

The Pipeliner
of
Grace Lutheran Church
422 Valhi Blvd.
Houma, LA 70360
Pastor Rich Rudnik
Phone: 985-879-1865
Fax: 985-879-1833
Email:
secretary@gracehouma.org
Web Page:
<http://www.gracehouma.org/>



Pastor's corner:

Remembering Shame

When discussing the modern welfare state, I've found it common to hear this complaint: "People used to be ashamed of begging and receiving charity, but now they think they are entitled to it." There is some truth to that statement, for some if not for others. But the shock in the statement stems from a perceived lack of shame in people.

I wonder if a similar statement might be made about Christians and their sin. Think about that. What emotions follow when you admit, "I have sinned"?

I'm just going to assume we all say this in our prayers on a regular basis. If the only time you confess your sins is on a Sunday morning in the Divine Service, then you aren't taking them very seriously and need to pray the Holy Spirit work mightily in your life.

But what follows our personal confession of sins? After years and years of sinning the same old sins, is it possible that we begin to lose our shame? Does the admission of being a "poor, miserable sinner" become more an acceptance of our state of being rather than a humiliation before our righteous God? Do we lose the disgrace and embarrassment and begin coming to God feeling somewhat entitled to His forgiveness rather than desperately begging for what we don't deserve?

I fear this is one of the ways Satan and our sinful flesh tempt us to become cold toward God. We don't deny our sin, we just stop taking it so seriously. We repent with our mouths, but our hearts are willing to make accommodations. We go through the motions of confession, but in practice we don't really work on turning from our sins and growing in holiness. And the end result is that we have no shame, but become more and more comfortable with the darkness of the world.

St. John writes, *"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

This is great Gospel news—Jesus cleanses us from all sin! But note that this confession of sins necessarily recognizes the darkness of sin. Sin cannot be a light thing for us to bear. That's like saying the poison you've ingested just isn't all that deadly. It's denial and deceiving one's self and puts your eternal soul at jeopardy. *"If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* If we're not ashamed of our sin, we're embracing it instead of Christ Jesus.

What puts us at this risk? Thinking about ourselves rather than about our Savior. If you want to see your sin for what it is, ponder Jesus. Read the story of His Passion in your Bible. Consider how serious He thought your sin, that He was willing to suffer and die to remove it from you. Consider how offensive it is to Him that you would now make it a light thing when it had to be washed away by His blood. Consider how weighty it must be, that it could drag you away from Christ's eternal love if you're still wearing it on the Day of Judgment. See how disgraceful your wickedness truly is.

Sin is dark, heavy, abhorrent to the Righteous God and something of which to be deeply, deeply ashamed before God. But take heart! You stand baptized into the death and resurrection of the righteous Christ that kills you to sin and raises you to God. You are a child of light.

Every day see what is truly dark—the fatal stain of sin on your soul. Confess it. Repent of it. Be cleansed of it. And by God's grace in Christ, walk in His holy light.

Lectionary Readings:

June 6, 2021—Second Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Genesis 3:8-15, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35

June 13, 2021—Third Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Ezekiel 17:22-24, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Mark 4:26-34

June 20, 2021—Fourth Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Job 38:1-11, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

June 27, 2021—Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Green)

Lamentations 3:22-33, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15, Mark 5:21-43

2021 Board of Directors

President: Brandy Lirette
Financial Secretary: Bonnie Dupre
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Property Chair: Dale Boger

Vice-President: Jerrie Fitzgerald
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Social Ministry Chair: OPEN
Mission Outreach Chair: OPEN

Board Secretary: Bridgette Rudnik
Activities Chair: OPEN
Stewardship Chair: Kim Cape

2021 Elders

Derek Crawford, Gordon Fitzgerald, Joey Souther, John Wegner and Joe Deane

August 2021 Newsletter articles should be turned in to Lisa by
Thursday, July 22nd. You may email these to secretary@gracehouma.org

Prayer for Our Nation...

Kneeling before You, Jesus, we ask You to embolden us to carry Your saving message to the cities where we live. We call on You for our nation- to heal our land. Confuse and destroy the plans of those who are not governing honestly or with integrity. Grant us courage to carry out Your Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, and eventually, bring us to heaven with You. Amen.

Portals of Prayer July- September 2021

Prayer List in Bulletin

June 30th marked the end of the quarter and we are attempting to clean up the prayer request list in the bulletin. If you wish a request to remain in the bulletin, please let the office know via email to secretary@gracehouma.org or by dropping a note at the church office or by calling (985) 879-1865. On behalf of all those who benefit from your faithful prayers, thank you and thanks be to God.

Rummage Sale Volunteers Needed

Calling all rummage sale enthusiasts! We are in need of volunteers to help with our rummage sale scheduled for July 24th—from 6AM To 11AM.

We will also need help with setup prior to the sale with sorting, pricing and placement on tables. Our first day of pricing and sorting will be Monday, July 5th starting at noon. All other work dates are on the calendar attached.

