

October
2017

St. John Lutheran Church



St. John Lutheran Church
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Picture Perfect Grace

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8)*

Dear friends in Christ,

With the grace filled readings we have had in worship the past few weeks that have been about all that God is up to, not us, and our upcoming discipleship and stewardship emphasis "**Giving in Grace**" kicking off on October 8th, you might say my mind has been resonating with "grace." The title of the former Lutheran radio program hosted by Peter Marty, "Grace Matters" popped into my head. Grace, God's grace, really does matter - a lot.

It was this comprehension of God's gift of grace that sparked the reformation we celebrate. It was by reading Romans 1:17 that Brother Martin Luther realized that it is through the righteousness of God, not our own righteousness that we are saved. That this is a gift we receive through faith. And even faith itself is a gift of God's grace as we confess in Luther's Small Catechism, "that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him..." It is only by the Holy Spirit we are called, through the gospel, a gift from God.

God continually forgives, God redeems, God claims us as God's own, God provides enough to sustain the world - all as gracious gifts. God loves, and invites us to live out our lives surrounded by this graciousness. What would it look like if we lived our lives as if "Grace Matters"? If we took seriously the reality "Giving in Grace" and lived a life in response to our giftedness? Paul continues on in Ephesians from the verse quoted above to say in verse ten, "*For we are ...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*"

I would like to suggest we begin "**Living in Grace**". Taking time to notice all the ways we receive grace from people we encounter, or offer it up to others as a part of our daily lives. Discern and remember the "grace moments" of your day, the times when you experienced this Godly gift in the midst of your busy, broken day or shared that grace. If you can, take a picture of these grace moments. Print the pictures and write a short caption and we will hang them in the church for all to see under the title "Living in Grace."

I look forward to this sharing of grace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

Mission Statement

St. John is a living witness to the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ.

We gather faithfully in His name to worship and praise Him; and we go forth in peace to share the Good News and to serve the world around us.

First We Give of Ourselves

A Three Year Discipleship Journey

2017: Giving In Grace



This fall our family at St. John embarks on a three-year journey that we are calling ***“First, We Give of Ourselves.”*** Together we will explore discipleship and how we can grow in sharing gifts for ministry. On Sunday, October 8th, we will have our Kick-Off Sunday for ***“Giving in Grace”*** the first year emphasis. In the weeks following our kickoff there will be a *sermon series* on living in grace, and weekly faith sharing *temple talks*. You will be invited to participate in weekly *Bible Study*, a *Growth in Giving Soup Lunch on October 22nd* following worship, and surround this congregational journey in your *prayers*. We will wrap up this year’s emphasis on November 19th with a *combined Celebration Worship service at 10:00 am* and luncheon.

Timeline of Events

Tuesday:	October 3	Vestry Growth in Giving Gathering
Sunday	October 8	<u>Giving in Grace Kick off Sunday</u>
Sunday	October 15	Giving in Grace Bible Study during Sunday School
Wednesday	October 18	Giving in Grace Bible Study at noon
Thursday	October 19	Giving in Grace Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	October 22	Giving in Grace Bible Study during Sunday School <u>Soup Luncheon & Growth in Giving Gathering</u>
Wednesday	October 25	Giving in Grace Bible Study at noon
Thursday	October 26	Giving in Grace Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	October 29	Reformation Sunday Luther & the Reformation film during Sunday School
Wednesday	November 1	Reformation Study at noon
Thursday	November 2	Luther & the Reformation film 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	November 5	All Saints Sunday & Confirmation Giving in Grace Bible Study during Sunday School
Wednesday	November 8	Giving in Grace Bible Study at noon
Thursday	November 9	Giving in Grace Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	November 12	Giving in Grace Bible Study during Sunday School
Wednesday	November 15	Giving in Grace Bible Study at noon
Thursday	November 16	Giving in Grace Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	November 19	<u>Celebration & Commitment Sunday-</u> One service <u>10:00 am</u> Thank-You Luncheon after worship in fellowship hall



Weekly Spoken Morning Prayer Wednesdays – 11:30 am

Currently, Pastor Zimmerman leads a liturgy of Morning Prayer in the sanctuary at 11:30 am on Wednesdays before the brown bag bible study. A feature of this contemplative time of worship is an opportunity to weekly pray together the entire prayer list as found in the bulletin each week, along with other prayer requests.

All are invited to come and participate, whether or not you stay for lunch and bible study. If you have joys or concerns you wish lifted up in prayer, but are unable to attend, please email them to pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org.



Six Week Revelation Bible Study

Two Separate Days & Times

Ever wonder about the Book of Revelation and the “end times?” Revelation is a book of the bible that seems to intimidate or confuse a lot of people. What is often misunderstood as a fearful ending, is the hope-filled promise of a new beginning.

A six-session study will explore this difficult book and compare what is really there next to popular interpretations of the end times.

Join Pastor Zimmerman on **Wednesdays at noon or Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm**. We will meet in the fellowship hall so children can play in the nursery either time/day.

Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, October 1

Between services

Join us as we come together for good food and good company.

All are welcome!

Food Bank Sunday – Second Sunday of each month.

Sunday School Project

October 1 Project – Greeting Card Basket



We have chosen Light of Life Rescue Mission for our Sunday School offering for this year. Along with the offering, we are going to do a service project on the first Sunday of each month beginning in October. Light of Life has provided us with a list of things that are needed and we have chosen one for each month. **October 1 project is a Greeting Card Basket.** We ask that you contribute cards and we will make up the basket. Help provide encouragement by donating the following types of cards: "Thinking of You," "Happy Birthday," "Get Well Soon," "Sympathy," or "Blank Inside."



