

GraceFull Visions

OCTOBER 2018

Community Breakfast Help Needed

A “new” Breakfast season is about to begin in October. More people in need are expected as the weather up north becomes colder; consequently, more people will be needed to help them. There are many types of jobs to do in the areas of cooking, serving, and cleanup. Did you

know that people are needed to go shopping?! Obviously, that needs to be done ahead of time. Some meal prep can be done on Friday either at your own home or at church with others. Volunteers do not need to be at church doing their “chores” all morning long on the day of the Break-

fast either. Depending on the task, a particular job might be only an hour or an hour and a half. Other jobs last for two hours or more. Whatever you can give. If you do not have much physical stamina, you can sit and visit with our guests – all you have to do is eat! Sharing God’s love by means

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of a meal is the purpose of the breakfast. Please contact Pastor Cox or the church office if you would be willing to help in this special ministry.

Global Mission Sunday, Oct. 7th

Sunday, October 7th is Global Mission Sunday in the ELCA, our denomination. We will be singing some international hymns and we will be taking up a “loose change”

offering during October that will be used to purchase gifts from the ELCA Good Gift campaign:

If we collect more than \$10, we will buy chicks to help a family

somewhere in the world; \$30+, a pig; \$50+, a goat; and from there a combination of these three options. The odd amount (for example, \$3.23 from \$53.23 collect-

ed) will be given to “Wherever Needed Most.” These gifts truly make a difference in our world.

Gophers Need Help

Every Friday the Gophers meet to help maintain the inside and outside of the property. This time of the year with the

snowbirds gone and people on vacation, illness, etc. they are really struggling to get things done. There are jobs for both in-

side and outside to do. If you can help for even a few minutes between 7:30 am and 11:00 am

Please call Cliff Bittner 727-771-0684 for more information or just show up in the Fellowship Hall.

From the Stewardship Team

“Now it was on this wise that the thing occurred: that each should go, one with the other, to be at the appointed time, in the place provided. And that each should bring forth that which was rendered unto them, that the decrease thereof would be known. This shall be a sign, that during the coming in and going out, the straps of the nation shall be loosed upon all the people unto the succeeding generations.” (Hezekiah 20: 1-4)

This is the lesson read on a Sunday morning and the translation might be some-

thing like this: Pick up Sally after church. Be ready by 1:30. Check reservations for dinner, Tuesday. I might have been killed by that guy that cut me off this morning. Did I turn off the stove? They ought to fix that loose carpet in the corner. Is this the week that Uncle Charlie goes to the hospital?

To be good stewards in our public worship is a challenge. The distractions of a busy world are many, and every faction in our lives is fighting for our attention. Unless we make a conscious effort to

focus on the worship of our Lord, then the meaning and truth of Scripture, the message, hymns, prayers and the Lord's Table, is as useless as the jibberish in Hezekiah 20.

Father God, help us as we worship to be attentive to what you are telling us. Direct our thoughts so that the peace and joy that is there for us will overflow day after day in our contact with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

P.S. Are there really 20 chapters in Hezekiah?

Calling All Artists of Grace

As you know, we now have an Art Gallery in the hallway between the Library and Fellowship Hall.

Currently on display is artwork by Phyllis Dumdie. If you haven't done so yet, please feel free to take a stroll through the Gallery and view the paintings. All pieces are

for sale and if you are interested I purchasing any, please let Phyllis know.

The current display will hang until the first part of September, and we invite anyone who would like to show off their art, (all mediums, including photography) to do so. Or if you know someone

who might like to display. Please contact Connie Puls or Phyllis Dumdie

FINAL NOTE

If you are given the gift of art, it seems only right to share it by displaying, so others can enjoy! DON'T BE SHY! - From Deacon Connie

From the Deacon's Desk

Reformation Sunday – We Protestants have come a long way, baby!!

We are no longer under the Pope, our clergy can marry, people can read the Bible for themselves, many denominations now ordain the ladies and the gays.

But, still, the people cry for help. Still, we hear about sin. Our own Sunday service begins with a confession of our sins.

....”we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves..... Amen.

We sin without thought for God or neighbor. Sin is like saying no to God and yes for ourselves. Sin is doing what we want to do, not what God wants us to do, not doing what the Law, the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, says “I should”.

There is always, no matter how hard we try, a divider, a gap between our ideal self and what we actually are. We are the only ones who truly know how far away we are from God. The “should haves” never jive with the Law.