If you can help on the day of the sale, please let either Lisa Giroir or Bonnie Dupre know.

Proceeds from this sale are designated to offset the cost of the cement tables and chairs in our new rock garden.

Amazon Shopping

- Do You Shop On Amazon.com? Smile!
- If you type "smile" before amazon.com in your URL address bar you will be able to support Grace Lutheran Church when you shop! By using the Amazon Smile program you can shop as usual, but a small percentage of all of your purchases will go to support Grace Lutheran Church after you set us up as your preferred charity. Please make a point to set this up and then always "smile" when you shop Amazon.com.

4th of July Celebration

Join us on Sunday, July 4th. We will be celebrating the fourth of July with our church family beginning at 12pm.

This is a perfect time to invite your family and friends.

We will provide the burgers, hotdogs and drinks. We will start grilling hamburgers and hotdogs once Sunday School is finished. We ask that each family bring a side dish or dessert. You are welcome to bring your favorite board game as well.

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Billy Palmer, Charles Beasley, Holly Prugh, Hunter Moore, Julie Damen, Marabelle Leggett, Margret Cuccia, Mary Deane & Virginia Cunningham

BATTLING CANCER: Cindy Gorham, Jay Cruse, John Adams, Nan Ashley Hebert & Penny Emling

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Bobby Torbert, 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

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of Barbara Reaves, Jan Crawford, Jo Lowman, Ken Broussard, Landon Eschete, Mary Joe Mueller, Miriam Mix, Tammie Hahn & Wayne Jackson.

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, Gage V. Romano, 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 Vitano, 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, Lauren Boudreaux, 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**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article- July 2021

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties - the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness - a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.


Vacation Bible School 2021 Rainforest Explorers— Jesus Leads the Way.

Our Rainforest Explorers VBS will be July 25th through July 29th. We are looking for volunteers. The sign up sheets for children on the table in the narthex. Contact Lisa Giroir at 337-501-0234 for more information.



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

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center 422 Valhi Boulevard Houma, LA. 70360 985-879-1885 / 1833 (fax) secretary@gracehouma.org www.gracehouma.org</p>  <p>BD= Birthday BA=Baptismal Anniversary W=Wedding Anniversary</p>						
Pentecost VI Worship 9am/Food Bank Youth Biscuits follow Sunday School 10:45am GLC 4th of July Picnic 12pm-4pm In FH Rachel Reeves BD I Theocallionians 4-6	5 Rummage Sale Heavy Lift work 9am Pricing & Sorting 12pm-3pm Jennifer Vogel BD J. & K. Gouaux W Leviticus 25-27	6 Bible Study 1:00pm I Chronicles 1-4	7 Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Joe Deane BA Breyah Kinsett BA Bakeyln Vogel BA Psalms 83-86	8 Rummage Sale Pricing & Sorting 12pm-3pm B.O.D. mtg 5:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Ezra Bourg BD Proverbs 14-16	9 Ezekiel 43-48	10 John 1-2
Pentecost VII Worship 9am/Mite Boxes MG Baked Goods follow Sunday School 10:45am II Theocallionians	12 Rummage Sale Heavy Lift work 9am Pricing & Sorting 12pm-3pm Richard Reeves, Sr. BA Numbers 1-4	13 Bible Study 1:00pm Lola Ledet BD Rachel Moore BD I Chronicles 5-9	14 Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 88-88	15 Rummage Sale Pricing & Sorting 12pm-3pm Proverbs 18	16 Rummage Sale Pricing & Sorting 12pm-3pm Last Day for Drop offs Connor Cuneo BA Emma Gouaux BA Daniel 1-8	17 Rummage Sale Final Set up 10am-3pm Marilyn Prosser BD John 3-4
Pentecost VIII Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow Rummage Sale Pre-Sale Sunday School 10:45am III Timothy 1-3	19 Numbers 5-8	20 Bible Study 1:00pm ECC Parent mtg 6pm FH I Chronicles 10-14	21 St. Mary Magdalene Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 88-88	22 PIPELINER ARTICLES DUE Bible Study 6:00pm Dave Atkins BD Proverbs 17-18	23 ECC Last Day Rummage Sale Set up 8am Brandon Ginnster BD Daniel 7-12	24 St. James the Elder, Apostle Rummage Sale 6am-11am John 5-8
Pentecost IX Worship 9am Baked goods follow Sunday School 10:45am V.B.S. 8pm-8:16pm IV Timothy 4-8	26 V.B.S. 8pm-8:16pm Victoria Crawford BD M. & K. Cape W Numbers 8-12	27 Bible Study 1:00pm V.B.S. 8pm-8:16pm Wanda Williams BD I Chronicles 15-18	28 Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm V.B.S. 8pm-8:16pm Psalms 102-104	29 V.B.S. 8pm-8:16pm Angelica Caray BD Leah Gouaux BD Proverbs 20-21	30 Hosea 1-7	31 Rana DaSilva BD Jason Greene BD Niyah Shroyer BD John 7-8