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Grace Notes

A publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church—LCMS



Raising children in an age of nothing

It's not a happy thing to read that so many of our countrymen are "nones," belonging to no church and adhering to no way of paying homage to God. How do we raise children in a no-land, where their deepest beliefs will be met with what's sometimes more discouraging than enmity, with the shrug of indifference and incomprehension? // Pages 6 & 7

Hurricane Harvey: LCMS is 'going all out to help'

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey and the unprecedented amount of rainfall that on Aug. 29 was still coming down in Texas, a number of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod churches, members, pastors and teachers — and at least one school — have reported damages. // Page 8



THIS MONTH AT GRACE



September 6
Choir Practices start, 7pm

September 7
Council Meeting, 6pm

September 10
Sunday School Begins, 10AM

September 11
Elders Meeting, 6pm

September 17
Voters Meeting, 12:30pm

WWW.GRACE-OK.ORG

3030 W. Oklahoma Av. Milwaukee, WI. 53215



Life, in some ways, is all about making decisions. This is something we do daily. Sometimes, we make easy decisions, like what to eat or what to wear... but, at some point, we must make decisions that are more difficult and important, which could change our entire life.

Recently, our Council unanimously approved to continue with our current Worship Times, Sundays at 9AM and 11AM. All of our directors had a chance to think about and discuss at length the new worship times, and then they ALL agreed that we had to do it. Same thing with our Sunday School teachers and leaders. I met with them, we had an in depth conversation about this, and

they all agreed that it would be nice to have all of our kids, and the whole congregation, together during our Educational & Fellowship Hour at 10am.

However, our leaders also needed to listen the opinion of the elders of our congregation. So I met with the elders to talk about this subject, and they made a decision: they ALL agreed that it was the right time to do it.

Meanwhile, I also took time to speak about this idea with some members of our church. I listened their ideas and opinions, and I spent a lot of time thinking about those who might not be

very happy with this decision. I prayed a lot, I thought about this, and -at the end- the decision was made.

When I was starting my work here at GRACE, someone told me that we will never make everybody happy, so it is better not to try. However, what we can do is to invite people to evaluate the motivations of this decision, and to reflect about what is better for our church. We all should always want the best for GRACE, even though sometimes we are not happy with the decisions our leaders make.

Just a reminder... this decision seeks to:

#1 Strengthen our Integration: Many of us felt that we had three congregations within GRACE instead of one. We had a small group that worshiped early at 8:30am on Sundays; our biggest group came at 10:30am; and finally, our very small Hispanic congregation worshiped God at noon in the Spanish language. Having only two services will help us to be more integrated and united, will strengthen our small communities, and will give us the opportunity to be together during our Educational Hour, when we will have Sunday School, Bible Studies for all ages, and a Fellowship & Coffee Hour the last Sunday of every month.

GraceNotes is a publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The newsletter is published ten times each year, monthly from September to the following June, and delivered the first Sunday of every month.

Submissions for the October 2017 issue are due September 19

Editor is Pastor German Novelli-Oliveros.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.

We also encourage submissions via e-mail to info@grace-ok.org.

#2 Strengthen our Worship

Services: We are a diverse congregation, and we're proud of it. Among our members there are people who love the traditional service, and also those who like a contemporary adoration service. We also have people who like to come early on Sundays, and those who prefer to come a little bit later. We have people who speak only English, people who speak only Spanish, and those who speak both languages. Our plan is to make our weekly worships the perfect opportunities for everyone to praise and give thanks to God, to adore Him from our own identities, our ways, and to do this together. Unity! This is a key word in our ministry.

#3 Strengthen our Mission: At

GRACE, we want to grow in grace and faith in Jesus Christ, and -at the same time- commit to leading others to do the same. That's why we are a missionary church. We want people, from all ages, nationalities and languages, and with different backgrounds, to come to GRACE and worship our Lord.

Today, I want to invite you to pray for these three new purposes, and I encourage you to love, care, and protect your church. In the end you are part of our GRACE COMMUNITY and this is YOUR church.