Martin Luther felt the pressure of the Law, but then he

read this passage from Romans 3:23,24..... “since ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are now justified by his grace as a gift....” Luther believed this to be true, and he no longer accepted what the church had taught for so long – “that we are saved by the works of the Law.” The church had made the people believe the Law as Gospel!!! Luther believes that works are “adiaphora”, not essential for salvation and Grace is everything!

The Law describes sin; the Gospel, salvation. Both are God's Word. The Law leads us to the Gospel, that we are saved by God's grace through Jesus Christ to us.

The Law is always an “if/then” thing.

BUT, the Gospel is not an if/then thing. The Gospel is full of “because”.

Because God created us in his image and

because we rebel against the idea of this and want to be God for ourselves and

because God won't play by our rules and

because after time God had enough of this and became

human in Jesus and because we didn't receive him and

because God continued so far as to hang from a cross we built and did not condemn us, and said forgive them, they do not know what they are doing and

because Jesus defeated death and the grave and rose on the 3rd day and because we all sin and sin and forget that we all belong to God and that not one of our success and good deeds guarantee this and none of our failures exclude this and

because God loves what he created, God refuses our sin and inability to always do the right things and our brokenness to be the last word, because God came to save and not judge.

So here it is--- YOU ARE SAVED BY GRACE AS A GIFT AND NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW! Read the confession and forgiveness again. The Law allows us to hear the Gospel, the Word of Truth. It reforms us.

A change. A re-formation.

Just because.

Special Events

Lydia's Closet Underwear Drive

Lydia's Closet is sponsoring an underwear drive during the months of October and November. Our homeless guests are needing: NEW socks, boxer underwear, women's

underpants, and vee neck tee shirts. We can not keep enough of these items on hand and need your help to continue to provide them. A box will be in the narthex to

place your donations. If you would prefer to leave the shopping to us you can make your check out to Grace, put underwear drive in the note section, and place in the offer-

Blessing of the Animals

At 10 am next Saturday, October 6th (the Feast Day of St. Francis), Pastor Jeff will be offering a blessing for our pets and for all animals. It will be held under the Ancient

Oak. If you are planning on bringing your pet or pets, please make sure they are on strong leashes or in an appropriate pet carrier. If your pet is not currently properly vac-

inated, please keep your pet at home; Pastor Jeff will still bless your pet. There will also be a special opportunity to remember and honor pets who have died.

Octoberfest

The Men of Grace are planning an Octoberfest event on Saturday, October 20th from 11am – 2pm. We need additional volunteers for planning and for the day of the event itself. This will take the place of our annual Church Picnic.

There is a clipboard in the narthex on which to sign up. We are expecting around 200 people. Our menu is planning to be hamburgers, hot dogs, & bratwurst, as well as traditional German sides such as sauerkraut, German potato salad,

& red cabbage, plus fun foods like popcorn and cotton candy. We will also have live music, a bounce house, and other fun activities for the whole family.

\$15/Table Indoor Rummage Sale

\$15-a-table Sale (indoor rummage sale). Set up is on Friday, November 2nd from 10am until 2pm in the fellowship hall. The Sale is on Saturday, November 3rd and we open doors to the public at 8am. Doors for sellers will be opened at 7:30am. Checks should be made out to Grace

Lutheran Church and place in offering plate or drop off at Church Office. Please invite friends and family to get a table. More tables bring in more customers and better opportunity for sales. If you don't plan on having a table, you can donate items for the church table. The money we

make will go to the Gophers, Altar Guild and Lydia's Closet. We are looking for dishes, pots, pans, tablecloths and interesting items. For the church table we are not looking for furniture unless it's a lamp or small table. Men's tools are always a big hit.—
Florence Bencivenga

Reformation Sunday and the Rite of Confirmation

On Sunday, October 28th, we will observe the 501st Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and we will

hold the Rite of Confirmation for four youth - Danny Valentin, Chris Granados, Eliezer Granados, and Devin

Stradling. There will be a reception in honor of the Confirmands in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Bridge Builders will host the annual Trunk or Treat on Wednesday October 31 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is a community event with sup-

port from Trivent. We will service refreshments and treats. The participants should arrive by 5:30 pm to get setup for the event. Bring your

trunk and join in on the fun. If you are unable to attend please consider donating candy.

A Special Thank You

I would like you to know of the thanks I have for Dr. Paul Caputo, my dentist. He recently gave a donation of \$300 to Lydia's Closet to pur-

chase health kit supplies. He also donates many toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste throughout the year. His donations make a big differ-

ence in our being able to supply health kits to the people we serve through Lydia's Closet.

