

GraceFull Visions

SEPTEMBER 2019

From the Deacons' Desk

Susi – Frank, are you ready for my favorite prayer?

Frank – Yep, I've been waiting a whole month to find out!

S – I've been thinking a lot about it and have to say I've got a few favorites.

F – I thought so. You probably have different prayers for different occasions, right?

S – Not really, it's just that sometimes finding the correct words is tough and I just want God and Jesus to know I'm praying.

F – So what are your favorite prayers?

S – The first one is simply "Dear Jesus, have mercy on me." I can say this short prayer in any situation, at any time and place, either aloud or silently.

F – I like it because I know you have faith, hope and love in Christ.

S – Yes, that's why this prayer works. It can be prayed any time: times of pain and suffering, stress, confusion and times of deep happiness, amazement and joy.

F – Anyone and everyone, sinners and saints, can pray this prayer.

S – And we can pray it a lot!!! When I pray this prayer, I pray out to Jesus in blind faith. I want my heart to be full of love of God's gifts, so he can gather me to him.

F – Such a simple yet powerful prayer – "Dear Jesus, have mercy on me." What's another favorite of yours?

S – "Oh dear Lord, 3 things I pray. To see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day."

F – Sounds like a song

S – It's from Godspell. Pray these 3 things day by day by day by day ...

F – Is there another favorite prayer of yours?

S – The Lord's Prayer. It's a prayer of simple devotion to God. This prayer was given to us by Jesus Christ himself. (Mark 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4) It's also an all occasion prayer. It acknowledges that God is great; it asks that His will be done; it asks God for our daily needs and it asks forgiveness and hold us to forgive others.

F – You know, thinking back to our Diaconia classes, it seems to me that the gist of the Old Testament is in The Lord's Prayer.

S – You are so right! Pray these 3 favorite prayers of mine for yourself and for others and let God do the rest.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mission & Ministry	2
Regular Event	4
Updates	
Birthdays & Anniversaries	5
Prayer Corner	5
Calendar	insert
Worship Leaders	insert

F – Pray for those in need, put them in God's hands and trust that the Lord, who died for our salvation, will do what's best.

S – Give thanks for the blessings received and know that the Lord is good.

F & S – May the peace and love of the Lord, which surpasses all human understanding, keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. Dear Jesus, have mercy on me, day, by day.

.....
- Deacons Susi and Frank

Adult Sunday Study - Ruth

Starting September 1st. The Adult Sunday School class will begin a 9-week study of the book of Ruth,

using the study from the Augsburg Fortress Book of Faith series. After an introductory session on September

1st by Pastor Jeff, Deacon Vicki Eis will lead the study. The study will run through the end of October.

Participant study books will be provided. If you would like your own copy, the cost will be \$5.

Mission and Ministry

Stewardship for All Seasons

“Stewardship is not about money!” - “Yes, it is!” - “No, it’s not!”

Here is an argument we find in many churches, and it requires some clarification. Stewardship in its most noble aspect is the broad ministry that helps us find ways in which we can care for God’s creation.

Once a year in most churches, Stewardship becomes involved in promoting, assisting or sponsoring the effort to sustain and grow the church financially. So, Stewardship is responsible for fund-raising.

“No, it isn’t!” - “Yes, it is!”

The conflict persists.

Grace Lutheran Church is subscribing to a program recommended by the Florida/Bahamas’ Synod called, “Stewardship for All Seasons,” (SAS). This program is designed to lead us to a greater return on our annual “Commitment Sunday,” where pledges received determine how we can advance our ministry and mission in the next year.

The SAS program meets monthly, first with all the churches involved to explain the program steps, and later, with the team at Grace where information is tailored to our specific congregation.

Your Stewardship team has

sent correspondence to a number of congregation members, asking if they might be part of the program which concludes after the Lenten season in 2020. The program becomes more valuable and effective with the addition of more participants, and anyone in our congregation is welcome to be part of this effort.

Your current team: Ann Burson, Pastor Jeff and Dick Duncan will be pleased to give you more information about SAS, and we will be grateful for your questions and possible participation.

The Stewardship Team

Faith Community Nursing

New Faith Community Nurse!

Please welcome Karen Crabbe as Grace’s newest Faith Community Nurse. The Congregation Council approved her application on August 13th.

Heat-Related Health

Heat-related deaths and illnesses are preventable, but it’s important to identify the warning signs and to react swiftly and appropriately when they arise. Heat exhaus-

tion is the precursor to heatstroke and is a direct result of the body overheating. These symptoms may develop over time or come on suddenly, especially during or following periods of prolonged exercise.

In the case of heatstroke, seeking medical attention is an absolute must. In addition to a high body temperature, the symptoms of heatstroke include altered mental state or behavior, nausea and vomiting, flushed skin, rapid breathing and racing heart

rate. Rehydration is key. Consume plenty of water and avoid beverages that contain alcohol, caffeine or high amounts of sugar, he said. Proactively hydrating will help keep the body at a safe temperature. "Drink more than what you think you should. "Once you start feeling thirsty, you’re actually dehydrated. So, you should be drinking to the point where you’re not feeling thirsty at all." - Ellen C. Duncan

Grace Gallery Update

Have you noticed the new "Grace Gallery" signs? 'Thank You' to Gary Neal for his beautiful handiwork. Be sure to walk through the halls to view out art. A new addition to our art displays: Melanie Wyatt's beautiful photographs on canvas hanging in Fellowship Hall. Melanie enjoys her hobby of photo-

graphing birds in many areas during her off time from her teaching profession. So, Grace art can be found in many areas of our campus. Butterflies in the Sanctuary, Birds and Butterflies in Fellowship Hall and, of course, paintings hanging in our gallery. And since Nancy Small has taken down some of her

artwork, we are calling upon people of Grace to consider displaying your art. If you wish to do so, please contact Phyllis Dumdie or Connie Puls.

