

The Pipeliner
of
Grace Lutheran Church
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Pastor's corner:

Walking by Faith

I'd barely been approved for the Auxiliary Chaplain Service on the Tuesday the SEACOR Power capsized several miles off the coast of Grand Isle. With no chaplain experience and only having begun some very basic coursework I really had no idea what to do. I sent messages off to the few contacts in the US Coast Guard leadership I'd made saying I was available for service, but I knew they would be busy and I didn't expect any quick replies. By Friday I'd been contacted, but where I might be of use was unclear.

So Saturday morning I put on my uniform and headed to the USCG office in Houma. There I sat in on a conference call briefing and shortly thereafter the commander received a call from my supervising chaplain. He asked about me and I was grateful to be sitting right there in the office. I'm not going to share details, but by the end of the day I'd bowed my head as others led prayer in an informational meeting with victims' families and talked with several USCG personnel about the tragedy. The following Monday I spent a few more hours at the station in Grand Isle talking with others about their experiences.

I had little clue as to what I was doing. Quite frankly, I felt very awkward most of the time and, truth be told, I have no idea if I did any good.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" writes St. Paul to the Christians in Corinth. Paul is especially addressing those situations in which we face loss and death. I pray the Holy Spirit dwells in power upon those families as they face the terrible truth of the how broken this world is in the midst of their loss. I hope they trust that God is in control even though they can't hope to understand why this tragedy took place.

But this truth also applies to every believer as they face a new day as a child of God. We don't know what the day will bring. It may bring joy. It may bring sorrow and loss. It may just be another humdrum Thursday. But we walk as a faithful child of God baptized into Christ, and try to be Jesus to the world because that's what He has called us to be.

I couldn't trust myself to do a good job as a chaplain. I didn't even know where to start. I don't have the experience. I'm not even sure what being a good chaplain looks like. I was fairly certain that I would screw up. But I am an ACS chaplain now, so I walked into that role in faith, trusting that God would use me and in the end His will would be done. It was uncomfortable and awkward. I'll likely never know if it made any difference. But I have faith God will somehow use it to His own glory.

This is also the life of the Christian. We don't have a uniform, but we do have the robe of Christ's righteousness gifted us in our baptism. We have the Gospel that is the fulfilled promise of salvation in Christ. We have the love of Christ. And we have a calling to be Jesus to our world.

Doing this is awkward. We're not sure where to start or even what doing a good job of this looks like. We struggle for the words and we're apprehensive about taking action. And because we're sinners, we're pretty sure we're going to screw it up.

But we walk by faith, not by sight. We go ahead and love, awkwardly. We go ahead and speak our faith, inelegantly. We be Jesus, horribly. And we simply trust that the loving God is at work and bringing about His will through us. We may not know we made a difference. We may never see the results. But we know He is in control and despite our inadequacy, His plan of salvation has and will come to pass.

So we don't do nothing. We walk by faith, not by sight, knowing that at the end of this awkward, uncomfortable and often even painful path, waits the risen Christ who for us and even through us, has done all things well.

Lectionary Readings:

May 2, 2021—Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:1-11, John 15:1-8

May 9, 2021—Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 10:34-48, 1 John 5:1-8, John 15:9-17

May 16, 2021—Seventh Sunday of Easter (White)

Acts 1:12-26, 1 John 5:9-15, John 17:11b-19

May 23, 2021—The Day of Pentecost (Red)

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30, 2021—The Holy Trinity (White)

Isaiah 6:1-8, Acts 2:14a, 22-36, John 3:1-17

2021 Board of Directors

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June 2021 Newsletter articles should be turned in to Lisa by
Thursday, May 27th. You may email these to secretary@gracehouma.org

COME and SHARE

Scripture Reading — *Matthew 25:14-28*

“Again, [the kingdom of heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.” — Matthew 25:14

“Come and share your master’s happiness!” That is what the master says to the two servants who managed their talents well. In this parable the master not only says “Well done,” but he also adds a reward, an invitation: “Come and share your master’s happiness!”

That’s quite the invitation for a master to extend to a servant! The servant is not likely even to expect praise for a job well done; after all it is his duty to serve to the best of his ability. But to also be welcomed in to share in his master’s happiness—that is unheard of!

Yet that’s the way it is for us. Our Lord and Master expects us to live faithfully and loyally as stewards of the resources and talents he has provided us. But, even more, he also gives us the ability to do these things. Have you ever made a meal for someone who needed support? Or have you visited (or phone) a person confined to their home? Or have you volunteered at your church? That was the work of the Spirit of God in you, showing others his love.

God even gives us a feeling of well-being when we do something good for someone. How awesome that he still shows us we have done well and that he invites us to share in his happiness now and forever.

