Luther's study of scripture would radically change his life and be the impetus that would foment and direct his actions in the Reformation.



Call Process:

What Happens in the Bishop's Office?

by Rev Craig Alan Satterlee, Bishop, PhD and
Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper

We often are asked, "What happens in the Bishop's office during the Call Process?" When a congregation is in transition between called pastors, they follow a process outlined in The Call Process Manual (see www.mittensynod.org). The Congregational Council is

responsible for completing the ELCA's Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This is, just as it says, a profile of the congregation or ministry site which is uniform across our denomination. It asks simple questions, including the demographics of the congregation and community, as well as questions that take more attention, including what the congregation values, and its strengths and weaknesses.

After the Ministry Site Profile is submitted online the Call Committee and the congregation enter a waiting period. Currently in the ELCA the average call process from the time the MSP is submitted to the day of installation is about 18 months. If that seems like a long time, you're not wrong. It is longer than it has been in any recent memory. The reason is a shortage of ELCA pastors. So, please consider this as an invitation for you to think and pray on whom you know that would be a good leader in the church and encourage them to contact the synod office about becoming a pastor in our church.

Meanwhile, these 18 months can be an anxious time in the congregation, especially if you don't know what is happening on your behalf and on behalf of the church. The Bishop's Office springs into action once the MSP is received. After it is reviewed, it is activated in the ELCA database making it available to inquirers. We also begin to think and pray over who God may be calling as the next pastor of this congregation and potentially preparing to bring to Michigan.

The Bishop's Office is searching for possible matches in the ELCA database. Candidates who are discerning a change in ministry complete a Rostered Leader Profile (RLP) and are available to the bishop and staff for review. Candidates may come from this synod or from anywhere across the ELCA. We may also receive recommendations from the Call Committee.

The names submitted to a Call Committee by the Office of the Bishop will have had a broad screening; they will have a positive recommendation from the appropriate synod office unless otherwise indicated; there will be a broad agreement between the congregation's compensation offer and the leader's needs; the candidates will have expressed a positive interest in the call based on the MSP and other documents provided by the congregation. (See pages 32 and 33 in The Call Process Manual).

Currently in the Mitten, 29 out of 113 congregations are in the transition process. In three years, we have completed 48 call processes. If that seems like a lot, again, you're not wrong! That is a large number of transitions in this territory. We occasionally feel like all we do is call process. Yet we know that our attention is needed in many other places.

Pasty Sale

Saturday, November 12, 2016

by Joe Longcor & Vickey Argo

Yep...it's that time again. Join us for food, fun and a HUGE dose of FELLOWSHIP as we share in God's work. The fall Pasty Sale will be held on Saturday, November 12th. Our goal is to pre-sell up to 450 Pasties. Funds will support Grace youth activities. BAKED Pasties are \$7.00 each and UNbaked are \$6.00 each. Either is great to freeze for a wonderful and quick winter meal.

There's a BIG Posterboard sign-up on the outside wall of Pastor's office near the corner. Get your order in before the pasties are all sold. There's also a sign-up sheet to help with preppin', cuttin' and makin' the pasties next to the order sheet. We'll need lots of help on:

- Thursday the 10th for flour mixin' (time to be determined)
- Friday the 11th for meat cuttin' from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lots of things to do!!!
 - o Potato peelin' & choppin'
 - o Dough mixin' & rollin'
 - o Filler mixin'
 - o Pasty stuffin' & crimpin' & bakin'
 - o Order fillin' & money takin'
 - o Cleanin' up ☺

Annnnnnnnd donatin' food for workers...sandwich fixins, bread, doughnuts, chips, cookies or whatever you would like to share with others.

Rumor has it "Hot Stuff" himself will continue being his silly self and may even "dress" for the occasion. Worth helping out or stopping by just for a laugh.

Please pre-order soon. Let your friends know. Sign up to help if you are able. Keep us all in your prayers. Peace and blessings to you as we follow God as our lead Chef!

If you have questions, please contact Joe Longcor or Vickey Argo at 269-623-2348.



