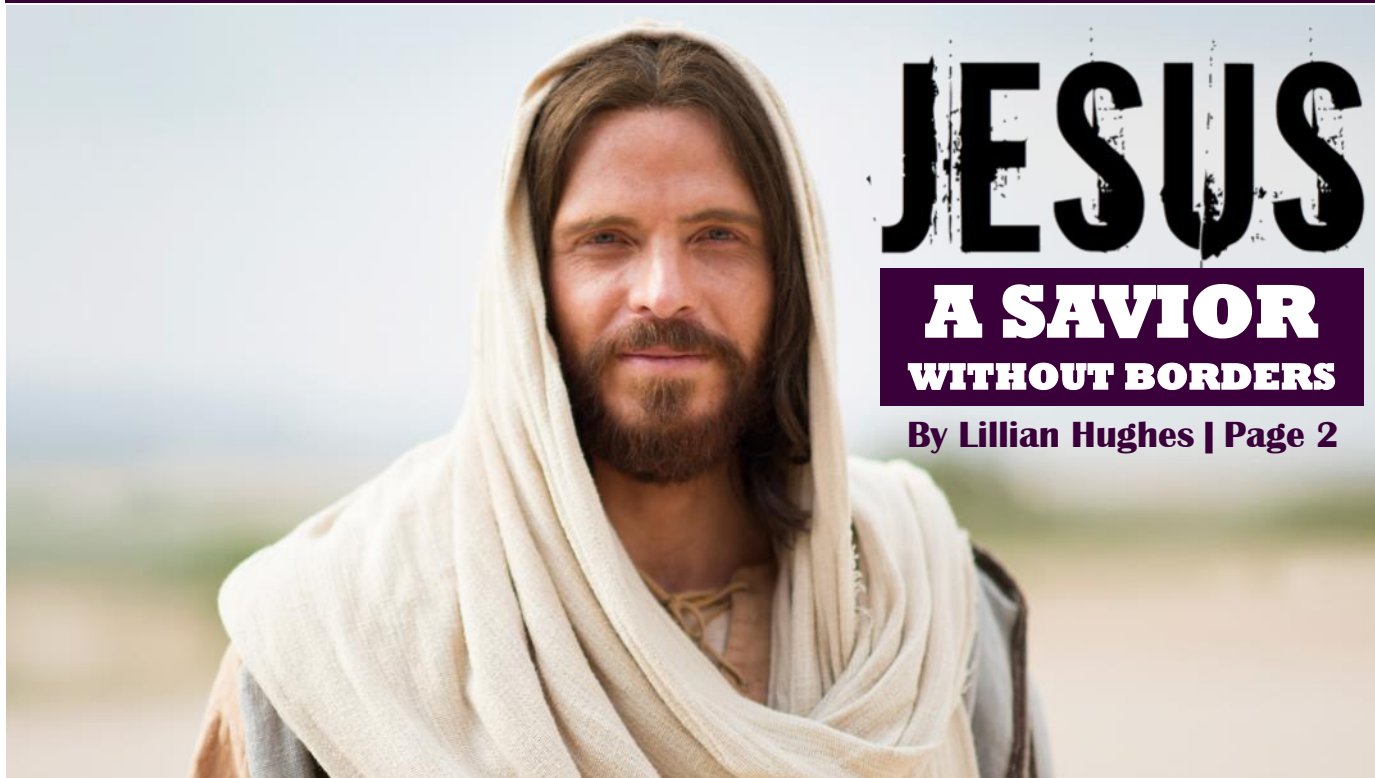


Grace Notes



A publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church—LCMS



JESUS

**A SAVIOR
WITHOUT BORDERS**

By Lillian Hughes | Page 2

Embracing the church generation gap

In a recent study by LifeWay Research, young adults reported that the number one reason they stop attending church is because their life situation has changed. They may go to college or simply move away from home. Out from under Mom and Dad's roof, they have the freedom to sleep in on Sunday morning, and so they do. **Page 8**



MARCH SCHEDULE



March 4th

Elders Meeting | 6pm

March 6th

Ash Wednesday

Fish Fry Dinner | 5:45 pm

Worship Service | 7pm

March 11th

Council Meeting | 6pm

LENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Wednesday | 7pm

WWW.GRACE-OK.ORG

3030 W. Oklahoma Av. Milwaukee, WI. 53215

Jesus | A Savior without borders

Jesus needed a break. A time to recharge physically and spiritually. For peace and quiet he crossed the border and headed for a place of refuge. He went to Tyre, a city of Syria. But Mark chapter 7 tells us that things did not quite work out as planned. Mark 7: 24-28 – “He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia.