Share God’s love with a neighbor today, and share in God’s blessing and happiness!

Prayer

Lord, thank you for your love, and guide us to share it freely. In Jesus, Amen.

Prayer for Mother’s Day...

Almighty God, thank You for our mothers, through whom You have brought us in to this world. Thank You for Christian mothers, whose words and actions build up our own faith in Christ Jesus. Please care for our mothers, just as they have cared for us countless times. Give them energy each day to love, nurture, teach, protect, console, and serve others in numerous ways. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Portals of Prayer April- June 2021

Prayer for The Ascension of Our Lord...

Lord Jesus, though You have ascended into heaven, we know You are at work in our lives. Thank You for uniting us with You in Baptism so that we may die to sin and walk in newness of life. Thank You for Your body and blood, given to us for the forgiveness of sins. Thank You for proclaiming Your life-giving Gospel through our pastors and for bringing our prayers before Your Father. Amen.
Portals of Prayer April- June 2021

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

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13-14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22-23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son - our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way - and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy - we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Calling All Graduates!

If you or someone in your family is graduating this spring and you would like to share this information, please contact the church office at secretary@gracehouma.org or leave a message at 985-879-1865 Ext. 1. Whether you’re continuing your education or beginning a new career, let us know where you’ll be headed in the fall and your plans for the future.

Your church family at Grace will keep you in their thoughts & prayers!

In the palm of God’s Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Billy Palmer, Jo Lowman, Julie Damen, Lisa Ledet, Marabelle Leggett, Margret Cuccia, Mary Deane & Virginia Cunningham

BATTLING CANCER: Barbara Reaves, Jan Crawford, Jay Cruse, Ken Broussard, Mary Joe Mueller & Nan Ashley Hebert

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Bobby Torbert, Brian Hoover, Camile Adams, Cindy Deane, Connie Oswalt, Edna Marie Sevin, Helen Hoover, Jackie Webb, Kim Cape, Richard LaCour & Sue Ackett

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of Allen Carpenter, Joy Stegall, Miriam Mix, Ralph Use, Tammie Hahn & Todd Use.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Amye Jakob & Stephen Carl Jakob.

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 Vitrano, Alec Cunningham, 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, Riley Andrews, 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

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center 422 Valhi Boulevard Houma, LA. 70360 985-879-1865</p>  <p>secretary@gracehouma.org www.gracehouma.org</p> <p>BD= Birthday BA=Baptismal Anniversary W=Wedding Anniversary</p>						
Easter V 2 Worship 9am/Food Bank Youth Biscuits follow No Sunday School Galatians 1-3	3 ECC Board Mtg 1pm Marilyn Beach BD Joey Souther BA Exodus 37-40	4 Bible Study 1:00pm Richard Reaves, Sr. BD I Kings 5-9	5 Fiesta Themed Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 66-68	6 BD= Birthday BA=Baptismal Anniversary W=Wedding Anniversary	7 Lamentations	8 Thibodaux Worship 5pm St. John's Episcopal Luke 9-10
Easter VI 9 Mother's Day Worship 9am/Mite Boxes MG Baked Goods follow SS for all ages 10:45am Galatians 4-6	10 Bible Study 6:00pm Jeannette Burke BD Leviticus 1-3	11 Bible Study 1:00pm Scott Moise BD Ian Wegner BA I Kings 10-13	12 Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 69-71	13 The Ascension of Our Lord Board of Directors meeting 5:30pm Proverbs 4	14 Ezekiel 1-6	15 Zaylee Dinger BA M. & J. Burke W Luke 11-12
Easter VII 16 Armed Forces Sunday Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:45am Youth Group Meeting D. & D. Boger W Ephesians 1-3	17 Kirk & Brooke Ledet BA Leviticus 4-6	18 Bible Study 1:00pm Suni Clevenger BD I Kings 14-18	19 Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Tamie McDonald BD Jeannie Thalheim BA Psalms 72-74	20 Donald Greene BD M. & C. Shroyer W Proverbs 5-6	21 Ezekiel 7-12	22 Raymond Godail BA Luke 13-14
The Day of Pentecost 23 Worship 9am Baked Goods follow SS for all ages 10:45am J. & M. Blakely W B. & P. Cuneo W Ephesians 4-6	24 Bible Study 6:00pm Jared Moise BD Eithan Spolanch BA Leviticus 7-9	25 Bible Study 1:00pm I Kings 19-22	26 Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 75-77	27 PIPELINER ARTICLES DUE	28 Ezekiel 13-18	29 John Wegner BD Luke 15-16
The Holy Trinity 30 Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:45am Jacob Cinnater BA Philippians 1-2	31 The Visitation Memorial Day Oscar Mertink BD Leviticus 10-12					