
October 2018

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The month of **November** brings the annual end of the Church Year (technically, it's December 1st this year), where the lectionary readings in church invite us to reflect on the End Times for a week or two before we jump into another season of Advent and the exciting and busy preparations for Christmas.

November this year also means that we are finally (*FINALLY!!*) going to be wrapping up our 3 year series of daily readings through the Bible. It's been a wonderful chance to read the whole Scriptures and taste the breadth and richness of God's Word to us. I know for me personally trying to preach through the whole Bible has been challenging and difficult at times – portions of Ezekiel and 2 Chronicles can be tough to digest. But I've also found it very rewarding, as it has forced me to know the history and theology of the Old Testament much better. I've found a deeper understanding of the continuity between the Old Testament and New, as so many themes that Jesus spoke about and Paul taught about were not really new at all – just Old Testament concepts given a fresh understanding in light of Christ.

All that being said, I think it's very fitting that our 3 year journey through the Bible wraps up in the book of **Psalms**. It's the largest book of the Bible (by chapters) and probably the most commonly known Old Testament one. It has so much to teach us about God – and at the same time so much we can relate to in which God's people pour out their hearts to Him in prayer and praise. It's a phenomenal book of real-life faith from real-life people.

What's also very fitting about reading Psalms this month is that so many of them are filled with **THANKSGIVING** to God. You'll notice as you read through them that as you get closer to the end of Psalms, more and more of them are filled with thanks and praise to God. The common refrain you'll hear again and again is "*Hallelujah*" – that well known Hebrew word that means "Praise the Lord." After all we've learned the past three years, after all the ways God has been good to us, after all the ways His Spirit has moved in us and strengthened our faith – what more perfect response than to praise the Lord and invite those around us to join in?!? Hallelujah indeed!!!

October Official Pastoral Acts:

- 4 sick/shut-in visits
- 5 private communions
- 1 pastoral care visit
- 6 leadership meetings
- 7 family visitations
- 5 circuit visitor activities
- 2 evangelism contacts

On Wednesday, November 21st we'll have our annual **Thanksgiving Eve service** at 7 pm at Grace, which affords us the opportunity to sing some familiar songs of praise and mark the annual holiday by praising Him from whom all blessings flow. Again this year during the service we will be taking a free-will offering of canned food items to be donated to the local Oberlin Community Services Center for those in need.

This month the Sunday morning Adult Bible Class continues studying **Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Conflict Resolution** – especially within personal relationships. Everyone's invited to join us on Sundays after worship in the hallway classroom.

An updated **Prayer Chain** has been completed. It includes both a phone and email list. If you'd like to be added to either – or if you have ever a prayer request - please contact Jan Koepp at 440-935-4287.

Looking ahead:

Normally **Advent begins** the first Sunday after Thanksgiving – and we jump right into the midweek Advent services. This year with how the calendar falls, Advent doesn't actually begin until December 2nd, and the first midweek Advent service isn't until **December 5th**.

For **Christmas Eve** we are tentatively planning on having only one candlelight service at 7:00 pm that evening.

The **Redeemer Crises Center** in Cleveland is in need of volunteers! You can find out more about this Lutheran ministry on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. They are looking for a trustee or website person to be added to their Advisory Board. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Pastor Josh.

You can pick up your **2019 Offering Envelopes** in the Fellowship Hall. Alongside them are several **dishes** that were left behind following this year's Rummage & Bake Sale. Please pick up your dishes.

40-month term note at 4.00%

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund is offering for a limited time a 40-month term note at 4.00% interest. Your investments with LCEF help make ministry happen throughout the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The benefits and features of this offering are:

- 4% fixed rate
- \$500 minimum to open an account
- 40-month term note
- \$40,000 maximum per note
- Limit one per tax ID
- New money only
- Open to congregation and all members of the congregation
- Once \$100 million has been invested the offering will end

Call 800-843-5233 to learn more or visit lcef.org/40month

November Birthdays

James Feddeck	11/10
Cole Sklarek	11/13
Verna Bremke	11/17
Harriett Thomas	11/21
Fred Feddeck	11/22

November Anniversaries

Myron & Verna Bremke	11/15
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* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

Altar Guild News

We are still looking to add a few new members to our team. If you are interested in serving on Altar Guild please contact Robin Turnbull.

Serving in September: Kathy Knipper

~ Robin

Lutheran Women's Mission League News

Coffee Hour in November:

- 4 Harriett Thomas
- 11 Giovanna Bremke
- 18 Jen Jones
- 25 Lori Izold

Needed: a host for the Free Community Hot Meal on November 17. We have a turkey that can be roasted. If you would like to help let Carolyn know asap. December also is still open for a host.

LWL News. Our fall rummage sale once again was successful. A meeting will be held on November 8th to discuss distribution of our profit. We thank all those who donated for the bake sale. However: there are empty dishes left behind. The dishes are located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. PLEASE PICK YOUR DISH UP AND RETURN IT TO YOUR KITCHEN BEFORE IT IS RELOCATED IN GLC KITCHEN.

The mitten tree will be up November 10. Mittens, gloves, scarves of all colors and sizes (children, men, and women) are needed for the less fortunate families in the Oberlin area. Please bring your items and hang them on the Christmas tree located in the small fellowship hall by December 2. Oberlin Community Service Center would like them by December 6 in order to distribute them on December 7. The Oberlin Community Service Center serves all of Lorain County residents.

