

NEWSLETTER

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR RICH RUDNIK
GRACEHOUMA.ORG

GRACE TO GO

We're shaking things up
with our newsletter design.



Thank you to Scott
Moise for moving the
dirt from out from
under the oak trees.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Monday Bible Class 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class 1 p.m.
Wednesday Pot Luck 6 p.m.
Prayer & Praise 6:45 p.m.

ALTAR GUILD

11/02: Pastor & Bridgette
11/09: Mary Lou & Lorie
11/16: Jerrie & Stacie
11/23: John & Rana
11/26: Pastor & Bridgette
11/30: Mary Lou & Lorie

LECTORS

11/02: Mona LaCour
11/09: Shelby Giroir
11/16: Debra Shevlin
11/23: Bonnie Dupre
11/30: Dale B./Nicholas S.

Pastor's Corner

Meaningless Toil

"What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?"
(Ecclesiastes 1:3)

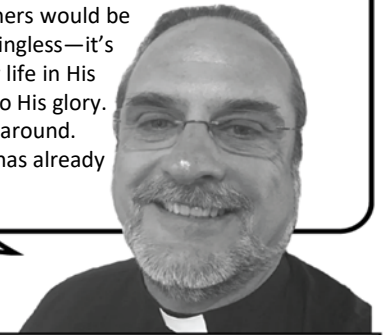
Sometimes it seems the answer to that question is "nothing". The book of Ecclesiastes came to mind after I'd spent a whole afternoon spreading dirt donated by a local swimming pool installer over the flood-prone low spot on the church property under two of our oak trees. A couple days later it was explained to me that the dirt would suffocate the roots and kill the trees within a year. The dirt had to be removed. All that work was for naught.

I'll admit, my first internal reaction to this news was not very Christian. But later it struck me that this is just how our earthly life is. The author of Ecclesiastes highlights how we work for years yet there is always this seeming meaningless to it because this life ends. It's like moving dirt around until we return to the dust from which we came. Yet we do this under a loving God.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Standing in one's Holy Baptism, everything you do apart from sin is pleasing in God's sight and serves His kingdom. Maybe pointlessly moving that dirt taught me something. Maybe it was discipline. Who knows-maybe it just made God laugh!

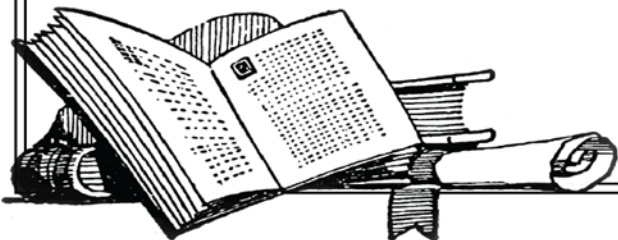
Maybe it had nothing to do with me at all. Whatever. It's all good. Jesus' death looked pitiful and pointless as He hung dying on the cross. Yet the Father's will was being done that sinners would be saved. Because of Him we know this life isn't meaningless—it's lived in service to Christ as we head toward forever life in His presence. We do everything as His child, and thus to His glory. Be content in your toil, even if it is just moving dirt around. What do we gain by it? Everything, because Christ has already gained us the kingdom.



LECTIONARY READINGS

November 02, 2025 (White) All Saints Day (Observed)
November 09, 2025 (Green) 22th Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025 (Green) 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 23, 2025 (Green) Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 30, 2025 (Blue) 1st Sunday in Advent

Revelation 7:9-17, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12
Exodus 3:1-15, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17, Luke 20:27-40
Malachi 4:1-6, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-28
Malachi 3:13-18, Colossians 1:13-20, Luke 23:27-43
Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 21:1-11



IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HANDS...

PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS: Heather Guidroz.

BATTLING CANCER: Alyssa Rogers, Beau Bourgeois, Charlene Shroyer, Helen Duplantis, Michael Hamilton, Mike Moss and Nileen Nemeth.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY: Lynn Cinnater and Tom Kinsella.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Bob Dieterian, Charles Calloway,

Connie Oswalt, DeAnn Barrios, Donna Bass, Donna Von Burgsdorff,

Frank Alessio, Harla Lemmerman, James Hillman, Jackie Webb,

Jaxon Greene, Jeanne Norman, Jim Lemmerman, John Wegner, Josephine Hebert, Kim Cape, Marilyn Beach,

Mike Wallace, Richard LaCour and Toni St. Amant.

MOURNING A LOSS: The family of Laura Robson.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Karoline and Khyler Anthony, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Arthur and Nikki and baby Boudreaux.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Haize Shroyer, Jason Reid-O'Neill, Jaxx Dardar, Julia Shroyer, Kyle Turcott, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Noah Scheufens.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alyssah Kinsella, Jonathan Dahl, Nicholas Scott, Niyah Shroyer and Victoria Thalheim.



Officer Needed to Serve on Grace's BOD

Most of Grace's Board of Directors has agreed to continue serving for 2026 and such service is deeply appreciated. The position of Vice President needs to be filled. Please prayerfully consider volunteering. Contact Pastor Rich for more information about this position. The proposed current slate of candidates is: President: Mike Cape, Vice President: vacant, Treasurer: Jeannie Thalheim, Secretary: Bridgette Rudnik, Financial Secretary: Lisa Giroir, Board Members at Large: Jerrie Fitzgerald and Brigitte Kinsella. A Voters Assembly will take place after worship on Sunday, November 16 to pass the budget and approve the slate.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALTAR GUILD

THE 2026 ALTAR GUILD
SCHEDULE WILL BE
CREATED SOON. IF YOU
WANT TO SERVE IN THIS
MANNER, PLEASE CONTACT
THE CHURCH OFFICE
IMMEDIATELY.

Parts of the Liturgy: Invocation

God calls us to worship and thus we invoke His name as we begin by the pastor making the sign of the cross and stating: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The congregation affirms his statement with "Amen."

One function of the Invocation is a remembrance of the name into which we stand baptized, thus it is appropriate if those gathered cross themselves also.

While God is present everywhere, the Invocation is an affirmation that He is among His people bearing His gifts of grace because Jesus clearly says in Matthew's Gospel, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

The Invocation is also a public proclamation identifying the God we worship. Many claim some type of spirituality or adhere to a god of some sort. By declaring the name of the Triune God clearly revealed in Holy Scripture and the Christian creeds derived from it, there can be no question of what God we gather to worship.



GRACE'S MISSION

Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness, Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Friendship.

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