She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

As a reminder of the Jews history with the Syrians, like the prodigal son, Israel, the northern kingdom, blew its inheritance by turning away from their loving father. They threw caution to the wind and joined those who lived for the moment. Unlike the prodigal son however, they did not repent and, as a result, suffered the consequences of their sin. Assyria conquered them and dispersed the Jews. Then other ethnic groups moved in. This happened 700 years before the story told in Mark 7. To put Jesus’ reference to dogs into context, dogs, according to the Bible Concordia, represented cruel enemies or a term of reproach or of humility in speaking of one’s self. During Jesus time on earth, the Jews of the southern kingdom were under the rule of Rome. They were granted self-rule under the watchful eye of Rome. They looked forward to the Messiah coming in power and restoring their lands.



They resented all aliens who occupied their former land.

We learn the rest of the story in Mark 7: 29 - “Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

There are two lessons we can learn here:

Lesson #1: Jesus is not a political messiah. He tells us that His kingdom is not of this world (political and temporary), but it is eternal and everlasting. Jesus, in one fell swoop, did away with prejudice in accordance with his teachings. The mother, out of love for her daughter, recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the savior without borders. She called him Lord. She confessed her unworthiness and at the same time by faith, trusted Jesus to be merciful and heal her daughter.

Lesson #2: Jesus took a break to rest. In his wisdom, God designated the seventh day as a day of rest and worship to recharge the body and soul.

Hymn 653, vs. 1 and 2:
“In Christ There Is No East or West”

*In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*With God there is no tribe or race,
in Him we all are one,
He loves us as his children,
through our faith in his dear son.*

GRACE: Comunidad de Gracia

BEHOLD THE MAN!

LENT SERIES | 2019

“Behold the man!” Pilate’s command to the crowd at Jesus’ crucifixion speaks an incredible truth—Jesus was indeed man. More specifically,

He was God and man, an eternal being inhabiting a human body.

Jesus had a body. He had a nose. Knees. Toes. Bones. Fingerprints.

He hungered, prayed, and bled. He had a mother, He drank wine, He was baptized. This Lenten season, behold the man—the man who suffered, died, and rose again. The man who lived a perfect life and defeated death.

The man whose death led to your life.



March 6th

5:45pm | Fish Fry Supper
7pm | Worship Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This Special Service reminds us of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying during this season. You’re invited to our Fish Fry Supper before the Service.



Every Wednesday

[March 13 thru April 10]

5:45pm | Lenten Supper
7pm | Worship Service

During the season of Lent, we’ll be leading a Sermon Series called “BEHOLD THE MAN.” Join us every Wednesday for Supper at 5:45pm, and then for Worship at 7pm.



| Palm Sunday |

April 14, 9am & 11am

| Passover Seder Feast |

April 18, 6pm

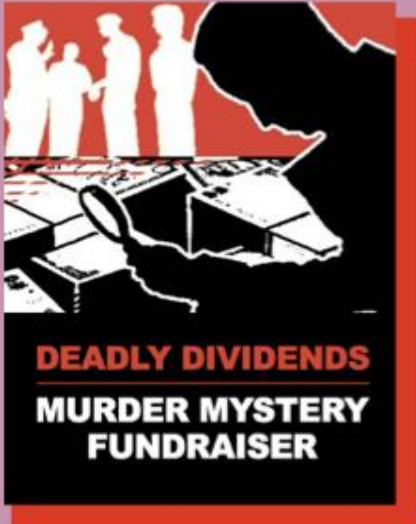
| Good Friday Service |

April 19, 7pm

| Easter Services |

April 21, 6am 9am & 11am

www.GRACE-OK.org



Sunset Playhouse Theater SATURDAY | April 13, 2019 Tickets for Sale

Join us for our Murder Mystery Fundraiser. Enjoy this inter-active murder mystery complete with an appetizer buffet, full cash bar and your chance to win valuable raffle prizes. Have a great time and enjoy a tax write-off!

Prayer & Healing Service

National Day of Prayer

THURSDAY | May 2, 2019 | 6PM

We believe that God still can and does heal people today, when and how He chooses.

We do not demand this as our right, but ask for healing with faith, as we are instructed in James chapter 5. Join us for a healing worship & prayer service as we honor the U.S. National Day of Prayer.