Know Your Enemy

by Kate Watson

As Christians, it would not be uncommon to find us in discussion about Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, or the saints and martyrs of our faith. However, there is another name that I think we should be talking about and thinking about, because knowing your enemy is important in warfare. That's right – Satan. Many times we feel silly or childish talking about the devil. Maybe that's because of cartoonish media depicting him as a little red guy with a pitchfork, or maybe it's because we're not really sure how to think of him and don't have a clear picture. But know this: even if we don't know how to think about him, he knows who we are and he's thinking about us.



Paul tells us in 1 Ephesians that:

11** In [God] we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, **12** in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. **13** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Every person who accepts and believes Jesus as their savior has been marked – sealed – by the Holy Spirit. And this mark is a guarantee that we receive what God has to give us – our inheritance as His children, including:

- **Peace** that transcends understanding (Phil 4:7)
- **A living, ever-present God** that will never forsake us (Matthew 28:20)
- **Forgiveness** of repented sins (1 John 1:9)
- An eternity in **God's presence** (John 14:2)

The bible tells us that Satan was cast out of heaven because of his desire to be more powerful than God (Isaiah 14:12-15). Since Satan squandered his own inheritance, he's out to steal the inheritance from as many of God's children as he can. But he can't just walk up and rob the bank because our bank is guaranteed; it is fully insured by the Holy Spirit. So why, then, is he able to cause so much havoc among believers and unbelievers alike?

Because we open the doors to the bank and let him in.

Satan knows our identity in Christ even better than we know ourselves. He knows he cannot take what we have by force, so he acts as the accuser, liar, and tempter (Zechariah 3:1-2, John 8:45, 1 Thess 3:5).

He tricks us into giving him our peace by fanning the flames of our worries with lies. He tells more lies to encourage our rationalizations of sin. He accuses us of unworthiness to convince us to give away God's forgiveness of our repented sins. He tempts us into sin like the ultimate pool shark – beating us over and over again, but somehow continuing to convince us that we could actually win the next game.

Moreover, like the smart pool shark, Satan ups his game when the quarry begins to win. Evil comes at us the hardest, the dirtiest, when we are on the edge of a breakthrough for God's kingdom. The closer we get, the harder he works to derail and distract us.

As long as Satan knows us better than we know ourselves, he can continue to shark us into playing his game. But once we step fully into who we are in Jesus Christ, he flees before us (James 4:7). So hold fast to that peace surpassing understanding even when worrisome thoughts come; don't let go of the forgiveness you've received from God; speak aloud that God is with you always; and look forward to the eternity you will spend with Him when you are done doing kingdom work on earth. Do not give away even one cent of that inheritance.

Sunday Adult Forum 2 –

Coming in November

The Psalms-Pastor Mike Kemper, presenter

by Pastor Paul

Pastor Mike Kemper has agreed to offer a Sunday Adult Forum on the Psalms, beginning in November. Watch the November **GraceGram** for more information. The six-week forum will begin on November 6, All Saints' Sunday, and end the middle of December.

Many of you remember Pastor Mike Kemper, husband of Jane Secor, as a previous Intentional Interim Pastor at Grace, some years ago. Now that he is retired, he has agreed to use some of his "free-time" to lead a class for us. We hope this is just the beginning of many opportunities for Pastor Mike and the members of Grace to learn from his many years of acquired wisdom.

Photo Directory Update

by Pastor Paul

The response of the members of Grace has been spectacular. Around 82 families/units had their picture taken and another 2-3 others submitted a photo.

Another 1-2 families/units will try to have their photo taken at another site, in order to have their photo included. We are grateful for your commitment.



The new directory will help in so many ways. Our members will be able to get to know each other, putting pictures and names together. The new pastor will be able to identify members more easily and learn our names more quickly. The council will be able to identify people to participate on committees, ballots, and Sunday worship volunteers.