So... I will see you around... come at 9AM for a traditional/blended service in English... or come at 11AM for a bilingual contemporary service, where we will use our new translation devices so everybody can listen in their own language, and not worry about a language barrier.. Bring your kids and grandchildren to our Sunday School at 10AM, and also come to our Program for Adults (at 10AM too!) in the Hoge Hall. **Let's grow together in God's Amaz-**

Pastor Germán
novelligrace@gmail.com

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Mobil Phone: (414) 366-5299

Email: novelligrace@gmail.com

Congregational Officers

Terrence Donaldson, President

Mark Jubeck, Vice-President

Marian Laub, Treasurer

Staff

Rev. German Novelli (Sr.), Pastor-Comunidad de Gracia

Jane Donaldson & Jenny LaCruz, Office Secretaries

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Michelle Lenski, Bell Choir, VBS, and Youth Group Leader

Lucia Novelli, Lay Readers

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Augusto LaCruz & Pablo Novelli, Worship Translators

Sue Pritzlaff, Ruth Guild President/ LWML

Sue Brahm, Sunday School Superintendent

Marilyn Jubeck, Senior Fellowship/ LWML

Kenneth Lovas, Interior Custodian

Shirley Lovas, Altar Flowers and Thrivent

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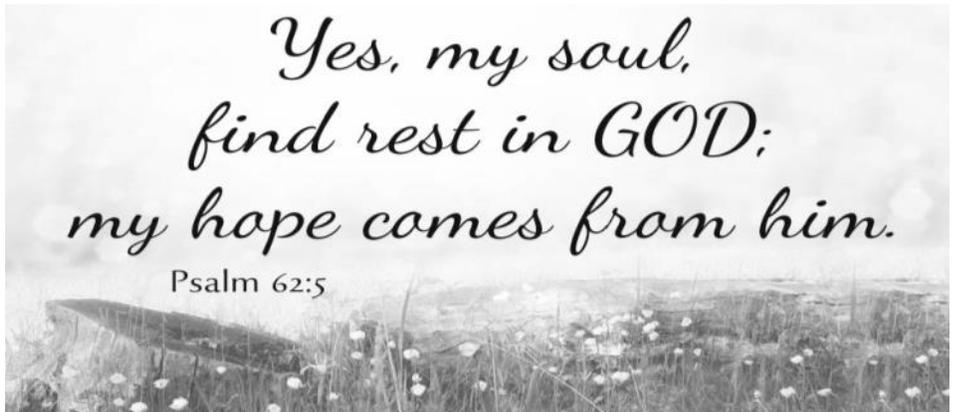
Kenny Lovas, Board of Human Concerns

www.grace-ok.org

Waiting in Hope

A reading from the Portals of Prayer caught my attention because it helps us, again, to focus on God, not on ourselves, concerning prayer. Pastor Martens initiated the prayer chain at Grace back in the 1970's. There are times when those of us on the chain wonder if we are praying God's will for people we don't know and even for loved ones.

We have the assurance of Philippians 3: 6, 7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." The promise that God will guard our hearts and minds is reassuring, as is Romans 8:26: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what



we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

The following quote is from the Portals of Prayer, July 24: "Are there times in your life when you know you must pray for something or someone, but you don't know what to pray? If someone you love is sick unto death, do you pray for miraculous healing or for the Lord to take him quickly? If someone

wronged you, do you pray for justice or for a forgiving heart? It is wondrous that the Spirit intercedes in our prayer! For it is the Spirit who knows the will of God."

It closes with a prayer: "Lord, give us faith and hope, through your Spirit, as we wait for your will to unfold in our lives. Amen."

Lillian Hughes

*** GRACE COMMUNITY ***

VOTERS MEETING
SUNDAY
September 17, 2017
12:30PM // Sandwiches and Beverages will be provided!



faith conversations
for teens

every tuesday 6pm
starting on September 12th

 with Pastor Novelli

@GRACE: Comunidad de Gracia
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee
Info: 414 384 3520

Come to the
Table



EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6pm
starting on September 13

First Communion
CLASSES
for kids age 9-12

GRACE's children begin their path to First Holy Communion in the month of September. This is an eight (08) sessions program prepared by Pastor Novelli Jr., which is based in Dr. Luther's Small Catechism. To register your child, please contact our Church's Office now.



GRACE: Comunidad de Gracia
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee

Registration is Open! (414) 384 3520



Raising children in an age of nothing

It's not a happy thing to read that so many of our countrymen are "nones," belonging to no church and adhering to no way of paying homage to God. How do we raise children in a no-land, where their deepest beliefs will be met with what's sometimes more discouraging than enmity, with the shrug of indifference and incomprehension?

I think we must bear in mind the character of this nothing. It is not deep — it cannot conceivably be deep — but it is broad, like a vast slick of muddy water and wreckage after a flood, shallow as a few inches in most places, but lapping at every post and foundation in sight. Let me name the things whereof the nones have none.

1. They are not apt to have feasts. Big meals, maybe, and debauchery, too often, but the feast that brings people together in joy because they stand in the light of the transcendent God — none. We must have feasts:

the more, and the more solemn, the merrier; a paradox that the nones do not understand.