Breakfast with Pastor Novelli
SATURDAY | May 11, 2019
8:30am | Tickets for Sale (coming soon)

Let us begin Mothers' Day celebrations with a continental breakfast prepared by Pastor Novelli and Lucia. Then, we will have opportunity to have a Bible Devotion and Fellowship Time. This is a fundraiser event of our Grace Youth Group.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS CHANGES

During our last voters meeting, our congregation read and unanimously approved the changes in our Congregational Constitution and By-Laws proposed by Pastor Germán Novelli Jr., and supported by our Council and the Board of Elders. These changes are a new beginning in our church's history, and will promote the participation of our members in our church's affairs. Right now, the approved proposal is being discussed by our District, and will need a second vote this summer. If you want to read the new Constitution and By-Laws, you can ask for a copy in our church office.

GRACE YOUTH GROUP ORGANIZED DINNER & CONFERENCE ON "FORGIVENESS"

Our church's Youth Group is making a huge effort to raise funds for their trip this Summer. They want to participate in the National Youth Gathering organized by the Synod that will be held in Minneapolis this July. That's why they have planned a series of events and fundraiser activities which will help them with this task.

This past Valentines Day celebration, the Youth organized a special Dinner and Conference, in which they had Dan and Diana Czech as guest speakers. During the event, this couple had a chance to talk about how important it is to forgive one another, and about the ministry they lead to support families and marriages among church workers.

Our Youth Group is organizing some other fundraiser events this Spring, and we encourage you all to continue supporting them.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Terrence Donaldson, President

David Biermann, Vice-President

Staff

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

Jane Donaldson, Office Secretary

Telva Szymborski, Organist

Dennis Szymborski, Choir Director

Michelle Lenski, Bell Choir Director

Lucia Novelli, Lay Readers

Jane Donaldson and Marge Wodvarka, Altar Guild

Shirley Lovas, Altar Flowers

Sue Pritzlaff, Ruth Guild President/ LWML

Sue Brahm, Sunday School Superintendent

Kenneth Lovas, Interior Custodian

Judy Zarzynski, Caring Connectors and Piece Makers

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Brenda Nitz, Director of Stewardship

James Van Acker, Board of Trustees

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Kenny Lovas, Board of Human Concerns

David Biermann, Children's Ministry

www.grace-ok.org



**EVERY
ONE
HIS WITNESS**
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™

GRACE equips new witnesses of Jesus

According to the dictionary, a witness is a person who gives testimony about something they know as truthful. For example, someone who sees a car accident can give a testimony to the police of what he saw happen.

As Christians we have the mission of giving testimony of something more important than anything else. We're called to testify of the One we know is the truth, the One who gives us life, salvation, and forgiveness of sins, the One who died for us on the cross: JESUS. He invites us to tell others about Him, and about what He did, does, and will do in the lives of those who believe in Him. We give testimony of the truth, and we proclaim His truth... that's why we are His Witnesses.

"Everyone His Witness" is a six weeks workshop prepared by the

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod that seeks to equip our people to be witnesses of Jesus, and be involved in the fantastic and important task of telling others about the work of Jesus to save the entire human race.

Pastor Novelli Jr. has been leading this workshop for a small group of members of Grace, who have been encouraged to join the missional & outreach efforts of our congregation. The goal is to organize a new group of participants who will be part of this workshop later this year.

The purpose of this effort is to equip our members with the outreach work we do in our congregation, and invite others to know about the One who loves, saves, and redeems us.

MISSION SUNDAY

Last February 10, our congregation celebrated our first Mission Sunday of the year, which promoted the work and ministries of the missionaries we have been supporting. During these two special services, Pastor Novelli Jr. talked about the work of Rachel Meyer, our missionary in Uganda (Africa), and Pastor Adrian Ventura, our missionary in Chile (South America). These two wonderful servants of Christ have been working hard to bring the gospel into these difficult areas.

We also learned about the work of World Vision, a Christian organization which brings food, education and medications to poor areas in the world. Pastor also shared with us the story of a little boy from Africa named Sarito, who is being sponsored by our church -through World Vision- and who will receive education, food, and proper healthcare.

Our congregation is also part of CPTLN-Wisconsin, which promotes evangelistic and outreach work among the growing Latino population in our state.

During this Sunday, we collected a special offering to support our missions, and Pastor Novelli informed that a new Mission Sunday will take place in August, when we will announce new mission partnerships with other groups and missionaries.