Each member who had their picture taken will automatically receive a free copy of the directory. Additional copies will be ordered for future members. If you did not have your picture taken but you would like a copy of the directory, well we are willing to talk about that need and help to provide a copy to you as well.

During the weeks ahead, Victoria will post a complete list of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses in the Gathering Space for your review. Please check your information to correct any information that needs to change. The photo directory is not only a way to learn faces and names, it is also a valuable tool for members to contact each other.

The Communication Team is hard at work putting together the pictures for the congregational pages. We have chosen a group of photos and have put together a draft directory. The cover, inside color palette, and titles are being reviewed. We hope to send this on for Lifetouch's first review no later than October 15. They will print a draft copy of the directory and will send it to us for editing and review. We hope to turn that around within a few days.

Though we had hoped to complete the task and have the directories in hand by Christmas, we may have to wait until January. The communication with Lifetouch in this stage is usually through "snail mail," the USPS, causing the process to slow down. We will do what we can to shorten the process and get the directories in your hand quickly.

Thank you!

Renovation Team—everyone who has given their time to continue this project.

Photo Directory volunteers—for signing everyone up and serving as hosts during picture days—special thanks to Sharon Varcula and Cherie Clements.

Volunteers for Backpack Project—thanks to all who donated and to those who welcomed the pre-schoolers and their parents each day.

Sister's Fabrics—for donating their time and efforts to renovate our church banner.

October Birthdays

10-2	Melissa Patton
10-9	Ron Neil, Brenda Teegardin, Jason Davis
10-10	Carla Neil, Ed Domke
10-11	Joyce Daugherty
10-13	Mary Rider
10-14	David Gladyness
10-16	Kristi Winick, Joseph Varkula
10-17	Drew Bowman
10-19	Mackenzie Maupin
10-22	Derek Johnson
10-25	Riley Jarvis, Rose Fear
10-27	Julie Jarvis, Connor Wales
10-30	Nicole Wood
10-31	Larry Maupin

Answers

To questions on pages 6-7

How Well Do You Know the Reformation?

1. *False. Luther nailed "Ninety-five" thesis to the door of the church.*
2. *False. Luther rigorously lived the life of a monk, always wanting to complete the rules to the letter.*
3. *True. This silly phrase made the church millions.*
4. *True. Luther did study law first, in order to help his father's mining business.*
5. *False. Luther begged for his life from St. Anne, but the storm was a violent thunderstorm.*
6. *False. Luther actually joined the Franciscan monks, a mendicant order. They lived in cities and spent much of their time begging, preaching, and doing physical labor.*
7. *True. He was sent to Rome to ask the Pope to settle a theological issue in the Franciscan order.*
8. *True. Luther so loved the Psalms that he memorized all 150, and taught from them often.*
9. *False. Wittenberg was a small dirty river town, stuck in the middle of "nowhere," with a university established only nine years prior his arrival.*
10. *True. Luther's study of Paul's writings would bring him to a completely different view of God and God's mercy and grace.*

Grace Lutheran Church

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Our Staff:

Pastor: *Paul Kuhlman*
gracehastingspastor@gmail.com

Parish Admin: *Victoria Alt*
ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org
Mon – Thurs 8 AM - 3PM

Minister of Music: *Cindy Olson*

Choir Accompanists:

Marcia Bowman, Chris Bush

Bell Choir Director: *Kim Domke*

Custodian: *Nathan Freedlund*

Organist Emeritus: *Donna Buehl*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Winter

(1st Sunday after Labor Day - May)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Summer

(June – Labor Day)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

5th Sundays

Sunday @ 10:00am

Advent and Lent

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

All Ages Faith Building/Sunday School

Winter

(1st Sunday after Labor Day – May)
9:30 AM

5th Sundays

Sunday @ 8:45 am



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Executive Committee:

President: *Doug Neeb*

Vice President: *Chris Bush*

Secretary: *Kate Watson*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

Council Members

Cherie Clements

Margaret Wood

Phil Poholski

Kay Howell

Diane Neeb

Tim Schoessel

Jana Bishop

Lorie Gladyness