- October 7 Assist with Bowling League at St. John Specialty Care Center – meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.**
October 14 Kennywood Phantom Fright Night with MUP
We can preorder tickets for \$26 or pay \$33 at the gate. Will leave MUP at 5 pm and be back by midnight. There will be a sign-up sheet in the greeting area.
- November 4 Assist with Bowling at St. John Specialty Care Center – Meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.**
November 18 World Vision Service Project - Leave St. John at 8:30 am.
December 3 Assist with Bowling League at St. John Specialty Care Center – meet in lobby at 1:45 pm.

Don't forget Lifelong Learning with Ms. Tully on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am!

Mars Applefest

Saturday, October 7, 2017



St. John's will have two booths at Applefest this year – a craft booth and a food booth. If you would like to volunteer to assist in either booth, contact Tanya Nagel or Kim Richards.

We are asking for monetary donations to be used towards craft supplies, cabbage, noodles and bottled water.



Kid's Club – October 27

6:30-8:00 pm

Come and join us!

Our Kid's Club program at St. John is for kids age 4-10 (or if they attend Sunday School). We will have music, stories, games, free play, a craft to take home and a snack. Come and join us! If you have any questions, please speak to Tanya Nagel, Sally Foster or Denise Hager.



Book Group

Ladies Book Group

October 18 – 7:00-8:00 pm

Meetings are in the 'living room' section of the Fellowship Hall if you would like to join us. Contact Sally or Denise for upcoming book selections!

Quilting Group

October 2 – 6:00 pm

Are you interested in quilting or would you like to learn?
For this month only we will meet on the first Monday of the month.
Our normal schedule is to meet on the second Monday of each month.

The quilts made by the group are sent to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed. If you are interested or would like to know more, join us!



Martin Luther (the movie)

October 15 – 5:30 pm

Strand Theater

Zelienople, PA

In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, English Lutheran Church in Zelienople will present the movie, **Martin Luther**. Seating is limited to 250.

Tickets may be ordered by emailing: maxwelljk6500@gmail.com. Tickets will be emailed to you. Donations accepted.



Our prayers and sympathies go to the family of Raymond Hackworth who died on September 25th. Geneva and Ray would have celebrated their 61st anniversary on October 13th. *O Lord, receive him into your everlasting arms and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen*

Our Harvest of Blessings

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. --1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Doesn't fall give your spirit a boost when you see the colorful fruits and vegetables in the farm stands and supermarkets? Orange pumpkins, red apples, green squash, yellow corn and purple eggplants are all tasty reminders of God's abundance.

We bear in mind that although the farmers grow the harvest by carefully preparing the soil and planting in spring, then watering and nourishing all summer, it's God that produces the life in the seeds that sprout into fruitful plants. Farmers *manage* God's order of life by providing the ideal conditions for plants to grow abundantly. Yes, the plants would grow and produce fruit and vegetables if left wild, but their yield would not be as plentiful. The attentive, skillful work of farmers in cooperation with God's design for life ensures a harvest of plenty for all.

Fall harvest provides a wonderful metaphor for how we are stewards of all the blessings that God gives us. We know that God has given us wonderful, amazing gifts, such as family, community, church, health, intelligence, time, and relationships. And we also know that we are responsible for caring for them and working hard to provide the ideal conditions under which they will benefit ourselves, our families and our communities.

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Luther Film: Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation



This Reformation Sunday we will be celebrating the 500th year since in 1517 the German monk Martin Luther collected 95 points to begin discussion about the corruption of the medieval Church. He then nailed his famous "95 Theses" to the door of his hometown church in Wittenberg; kicking off the most important religious event of the last millennium—the Protestant Reformation. As part of this celebration we will be showing a PBS television special, *Rick*

Steves' Luther and the Reformation during the 9:00 am Sunday School hour on October 29th and again on Thursday evening November 1st at 7:00 pm. The film, made by travel expert and lifelong Lutheran, Rick Steves, helps those interested understand the whats, hows, and whys of this historic part of church and global history. Join in the celebration with this informative and entertaining look at our Lutheran roots.



Communion Bread Schedule

October – Denise Hager
November – Denise Hager
Counters for October
Katie Niklewicz & Kelly Greb

10/06 Rozlyn Ludloff
10/11 Marlene Strabel
10/17 Ruth Bielo
10/20 Melissa Kramer
10/22 Bob Davidson
10/22 Amy Adams
10/24 Kim Richards
10/26 Carol Zimmerman
10/27 Denise Julio
10/30 Karen Schulz



10/02 – Francis & Grace Kratz – 69 yrs.
10/10 – Robert & Christine Dishong – 19 yrs.
10/13 – David & Ellen Hrach – 16 yrs.
10/17 – Frederick & Susan Bielo – 30 yrs.
10/20 – Jim & Denise Hager – 38 yrs.
10/22 – Chuck & Ann Olescyski – 51 yrs.
10/25 – Reed & Kim Richards – 14 yrs.
10/31 – James & Kathleen Marshall – 47 yrs.

October

Worship Helpers

Please check the bulletin board in the church office for the new sign-up sheet for all worship helpers for each Sunday for the remainder of the year.

Assisting Minister

8:00 am Dave Knauff
10:30 am Sally Foster

Usher

8:00 am Todd Niklewicz
10:30 am Leikauf's

Communion Assistants

8:00 am
10:30 am Valerie Cardinal

October Newsletter

Address service requested

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