2. They are not apt to prize the family above their pleasures; in their marriages, when they marry, they are often partners in hedonism. They have displaced the child Jesus from His throne, so that children become not blessings from God, but accessories to a lifestyle or creatures in the way, to be deposited at the nearest holding tank as soon as possible. We must orient our decisions toward the family, even before we have a family at all, or a spouse. The family is the foundation of social life. To sacrifice it for prestige at work or the high life of Belial is to sow salt in a field and then expect it to bear fruit. Raise your sons to be husbands and fathers, and your daughters to be wives and mothers.

3. The nones do not pray; the Christian family prays together. But there are quite a few other things that linger in the precincts of the temple that the nones are not likely to enjoy. Consider how much of the great art, music and literature of the West has been directly inspired by the Christian faith. You cannot take two steps in the world of Dickens without encountering something of the Sermon on the Mount, or that fine moment, remembered so powerfully in *A Christmas Carol*, when Jesus took a small child and placed him in the midst of His disciples, saying, "Unless you become as one of these little ones, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." What of the poignant beauty of Handel's air, "And He shall feed His flock," from *Messiah*? Or that moment of bittersweet forgiveness in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, when King Alonso falls to his knees before the girl whom he had set on a leaky ship twelve years before to drown with her innocent father? We must place these riches before our

children as we would place before them a precious inheritance from ages past. We must not forget.

And yet there is more.

The nones do not inhabit a world of mystery, of sin and redemption, of moments of truth when souls hang in the balance; it is a flat and dreary world, wherein nothing really significant can happen. Why should Othello care if Desdemona has been unfaithful? Why should Emma be abashed when Mr. Knightley places before her eyes her hardness of heart? What difference does it make if Sir Thomas simply accedes to the Oath of Supremacy? Why should Dr. Livingston risk his life in penetrating to the heart of Africa?

We must therefore inhabit the real world, the world in which things matter, a world of adventure and drama, of the possibility of eternal loss and the offer of infinite gain. The nones have political hacks to adulate. We must have heroes, both of the things of man and of the things of God: Washington, Augustine, Lord Nelson, Francis of Assisi. The nones have the flippant; we must have the bright and joyful.

We have a merry good humor about the body, which we do take seriously, because it is the temple of the Holy Spirit; they have porn and disillusionment and pills and old age that portends only debility and exhaustion.

Do not settle. Live in the fullness of reality. Play and work, eat and drink, marry and stay married, read good books and talk about them, turn your eye upon the small things of beauty round about you, and bend the knee in prayer. Live as if the nones were missing out on everything, as they are; then maybe even the clear laughter of your children will beckon to them to come out of that world of no dreams, that world that does not exist.

Anthony Esolen

This article originally appeared in the August print edition of The Lutheran Witness



BIRTHDAYS

- 6.— Susan Hensch
- 9.— Lisa Rabideaux
- 11.— William Heding
- 12.— Walter Pelican
- 13.— Latif Hukarevic
- 13.— Emma Telles-Hernandez
- 16.— Jeff Tuuri
- 17.— Riley Andrae
- 18.— Arlensiu Garcia
- 22.— Bonnie Hanoski
- 22.— Autumn VanAcker
- 23.— Ernst W. Leichnetz
- 28.— Don Ewert
- 29.— Denise Zellmer
- 30.— Ann Marie Heding

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1.— William and Mary Draeger
- 2.— Craig and Sally Plain
- 7.— Daniel and Mary Wichman
- 8.— Robert and Cynthia Radloff
- 17.— Allan and Edna Hoffman



LCMS President Harrison: Synod at work with Texas District toward Hurricane Harvey relief

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am sending this heads-up to you, the rostered workers of our church body, to let you know that your national Synod office, working hand-in-glove with officials in the Texas District, is going all out to help in any and every way possible those affected by Hurricane Harvey and the unprecedented flooding in southeastern Texas.

Owing to the nature of massive disasters — in this case, the worst flooding of Harvey is yet to come — no one yet knows the full picture of the situation or the exact plan for effective Lutheran responses.

We do know it will require a lot of physical support and aid over the long haul, along with prayers, Word and Sacrament ministry and pastoral counseling. A truly effective response demands that the people of the Church walk and work in a coordinated way, because no one entity can handle something like this apart from the capacity others can bring to bear.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and its LCMS Disaster Response, already is hard at work. In close collaboration with the Texas District, which also is hard at work, we want to learn from our pastors and other leaders from the more than 160 LCMS congregations



in the affected areas about their greatest, immediate needs.