- Florence Bencivenga

Faith Community Nursing Update

Faith Community Nursing is also known as Parish, Congregational or Church Nursing. Faith Community Nursing is the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community.

This program is offered throughout all Baycare hospitals and is affiliated with the International Parish Nurse Resource Center and Health Ministries Association. A Faith Community nurse is a spiritually mature registered

nurse who serves as an unpaid professional in their faith community. A healthy ministry team should be comprised of people from various backgrounds who possesses a strong interest in health and wellness.

Being in partnership with the FCN Baycare program provides opportunities and benefits e.g. access to the resources of a large health care system networking and fellowship with hundreds of other FCN's, free continuing education unit classes, free liability insurance and annual retreats.

We began offering free blood pressure screenings at the Community breakfast on September 22nd and educational material which includes concerns about diabetes, strokes, cardiac problems, Advanced Directives, and CPR. Future plans are to provide cholesterol and glucose monitoring and free flu vaccinations. The congregation is always included and welcome to take advantage of any events and services. Please contact Ellen C. Duncan at 727-940-3024 for further information and please consider offering volunteer time for this exciting new ministry opportunity.

Regular Event Updates

Young at Heart

Young @ Heart will be held at 12 noon on Thursday October 11th at the Ivory Bistro which is located at 2192 Main St in Dunedin. Hope to see you there. Young @ Hearts is open to all.

Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet

The Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet will be held on Saturday, **October 13th** at 9 am. The date of the breakfast has changed to the 2nd Saturday for each month.

The Book Club will resume meeting in the Garden Room at the usual time of 10:00 am. For the months of October and November we will be reading *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. This book of historical fiction was written in 2017 and reviewed as one of the best historical

Men of Grace

The Men of Grace now meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, still at Sunset Grill in Clearwater. This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, October 4th.

Children's Church

Children's Church has resumed with two groups led by Deacon Connie and Judy Ishida respectively.

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room..

October Book Club

fiction books of 2017. We will meet on October 3rd to discuss chapters one through 15. Then again on November 7th to finish the discussion of the entire book. The story is fiction but based on a true story of an Italian teenager named Pino, that gets caught up in the war with the Na-

Elizabeth Circle

The Elizabeth Circle will meet on October 25th from 1pm-3pm . We meet in the Garden Room and the gate will be open for access. Our study is from the current issue of "Gather" magazine. If you do not receive Gather magazine call Connie Puls at 446-4091 and she will get the study information to you before the meeting. All women are invited, coffee and desert will be served. If you need a ride call Deacon Connie.

zis. I believe you will all want to join us in reading this highly reviewed book as the author spent an enormous amount of time with the actual main character to make this story available. All are welcome to join. See Vicki Eis with questions or email at veis49@yahoo.com.

Save the Dates: Community Thanksgiving Service @ Grace, Nov. 18th, 7 pm; Annual Christmas Party, Dec 1st, 12 pm.

October Birthdays

10/03 Jason McClenning
 10/14 Terry Knight
 10/19 Stephanie Adamitis
 10/20 Jean Schlegel
 10/23 Lorraine Bickell
 10/27 Hilda Taylor

10/28 Dorothy Martin
 Charles Saitta
 10/29 George Smith
 10/31 Tony Falco
 Charles
 Sienkiewicz

October Anniversaries

10/19 Darl & Sue Cooperrider
 10/25 Lisa & Tyson Hauschild

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the

Prayer Chapel. Requests for prayer can be made using the

Communion Records in the bulletin.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Linda Almond, Stephanie Adamitis, Pastor Lou and Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Galen & Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria & Tollie Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Bill Cutts, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva, Don Eunis, Glen Dumdie, Gladys Calhoun, Lorraine Reinhard, Steve Davis, Kathy Falco, Jill Grote, Pat Hudson, Bonnie Redler, Dianna Frasier, William Mathis, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joey Valentin, the family and friends of Dawn Schipper, all those still suffering from the impact of natural disasters (especially those in the areas affected by Hurricane Florence), those suffering from violence and terror (especially those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson
 -Seaman Third Class Kyle Wassen, grandson of Connie Puls,
 -Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne

Hauschild is in the Air Force
 -Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally.
 -Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinhart's grand-

son.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony's granddaughter, was commissioned as a lieutenant. in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

Special Events in October:

Blessing of the Animals
Sat. Oct. 6th, 10 am

Global Mission Sunday Service
Sun. Oct. 7th 10 am

Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet
Sat. Oct. 13th, 9 am

Octoberfest
Sat. Oct. 20th 11am

Reformation Sunday/Rite of Confirmation
Sun. Oct. 28th 10 am