Coffee Hour and Community Free Dinner schedules will automatically be assigned by the end of November for the 2019 year. If you have a preference on when you would like to host one or both events please let Carolyn know as soon as possible. Signup sheets will be posted the middle of December for oil and bulletin donations. Unfortunately, we have lost a few persons who hosted coffee hour several times a year. Because of that we need more volunteers to help. Please don't be shy, help.

LADIES PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays our monthly breakfast date has been put on hold. . In January we will be back to our normal breakfasts on the fourth Thursday of the month (January 24).

Carolyn Husted

Evangelism Report

The Mission of the Month for September was **A Dollar for Missions**, an outreach project of the English District sometimes simply called **1+1+1**. (One dollar, per member, per week = 1+1+1!) At the September Voters' Meeting the congregation agreed to support and begin this project here at Grace. We are beginning this project on the first Sunday in November – which is All Saints Day. Everyone is encouraged to participate. It's not meant to take away from your tithing or regular giving to Grace. It's just one dollar a week, over and beyond what you would normally give, that will be sent completely and directly to two mission projects (starting a new mission congregation in Lebanon, Pennsylvania AND supporting the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission in Santiago, Dominican Republic).

The Mission of the Month for November is the **Oberlin Community Services Center**. Located right here in Oberlin they do wonderful work helping those in need in terms of food, clothing, transportation, bills, education, community outreach, and so much more. You can find out more by reading through their colorful annual report found by the church mailboxes or by clicking on <https://www.oberlincommunityservices.org>. You can support OCS by donated non-perishable food items (at our Thanksgiving Service or any time in the church narthex), helping deliver food boxes the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2 pm, or helping with the food distribution the 3rd Saturday of every month at the center. Talk to Pastor Josh or the OCS for more information!

DID YOU KNOW!

According to a recent article in the Chronicle, the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population is people age 60 and older. Currently about 65 million people in the US are that age! Elder Abuse affects approximately 5 million people in this country each year causing untold injury, illness, and suffering for the victims and those who care for and about them. While most of us are familiar with required reporting in cases of suspected child abuse, mandatory reporting for suspected elder abuse is not so well known. In September 2018, the Ohio law that states that persons who hold certain occupations are required to report suspected cases of elder abuse was expanded, making many occupations that have direct contact with seniors "mandatory reporters." So what does that mean? Any person in an affected occupation who has "reasonable cause to believe that an adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, or is in a condition which is the result of abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall immediately report such belief to the county department of jobs and family services." Elder abuse includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse as well as neglect (including self-neglect), abandonment and financial exploitation. It may be intentional or unintentional.

For many years, healthcare workers, social workers and counselors, doctors, therapists, residential facility personnel, police, clergy and others have been mandatory reporters. Recently added to the list are Attorneys, Pharmacists, health department personnel, dialysis technicians, firefighters, first responders, real estate brokers, notary publics, employees of banks & credit unions, investment advisors and financial planners. Mandatory reporter or not, **anyone** with reasonable suspicion of abuse should report it to the Lorain County Adult Protective Services in writing or by calling 440-284-4465. There are certain immunities from civil or criminal liability for any person who has reasonable cause to report abuse. Reporting can be done anonymously.

It's the right thing to do!

Daily Bible Readings

Nov. 1	-	Obadiah	Nov. 17	-	Psalm 127-129
Nov. 2	-	Psalm 112-113	Nov. 18	-	Psalm 130-131
Nov. 3	-	Psalm 114-115	Nov. 19	-	Psalm 132-133
Nov. 4	-	Psalm 116	Nov. 20	-	Psalm 134-135
Nov. 5	-	Psalm 117-118	Nov. 21	-	Psalm 136
Nov. 6	-	Psalm 119:1-24	Nov. 22	-	Psalm 137-138
Nov. 7	-	Psalm 119:25-48	Nov. 23	-	Psalm 139-140
Nov. 8	-	Psalm 119:49-72	Nov. 24	-	Psalm 141-142
Nov. 9	-	Psalm 119:73-88	Nov. 25	-	Psalm 143
Nov. 10	-	Ps. 119:89-104	Nov. 26	-	Psalm 144
Nov. 11	-	Ps. 119:105-120	Nov. 27	-	Psalm 145
Nov. 12	-	Ps. 119:121-152	Nov. 28	-	Psalm 146
Nov. 13	-	Ps. 119:153-176	Nov. 29	-	Psalm 147
Nov. 14	-	Psalm 120-121	Nov. 30	-	Psalm 148
Nov. 15	-	Psalm 122-124	Dec. 1	-	Psalm 149-150
Nov. 16	-	Psalm 125-126			

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	2	3
4 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	5	6 • Council's Meeting 7 pm	7 • Elder's Meeting 7 pm	8 • LWML Meeting 7 pm	9	10
11 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	12	13	14	15 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	16	17 • Free Hot Meal 5 pm
18 • Worship 10 am • Voter's Meeting 11:40 am	19	20 • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm	21 • Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm	22 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	23	24
25 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	26	27	28	29	30	

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Dec. 2: Advent Season Begins
- Dec. 2: Items for Mitten Tree Due
- Dec. 5, 12, 19: Soup & Sandwich Meal 6 pm, Advent Services 7 pm
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service 7 pm