

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD
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October - November 2023

CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13

I’m convinced that the best day to celebrate the Lutheran Reformation is October 31. That may seem obvious. After all, that is the anniversary of Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. But most of our churches will observe the Reformation on the Sunday October 29.

In worship you will be reminded of the events and truths of the Reformation. But the term “celebrate” speaks of our reaction to these truths. That celebration cannot be confined within the walls of our churches. That celebration needs to take place in our homes, in our schools, and at our places of work.

We have been “called to be free.” Paul was speaking about freedom from the Law of God. People were trying to convince the Galatian Christians that their salvation was dependent on their obedience. But we have been freed from the Law’s condemnation because Jesus became “a curse for us” (**Galatians 3:13**). This is a truth reclaimed in the Reformation. We are saved through faith in Christ Jesus apart from anything we do.

Do you celebrate that freedom at work? Is it evident to your coworkers that you know that you are forgiven? Or does the heavy load of guilt still cause your shoulders to stoop? Sometimes people joke about “Catholic guilt,” but Lutherans carry around plenty of guilt too. On Reformation Sunday, reclaim that freedom from guilt. Hear the announcement of forgiveness in Christ. Look at the baptismal font and see all your sins washed away. Taste and eat that forgiveness in the body and blood of your Savior.

Then watch the Spirit use you to model the joy of that freedom throughout the rest of the week. Let your confidence be evident. Because you are free from the Law’s condemnation, you know that God is with you. You know that God is working in you. You know that the future is bright because God is going to make everything work out for your good. This is all part of your freedom in Christ. The people around you desperately need to see you celebrate that you are free.

But Paul warned that we can misuse that freedom. “**Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.**” We have been freed from the fear of punishment so that we can become willing servants, servants of Christ and so also servants to our family, coworkers, and friends.

In the Lutheran Reformation the Church reclaimed what a good work really is. Your service as priests of God Most High isn't limited to things you do at church. Your priesthood as a Christian includes all that you do. The kindness you show toward a coworker is part of your celebration of the Reformation. Your commitment to carrying out the assignments your employer gives you is also a part of your celebration. Your faithfulness to Christ in your words and actions is part of your celebration.

We can celebrate the Lutheran Reformation in our churches. But the people who really need to see and understand the Reformation aren't going to be here on October 29. They are the people in our places of work, our schools, our homes.

Celebrate the Reformation by letting your confidence in Christ be evident. Celebrate the Reformation by serving others in love.

The Lord be with you,

Pastor David W. Hintz

FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Much has happened since our last Newsletter. In June, we welcomed Angie Haupenthal as our new part-time secretary, which is why we're starting our Newsletters again. Thanks Angie!

In July our organist, Paul Hegland, retired. We are continuing our search for an organist.

We are also in the process of contacting our in-active members and updating our membership rolls.

As we continue the Call Process, searching for the Pastor God wants for us, we thank Pastor Hintz for shepherding us through this. He has been with us for one full year on September 29th. God has blessed us.

As we, the congregation, journey through this challenging time we must remember that God is in charge, so we must keep faithful, stay in God's word and keep busy with the Lord's work as we are reminded by St. Paul.

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1Cor. 15:58

God's blessings,

Bill Galis

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat pad-dle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or de-ceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Je-hovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has giv-en to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Grace's Closet

This new project is off to a great start. With your donations we have raised \$250, which will go towards the elevator's fund. Thank you to everyone! New items keep coming in, keep looking! If there are items you would like to see in Grace's Closet, please put them in the suggestions box or the secretary's box.

ELEVATOR: As of August 31, 2023, the balance on our elevator loan stands at \$148,613.15. Thank you for your support and generosity!

PASTOR'S PHONE: To reach Pastor Hintz directly, please call his cell phone number, 920-227-7915. Thank you.

