

The Pipeliner  
of  
Grace Lutheran Church  
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## Pastor's corner:

### "The Home He Promises"

Things are getting better. Things are getting somewhat back to normal. The power is back on and the Wi-Fi and cable TV are working. Our favorite restaurants are opening back up and the kids are back in school. Your house is being repaired. This brings us no small amount of relief, joy and happiness. As Christians we are daily giving thanks to God for the restoration of these material blessings. This is right and good to do.

Yet please keep in mind that none of this is the restoration that God promises. A storm, a financial meltdown, a war, a pandemic—any number of man-made or natural disasters could come along tomorrow and destroy your home and devastate this recovery, but God's promise of restoration would still stand.

God spoke these words through Moses just before the people Israel entered the Promised Land: *"And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you."* (Deuteronomy 30:1-3)

Though Israel was soon to receive all the material blessings of a new home in the covenant land promised to Abraham, Yahweh was already speaking of His ultimate restoration after the people had lost that home due to their sin of idolatry. And He wasn't speaking of the return from the 70-year exile in Babylon. He wasn't speaking of the nation of Israel we know today at the east end of the Mediterranean Sea. He was speaking of the Last Day, when the risen and reigning Christ will gather all of His people together from the sleep of death and into His glorious forever kingdom.

The Promised Land was a good gift to Israel, but ultimately, they lost it. Your life and home here in South Louisiana is a good gift from God, but ultimately everything you rebuild after Ida will be lost to you in the sleep of death. This would be very depressing news were it not for your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yet in Christ, true restoration is a certainty; restoration not of homes and businesses and restaurants and activities, but restoration to the perfect presence of God almighty. The body that dies to this world and leaves all its stuff behind will be raised and rejoined to its eternal soul and live in a perfect relationship with Christ forever.

So yeah, give thanks to God for your house and all the nice stuff of life getting back to normal after Ida. But keep your eye on the true prize. Remember that Jesus spoke of this world's end and said, *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* (Luke 21:27-28)

In that day all who love Christ will know what true restoration really is. It's not the stuff of this world. It's what God really promises in the beloved Psalm—You shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

—Pastor Rich

## Lectionary Readings:

November 7, 2021—All Saints' Day (Observed) (White)  
Revelation 7:9-17, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

November 14, 2021—Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Green)  
Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-13

November 21, 2021—Last Sunday of the Church Year (Green)  
Isaiah 51:4-6, Jude 20-25, Mark 13:24-37

November 28, 2021—First Sunday in Advent (Blue)  
Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 19:28-40

## 2021 Board of Directors

President: Brandy Lirette  
Vice-President: Jerrie Fitzgerald  
Board Secretary: Bridgette Rudnik  
Financial Secretary: Bonnie Dupre  
Treasurer: Lisa Giroir  
Activities Chair: Open  
Christian Ed. Chair: Open  
Social Ministry Chair: Open  
Stewardship Chair: Kim Cape  
Property Chair: Dale Boger  
Mission Outreach Chair: Open

## 2022 Board of Directors And Elders

Now is the time to start thinking about serving as a member of the Board of Directors or elder for 2022. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself. Grace needs you! Currently all positions are open for nominations. Please prayerfully consider how you can help the Lord's work by volunteering to serve as a candidate for an elected position.

## 2021 Elders

Derek Crawford, Joey Souther, John Wegner and Joe Deane

December 2021 Newsletter articles should be turned in to Lisa by  
Tuesday, November 23rd. You may email these to [secretary@gracehouma.org](mailto:secretary@gracehouma.org)

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter article - November 2021

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need - and stuff we think we need - and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe - 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving - that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give - however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so - He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them - the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

#### Hurricane Recovery Committee Forming

The great damage caused to our facility by Hurricane Ida has led to the complicated process of dealing with insurance, contractors, FEMA, the SBA and other entities. To date Pastor Rich has been handling most of this on his own. GLC is forming a Hurricane Recovery Committee in order to keep more sets of eyes on all that is happening and relieve Pastor Rich of some of the clerical work. Please consider volunteering, especially if you have experience in finance or insurance.

Email [pastor@gracehouma.org](mailto:pastor@gracehouma.org) with will willingness to assist.

#### In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Andrea Dupre, Angelo Michel, Belinda Thibodaux, Burt Hebert, Hunter Moore, Mary Deane, PC Cummins, Tina Williams & William Bruce Hillman Jr.