As a Christian community, we are committed to giving testimony of Jesus in our neighborhoods, city, and the whole world, through the proclamation of the gospel and works of mercy and love. The Bible says: "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)





Embracing the church generation gap

by Tom Eggebrecht | *Lutheran Witness*

I recently heard that a friend's 20-something daughter had moved to another city. In her first few weeks there, she decided she would give the local Lutheran church a try. Her verdict? The church wasn't much to her liking because the only people there were "old people."

On the one hand, I can understand this young woman's hesitancy to return. We all like to be surrounded by our generational peers. It's more comfortable. Friends and even potential spouses are easier to find among a large group of people close to one's own age. Nobody wants to be a part of what they think is an

old or dying organization. Some — for right or for wrong — come to church for an energizing faith boost. When they look around and see mainly gray or white heads, they may (especially if they are young or in the prime of life) feel less than energized and want to look elsewhere.

In a recent study by LifeWay Research, young adults reported that the number one reason they stop attending church is because their life situation has changed. They may go to college or simply move away from home. Out from under Mom and Dad's roof, they have the freedom to sleep in on Sunday morning, and so they do. In light of this,

I give my young friend a great deal of credit for at least giving a church in her new city a chance.

What if, however, she had decided to go back the next week? Then the week after that? And the week after that? What might she have found? How could she have contributed to a fellowship of mostly older people? What might the members of that congregation have done for her?

Suggestions for a younger person

If you're a younger person entering a church with mostly older people, I encourage you to give it at least a few months. Make an effort to get to know the people in the church. Listen to their faith

stories. Watch the ways in which they live out their Christianity. Sit around a table with them at a Bible study. Listen closely for words of wisdom. See if they don't love you in ways you never expected. Bring your youthful energy. Volunteer to help out in ways that might be difficult for those who are older. Bring some friends along with you and introduce them to the members of the church. Ask the pastor how you can help him. Lead a Vacation Bible School or help start a food pantry. Give of yourself — and see just how much you receive.

Suggestions for an older person

If you're an older person who is a member of church made up of mostly older people, and you see a young person walk through the door, welcome her or him with open arms. Introduce her to your friends. Make sure the pastor knows his name. Don't overwhelm her but do encourage her to stick around for

coffee hour. Tell him about the history of your church and let him know how he can get involved.

Don't make a fuss if she brings her mocha latte into the sanctuary. Don't give him a sour look if he's wearing jeans.

Make an effort to get to know the personal details of her life. Show that you care about his vocation and relationships. Get her cell phone number and surprise her with an encouraging text message in the middle of the week. Listen to his ideas about ways to enhance the life of the congregation. Give of yourself — and see just how much you receive.

Embracing the generation gap

Instead of just bridging the church generation gap, what if we embraced it? From both sides? What if both young and old took on the attitude that we can learn from those of the other generation and be enriched by them? What if we cared less about ourselves — our needs, our

preferences — and just a little bit more about the others sitting in the pews near us?

What if we all took heed of the words from Proverbs 20:29: "The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair"? What if we lived out Psalm 148:12-13: "Young men and maidens together, old men and children! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven"?

The Rev. Tom Eggebrecht is senior pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Casselberry, Fla., where he enjoys watching young and old support one another in the faith. Follow his personal blog at www.tomeggebrecht.com.





Together with

ONE HEART.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every nation**, from **all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice,

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

-Revelation 7:9-10 ESV



Heart to Heart Sisters

Join us in celebrating together, a church service, fellowship, delicious ethnic food, entertainment, and door prizes.



Saturday April 6th, 2019 | 9am-2pm

Doors open at 8:30am; Lunch Provided (Free-Will Offering)

**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
1205 S East Ave, Waukesha, WI 53186**

Register today @ lwml-swd.org

For more information, call or text Mai Thao at 414-531-3661

or email mnthao1@gmail.com



Grace Community ANNUAL plant sale

MAY
17-18, 2019
9am – 5pm

*Bedding Plants, Vegetables,
Hanging Baskets, Geraniums,
Borders, and more...*

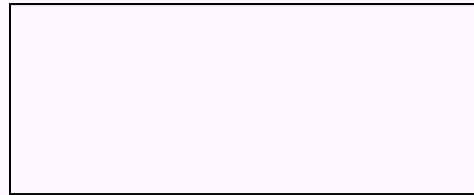
*We have the best prices and a great quality!
Invite your friends and neighbors...*



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Together
IN CHRIST

WORSHIP SERVICES
EVERY SUNDAY | 9AM & 11AM

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