2023 FLOWER CHART is available for sign up in the narthex. The cost is \$27.00 for two bouquets. Please make your checks payable to "Grace Lutheran Church" and place them in the secretary's box in the Communication Center. Thank you

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KWIK TRIP & SPEEDWAY GAS CARDS are for sale before and after both services in the office equipment room. Grace gets 5% back on all cards. All proceeds benefit Grace. If you would like further information, please contact the church office.
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Looking for three Confirmation pictures

- 1- Class of 1997
- 2- Class of 2009
- 3- Class of 2015

If you have access to them, please contact our secretary. We would like to make a copy and put it up in the gallery.

Twelve Confirmation pictures have been recovered recently; but your help is now requested, please.

If you could peruse the gallery and see if you recognize any of the people in the pictures. If you do, please contact Angie (our Secretary) at 262-633-4831, or email her at gracelutheransecretary@yahoo.com

LUTHERAN HIGH HARVEST FAIR is back! Join us on Saturday, November 4, from 9 am-3pm at 251 Luedtke Ave. All proceeds directly benefit the students of Racine Lutheran High School.

Admission and parking are free, strollers are welcome, and the facility is handicap accessible. There will be various vendors and crafters to shop from, and Harvest Fair Food (Soup-Salad-Sandwich Bar) will be available for lunch. Come to shop. Come for Lunch. Come for fun!

We are also in need of volunteers to help make this day a great success. If you are interested in helping, please contact Darlene @ 262.498.8782 darlenegorkowski@yahoo.com or Krista @ 262.937.6538 klong@racinelutheran.org



FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

While it has been several months since our last newsletter, your Board of Parish Fellowship has continued to keep busy. Please make note of the following dates.

October

Ladies of Grace Luncheon will meet Friday, October 13th at 11:30 at Martha's Pancake House on Taylor Ave. Please contact Jane Kunstman or Linda Eaton if you'd like to attend.

Growing Strong with Grace will meet Wednesday, October 18th at 11:30 with a Pot Blessed Lunch in Fellowship Hall followed by Game Day.

Grace Craft and Chat Breakfast will meet Saturday, October 21st from 9-11. We will be making Fidget Blankets. Donations of wool, strings, buttons, zippers, buckles, bells, fabric in different textures, soft toys, squishy and squeaky items, key rings and beads may be placed near the suggestion box.

November

Ladies of Grace Luncheon will meet November 10th at 11:30. The location will be announced in our November Sunday bulletin.

Growing Strong with Grace will meet Wednesday, November 15th at 11:30 with a Pot Blessed Lunch in Fellowship Hall followed by Game Day.

Grace Craft and Chat will be hosting a Christmas cookie sale this year. The delivery of cookies will be Sunday, December 3rd. Please see your mail slot for order and volunteer forms. Please put the completed forms in mail slots 8, 84 or 121 no later than Sunday, November 12th. Funds raised by this project will support the Elevator Fund. Thank you.

Every Sunday morning, we offer Coffee Fellowship and Pastor's Bible Study after our Divine Service.

Respectfully,

Board of Parish Fellowship



October 13th at 11:30 – Ladies of Grace
(Martha's Pancake House on Taylor Ave)

October 18th at 11:30 – Growing Strong
with Grace and Game Day (pot bless)

October 21st at 9:00 – Ladies Craft & Chat
(bringing a dish is optional)

For everyone who has been born of
God overcomes the world. And this
is the victory that has overcome the
world—our faith. ~ 1 John 5:4

Coffee Fellowship after Service

A graphic for the month of November. It features the word "November" in a large, red, cursive font. Surrounding the text are various autumn-themed illustrations: a pumpkin, a basket of grapes, a sweater, a coffee cup, a sock, and several leaves.	<p><u>1 Chronicles 16:34</u></p> <p><i>O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.</i></p>
<p><i>November 10th at 11:30 – Ladies of Grace (check church bulletin for location)</i></p> <p><i>November 15th at 11:30 – Growing Strong With Grace Game Day (pot bless)</i></p> <p><i>November 18th at 9:00 – Grace Craft & Chat (bringing a dish is optional)</i></p>	