BATTLING CANCER: Cindy Gorham, Georgette Savoie, Jay Cruse, John Adams, Karen Curtis, Kevin Smith, Nan Ashley Hebert, Penny Emling & Ursula Breaux

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Brian Hoover, Camile Adams, Cindy Deane, Connie Oswald, Edna Marie Sevin, Helen Hoover, Jackie Webb, Kim Cape, Lisa Ledet, Rana DaSilva Moise, Richard LaCour, Sue Ackett & Virginia Cunningham

MOURNING A LOSS: the family of Billy Palmer, Bobby Torbert, Gordon Fitzgerald, Harold Lebeouf & Ken Broussard.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Amye Jakob & Stephen Carl Jakob, Jacey Corbitt & baby Corbitt, Kara Trahan & baby Trahan and Lori Prugh & baby Prugh.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Andrew Winn, Haily Crawford, Heather Darce, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Matthew Spolarich, Natalie Turcott, Nigel Koorie, Todd Mueller, Tom Hemminger, Victoria Shroyer & Zhain Shroyer

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Adriana Vitrano, Allen Trahan, Annie Reaves, Armand Erhart, Blayne Barras, Brandon Cinnater, Brooks Thomas, Emma Thomas, Donovan Domangue, Fielden Baker, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Cuneo, Harleigh Dahl, Isabella Appenzeller, Jared Moise, Karly Kyzar, Madeleine Boudreaux, Peyton Kraus, Ross Reaves, Sophia Miller & Victoria Thalheim

#### Grace's Mission

***Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness,  
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship***



Building One Body in Christ Through Worship, Witness, Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship

# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Pentecost XXIII</b> Worship 9am/Mite Box MG Baked Goods follow SS for all ages 10:45am Presley Spolarich BA	Bailee Giroir BD Ricky Reaves BD <b>Deuteronomy 23-25</b>	<b>Bible Study 1:00pm</b> Billy Sam McDonald BD <b>Nehemiah 5-9</b> Board of Directors 11:30am <b>Bible Study 1:00pm</b>	Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm <b>Psalms 140-142</b>	B. Weber & J. Greene BD Dave Greve BA Jesse McDonald BA D. & J. Greene W <b>Song of Solomon 1-2</b> <b>Veterans Day</b>	Satin Ursery BD D. & G. Akins W <b>Revelation 1-6</b>	Thibodaux Outreach 5pm St. John's Episcopal Jared Gouaux BD <b>Acts 21-22</b>
<b>Pentecost XXIV</b> Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:45am <b>I John 4-5</b>	Deuteronomy 26-28 15	<b>Nehemiah 10-13</b> <b>Bible Study 1:00pm</b> David Greene BD J. & B. Vogel W <b>Esther 1-5</b>	Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm <b>Psalms 143-145</b>	Confirmation 4:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm <b>Song of Solomon 3-4</b> J. & A. Hillman W <b>Revelation 7-11</b>	J. & A. Hillman W <b>Revelation 7-11</b>	Michael Burke BD <b>Acts 23-24</b>
<b>Christ the King</b> Worship 9am baked goods follow <b>II John</b>	Deuteronomy 29-31 22	<b>Bible Study 1:00pm</b> David Greene BD J. & B. Vogel W <b>Esther 1-5</b> Pipeliner Articles Due	Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm <b>Psalms 146-148</b>	A. Carey & A. Vitrano BD Audra Kraus BA Michael Thalheim BA Victoria Thalheim BA <b>Song of Solomon 5-6</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>Revelation 12-17</b>	Gwen Armstrong BD <b>Acts 25-26</b>
<b>Potluck Lunch 12pm</b> Followed by greening of church Henry Stegall BD <b>III John</b>	Patsy Wegner BA Deuteronomy 32-34 23	David Greene BA Pastor Rich on vacation Jennifer Vogel BA <b>Psalms 149-150</b>	Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed Donna VonBurgsdorff BD Peyton Kraus BA J. & C. Bush W <b>Song of Solomon 7-8</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Church Office Closed Mary Lou Johnston BA R. & D. Reaves W <b>Revelation 18-22</b>	<b>Revelation 12-17</b>	27
<b>Advent I</b> Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:45am Sara Greve BD Jacob Moise BD L. & M. Harding W <b>Jude</b>	St. Andrew, Apostle Alec Cunningham BD Charlene Shroyer BD Chelsea Trosclair BD Gwen Armstrong BA <b>Genesis 1-3</b>	29	24	25	26	28

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BD= Birthday  
 BA=Baptismal  
 Anniversary

W= Wedding