In time, after we stabilize and restore our congregations, we want them to serve as hubs of outreach in their communities.

Please stay tuned for news and updates across an array of LCMS communications channels, including lcms.org/harvey and our facebook page.

Know that appeals to our generous donors will be going out soon. Please consider a plate offering — or even a series of such offerings — from your congregation, school or group.

An army of LCMS people — national and district, professional and lay, staff and volunteer — will be coming alongside our afflicted brothers and sisters in Christ in southeastern Texas.

Your help and encouragement are vital to these efforts. How robust our LCMS response will be depends on the people of the LCMS responding.

Thank you!
Sub Cruce,



President Matthew C. Harrison
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Ruth Guild's Notes

September Meeting, Sunday, September 17th following the 9:00 am service. Please note the date and time.

To the ladies of Grace - please come join us and see what is going on at Ruth Guild/LWML.

Ruth Guild Nut and Candy Sale - you will be able to order nuts and candy from the second week of September through the second week of October. Order forms will be available.

Upcoming LWML Events:
 Saturday, September 16th at 9:30 am. Zone 1- LWML Board Meeting at Grace Lutheran - Oak Creek, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oak Creek WI 53154.

Friday and Saturday, September 22nd and 23rd - LWML SWD Fall Retreat, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI.

Reporting for
 Grace Ruth Guild / LWML

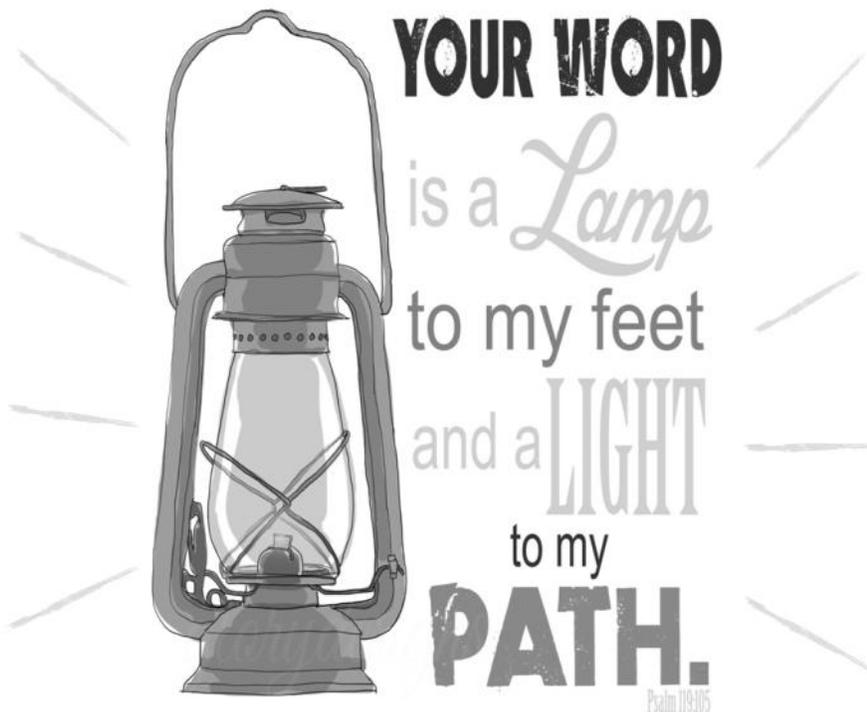
Sue Pritzlaff

Happy Crafters

We continue to meet every Thursday, 9—11 AM. We welcome new people whenever you can join us.

Also, be sure to check at our new items in the Hoge Hall. If you have any ideas let us know. We will meet every week weather permitting.

Any question, call or see Shirley Lovas 414—645 1282.



SUNDAY SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 10th
 Every Sunday, 10am — 11:15am

Enroll your children now!

USHERS

SEPTEMBER 3rd

Jim Barndt, Mark Jubeck, Dave Biermann, and Chester Zbrozek

SEPTEMBER 10th

Dave and Danny Gaus, Sheryl Pelican, and Lori Eshelman

SEPTEMBER 17th

Art and Amy Socha, Terry and Jane Doanldson

SEPTEMBER 24th

Sue Pritzlaff, Lynda Trapp, Brenda Nitz, and Shirley Lovas

OCTOBER 1st

Chuck and Alana Zielesch, Don and Karen Ewert

Evangelism seeking help

Greetings fellow Evangelists. As we begin another church year, Evangelism is seeking help. We have a number of projects to consider but the most urgent would be in maintaining our prayer request and connection cards. Simply checking them weekly to see if every pew has adequate cards and then replacing each as needed. This one task alone is critical in keeping our communication with our visitors as well as with our God moving forward.



