

# NEWSLETTER

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR RICH RUDNIK  
GRACEHOUMA.ORG

### GRACE TO GO

We're shaking things up  
with our newsletter design.



Many pictures are waiting to  
be hung on Grace's bare  
walls following Hurricane Ida  
repairs.

### SCHEDULE

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

### ALTAR GUILD

9/07: Pastor & Bridgette  
9/14: Mary Lou & Lorie  
9/21: Jerrie & Stacie  
9/28: John & Rana

### LECTORS

9/07: Debra Shevlin  
9/14: Bonnie Dupre  
9/21: Dale B./Nicholas S.  
9/28: Mona LaCour

### Pastor's Corner

What to Talk About

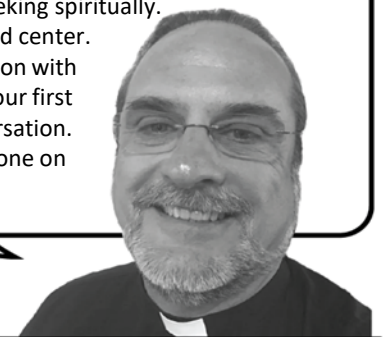
A lament frequently voiced in the church today is about how people seem to have abandoned the Christian faith. Church attendance and the number of those claiming faith in Christ has experienced steady decline in western culture for decades, especially among the young. Very recently "Generation Z" has been a ray of hope as we're finally seeing an uptick in spiritual curiosity and even a return to the faith in church membership. How can we build on this?

Obviously, we do nothing if we aren't willing to open our mouth so talking to folks about the faith is the first step. But what do we say? We can speak about the law and the need for forgiveness. We can speak of morality and goodness. We can speak of the peace faith brings. We can even speak of the joys of fellowship within the family of faith that is Christ's church. But our tendency seems to be a focus on the individual and what faith can do for him or her.

That's not the approach the prophet Joel takes. *"Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster."*

God's Word ultimately proclaims God; what He has done in general, but most pointedly what He does in Christ crucified and risen. It's fine to talk about life, morality, the church, what one is seeking spiritually. But Jesus is who we should always put front and center.

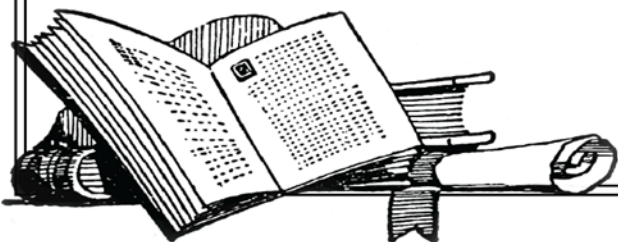
The next time you enjoin a conversation with the aim of drawing someone to Christ, make your first priority to make Christ the center of the conversation. Don't focus on the church, but on the cornerstone on which His church is built.



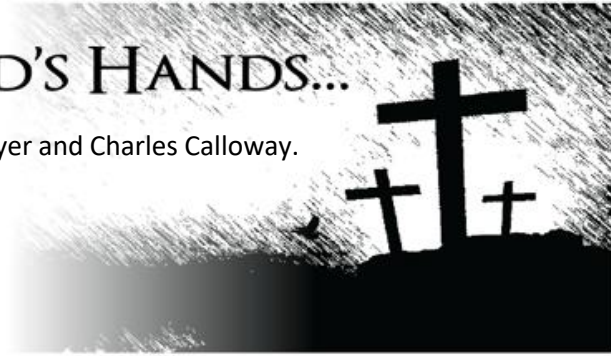
### LECTIONARY READINGS

September 07, 2025 (Green) 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 14, 2025 (Green) 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 21, 2025 (Green) 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 28, 2025 (Green) 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-35  
Ezekiel 34:11-24, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 12:22-34  
Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-15, Luke 16:1-15  
Amos 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 16:19-31



# IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HANDS...



**PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS:** Arthur Dean Parfait, Bob Dieterian, Charlene Shroyer and Charles Calloway.

**BATTLING CANCER:** Beau Bourgeois, Helen Duplantis, Michael Hamilton and Nileen Nemeth.

**RECOVERING FROM SURGERY/INJURY:** Kim Cape and Roy Labat.

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY:** Connie Oswalt, Cynthia Ratliff, DeAnn Barrios, Donna Bass, Donna Von Burgsdorff, Frank Alessio, James Hillman, Jackie Webb, Jaxon Greene, Jeanne Norman, John Wegner, Josephine Hebert, Kim Cape, Marilyn Beach, Mike Wallace, Richard LaCour and Toni St. Amant.

**MOURNING A LOSS:** The families of Eydie Richmond, Henry Cancienne, Mary Jane Kettlewell and Melody Lipner.

**NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS:** Hailey & Ezekiel Long, Karoline and baby Cormier, Krista & Braxton Moore, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Arthur, and Toni and Linnen Randolph.

**SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY:** Austin Lirette, 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.

## Preparing to Die in Christ Seminar – September 27

Believers know that in Christ we shall be raised to eternal life. Yet how well are we prepared for this life's end? Pastor Rich is offering this seminar to aid one in planning for the time the Lord calls us home. The seminar is aimed at giving a Christian comfort in the face of death, giving glory to Christ in one's funeral rite, and simply having the basic logistics sorted before that time comes. Topics will include the theology of death, planning one's Christian funeral, myths about funerals, funeral home decisions and legalities and more. Chad Saia of Chauvin Funeral Home will be a guest speaker. The seminar will be in the fellowship hall Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until noon. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex or you can email [pastor@gracehouma.org](mailto:pastor@gracehouma.org).

### Register for LERT

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) is looking to increase awareness through the expansion of its email volunteer list. Signing up does not obligate you for service, but it can raise the LCMS Southern District's profile and help with funding and grants in our region. Additionally, you will receive emails about opportunities to serve which you or others you know who are willing can partake of. Go to [www.lcms-lert.org](http://www.lcms-lert.org) and click "SIGN-UP" to register. Once you've completed that process go to "DISTRICTS" and become a Fan of the Southern District to increase our region's footprint in the program.

### Post-Communion Collect

Following the blessed Sacrament the gathered return one of three prayers of thanksgiving. The prayers also include petitions to help us live out the blessed holiness and righteousness of Christ that was received in the Lord's Supper. One of the three also points forward to the future meal when the faithful "celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has not end."



## GRACE'S MISSION

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

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