Also, if you wish to purchase any of the art displayed, please let the artist know.

Thank You!

Many thanks for all the beautiful cards, flowers, prayers

and get well wishes sent my way. I feel grateful and

blessed to have such a caring church family! - Hilda Taylor

Prayer Chapel

Did you know there is a small group here at Grace who pray for one hour every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.? We use the prayer requests from Sunday's green communion slips. We pray for the sick, the sad and their care givers. We thank God for our daily Blessings.

We share our joys, individually and collectively as the Body of Christ. We use Luther's small prayer book. You are free to pray aloud or to just listen. No one will ask you for impromptu words of prayer. You can bring your favorite prayer and we will

make copies. So basically, we pray, listen, love and share. And you are invited to join us every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Come through the Office door. Cindy will let you in if you are keyless... - Deacon Connie Puls

Sunday Falco's Recent Activities

- Grace Lutheran Church is now listed on The Joy FM website in the selection of churches available for those looking for a Lutheran church in this area. The listing shows information for both of our services along with a picture of our beautiful sanctuary.
- Working with our various monthly renters through a good system each week helping with tables and chairs as we have events and church service.
- Hospitality and set-up is being provided on Sunday morning for the second service, as well as providing cookies for both services and organizing volunteers.
- Making appointments with people outside our congregation, walking them through the property, discussing prices, rules and times available.
- Managing cleaning people
- Setting up for congregation events when needed.
- Tasks specific to the Adaptive Service:
 - ◇ Talking with multiple assistant living facilities to set up regular outings to the Adaptive Service.
 - ◇ Talking with local newspapers. The Adaptive Service will soon be featured in the Tampa Bay Times!
- Talking with other venues for wedding receptions, etc. (When Grace Lutheran needs to refer to another venue for any reason.).
- Sunday Falco has a list of musicians, DJs, videographer, photographers and caterers if you need a reference.
- Updating the Church Website Calendar Daily. Stay Connected!

Regular Event Updates

Elizabeth Circle

Our Circle will start on September 26th from 1:00-3:00 PM. The 4th Thursday of the month is our regular schedule. We use the Garden Room and the "Gather" magazine, and will start with the September issue. If you want to join in, but don't have a subscription to "Gather," call me at 727-446-4091 and I will get a copy to you. All women are invited. We have coffee and dessert and I will start the dessert rotation in September. - Deacon Connie

Movie Time

Like to go to the movies? Come join us on Thursday, September 5th at 3:00 p.m. in the Highlander Room. This event takes place on the first Thursday of each month. Refreshments will be served. - Gary Neal

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 6:30 pm (location TBD).

Community Breakfast & Lydia's Closet

The Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet will be held on Saturday, **September 14th** at 9 am.

We are in desperate need of men's shorts for Lydia's Closet. We really don't need women's clothing right now but we have a big shortage of men's casual shorts, all sizes, and casual shirts. We had so many people last time, we ran out (What a great problem!)

Young at Heart

We will meet on Thursday, September 12th at 12:00 noon at Giovanni's restaurant. It is located between Alderman and Klosterman as you head north. The restaurant is in the Vista Hotel on the east (right) side, heading north. We have a private room. Please call me and let me know how many will be coming. Everyone is welcomed - friends, family, neighbors...

On Thursday, October 10th we will be meeting at Ozona Blue. The November meeting is still in the works but for December 12th we will be heading back to the Early Bird Dinner Theatre for their Holiday Play.... Should be fun
- Florence Bencivenga

Men of Grace

This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, September 5th.

September Book Club

We have selected another fiction book, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens for discussion on Sept 4th. The story takes place on the North Carolina coast in the early 1950's and covers about 20

years of a family survival in isolated marsh living. This book is a best seller now by Delia Owens.

We will continue our discussion on the book *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans, which

has been integrated into our Book Club discussions one chapter each month. We will discuss Chapter One in September. - Vicki Eis

September Birthdays

9/03	Rita Burneik	9/19	Osvaldo Granados
9/08	Karen Crabbe		Yvonne Hauschild
9/13	Gary Neal		Daniel Magee
9/17	Cathi Adams		Pastor Lydia Villaneuva
		9/20	Jan Cote
			Heather Grote
		9/22	Judy Ishida

Sept. Anniversaries

9/23 Barbara & Alan Wong

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the Prayer Chapel. Submit prayer requests through the Communion Record Sheets.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Linda Almond, Pastor Lou & Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Ralph Burson, Jean Schlegel, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Tom Stanziano, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (including 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 grandson. He had been redeployed to the Middle East.

-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.

-USCG Seaman Brennan Wells, Houston TX, nephew of Sunday Falco

-USCG Seaman Samuel Steward, Grand Isle, LA, nephew of Sunday Falco

- 25-year old Kyle Wassen has completed his 4-year commitment in the Navy. Kyle was on the U.S.S. Lake Erie in many waters of the world. On August 1, he comes home to Palm Harbor and will continue his college plans. Kyle's 'gramma' Connie Puls and his family Thank you for your prayers, cards, cookies and encouragement.

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

Piano Lessons Resume in September

Wendy Roth's Piano Lessons resume on Tuesday, September 3rd. Classes are available at 9:30 am and 4:30 pm. The Book Fee is \$25 (for beginners only). For more information see Grace's website www.GraceCLW.com or contact Wendy Roth through the Church Office.