The common misconception with Evangelism is that it is only done by approaching others without warning. That may be one approach to it, but it is not the approach we use at Grace. Evangelism's task is to make contact outside the church, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus

Christ. We are God's mission in this world and our actions will always speak to who we are.

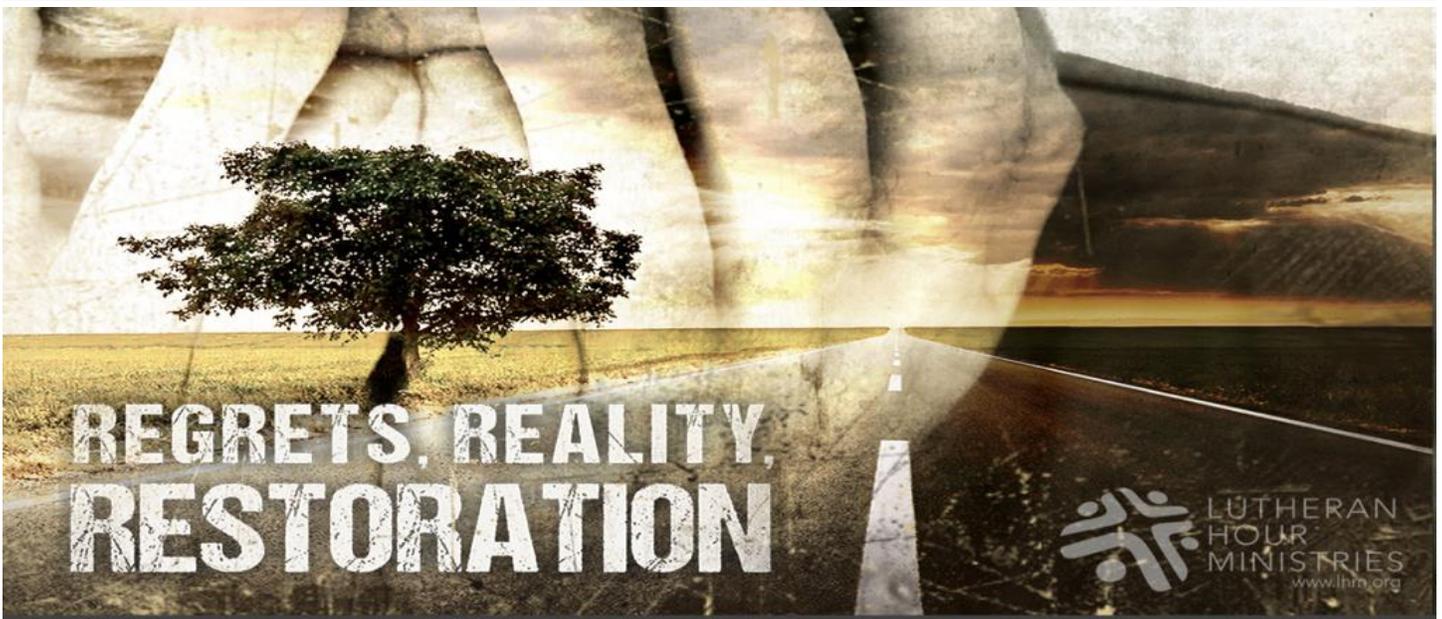
If you feel that you would like to be of help in the above matter as well as other projects, please feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail or in person.

" .. therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

*Your Director of Evangelism
and Missions
Jim Barndt*

**ELDERS
APPRECIATION
DAY**

Sunday, October 22nd
*****9AM*****



REGRETS, REALITY, RESTORATION

LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM

GRACE COMMUNITY
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee

GRACE: Comunidad de Gracia // 3030 W. Oklahoma Avenue. Milwaukee

DIOS SE REVELA

Entendiendo juntos nuestra Fe Cristiana

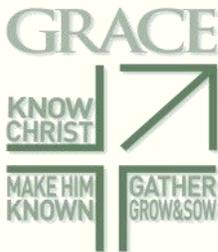
CADA DOMINGO

Estudios Bíblicos & Escuela Dominical, 10am
Celebraciones en Español, 11am

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Phone (414) 384-3520
Fax (414) 384-3528
www.grace-ok.org

First Class



worship times

Let's grow together in God's Amazing Grace!

Every Sunday
9am & 11am



www.grace-ok.org

Comunidad de Gracia

Celebraciones en Español
Domingos, 11 de la Mañana