



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

March 2016

Two Questions

It is a fact that knowledge of the Bible and of the Christian faith has declined in the past decades. The questions I get as a pastor are simpler. Statistics will bear out the fact that people aren't going to church or Bible studies as they once did. Instead of questions that show Biblical knowledge, there are more that arise from our culture, the media and plain curiosity.

I have always enjoyed Billy Graham's "My Answer" column in the newspaper. At age 97, he is still touch with people searching for answers. In a recent column Graham was asked this question:

"I've tried to talk to my cousin about Jesus, but she says it doesn't really matter what we believe about God as long as we're sincere. What can I say to her?" Graham answers this way:

"I'm thankful you're concerned for your cousin, and I hope you'll continue to pray for her and tell her about Jesus. The most loving thing we can ever do for anyone is to point them to Jesus Christ.

One approach might be to remind her that sincerity alone isn't enough in life. Suppose, for example, you had a deadly virus, and after examining you the doctor said take any medicine you wanted – because as long as you were sincere, it would heal you. Would you follow his advice? I hope not, because sincerity alone wouldn't be enough – and might even be dangerous.

The same is true with God. The Bible tells us that we all have a problem, and that problem is sin. Sin is like a deadly virus, invading our souls and corrupting our lives – and most of all, it cuts us off from God.

Our greatest need is to be healed of our sins, for only then can we know God and be assured of eternal life. But can we be healed of our sins? We can't heal ourselves, no matter how hard we try or how sincere we are. Only God can heal us – and He made this possible by sending Jesus Christ into the world to die for us. Now by putting our faith and trust in Him we can be healed of our sins..."

I, too, like to take on some of the simple, but important questions that people are asking today. One of them that we hear so often is this:

"Isn't the Muslim God and the Christian God the very same God?"

The answer to this is clearly: No. Islam does not teach that Jesus was divine. As Christians we believe that Jesus is truly God and truly man. The Bible teaches us that no one can come to the Father except through the Son, through Jesus. Christians believe these statements that Jesus made:

"I and the Father are one." John 10:30

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one come to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6*

"Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and Father is in me..." John 14:11

Two Questions *(Continued)*

Not only do Muslims not recognize Jesus as divine they also have no place for the Holy Spirit. So to put it bluntly and accurately Allah is no God at all but a creation of sinful men. We must love Muslims and strive to witness to them the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the Muslim faith holds people in a cruel bondage of a manufactured religion.

Please strive to prepare yourself to answer the simple but important questions of people all around us. Answer with great love, respect and gentleness.

~ Pastor Rich

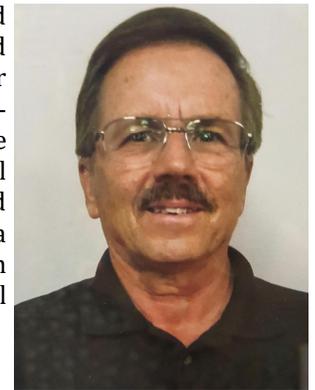


Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 13

Our Grace Family

Meet Paul Pankow

No snow right now, but it could happen any day now! However, our member, Paul Pankow, is more than ready and used to colder weather, having come from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where you have to be tough just to survive. Milwaukee is known for great German food, even better beer, and all those good folks who smile when they wish you a "Good Day!" Paul is married to "especially friendly" Kathy, and they have three children (two boys and one girl) plus four grand kids, with whom they have regular and lively interaction. Paul once had a job that he will never forget. He worked for a cleaning company and was assigned to dusting giant ventilation pipes, an exceedingly DIRTY JOB. But he never forgot it, and perhaps that is the reason he exhibits such patience with tedious tasks. Although they do not have any pets at present, Paul fondly remembers an Old English Sheepdog named Toby and the fun times they spent together. Hobbies: Golf, Fishing and Photography. The latter you can admire by perusing his photo book containing all the outstanding pictures of their sojourn in Europe (the Scandinavian countries as well as cites such as Budapest, Hungary). But to be honest, Paul would substitute all that for the ability to be like Billy Graham, spreading the Gospel world-wide. He wants to help people who really need it and fund missionaries who share Christ-Crucified. It is evident that he values his faith as a special gift from God and is grateful for the sense of morals with which God has endowed him. Paul recently got his certification for scuba diving, and he enjoys any activity shared with Kathy. How many men have shared the following regarding their wives? Paul credits Kathy for having given "things he needed most," the family he treasures so highly. Most of all, Paul praises the Holy Spirit for having led them to Grace Lutheran Church, a strengthening of his relationship with Jesus Christ! Getting to know Paul will surely do the same for you!



~ Pat Kopp

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Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Easter Titles and New Displayed Items



During this month, Easter titles will be on display for easy access along with titles that are new to the collection. Among the new items are several aids for your personal Bible study.

Searching for Heaven on Earth: How to Find What Really Matters by **David Jeremiah** (223.8 Jer): This book will assist with the study of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. He answers many of the questions frequently asked: Is happiness attainable? Why is life frustrating? Is there still time to find happiness? King Solomon asked the same questions. Jeremiah looks to the voice of Solomon parsing Ecclesiastes chapter by chapter. His conclusion is that we may simply be searching for happiness in all the wrong places.

John: The Gospel of Light and Life by **Adam Hamilton** (226.5 Ham): In his own evaluation, Hamilton acknowledges that he has just scratched the surface of John's Gospel. Written in his usual clear and moving style, Hamilton invites his readers to find their place in the story. He divides John into six sections: The Word made flesh; Miraculous signs of Jesus, The "I AM"; Sayings of Jesus; The farewell discourse; The arrest, trial and crucifixion of the King; and Eternal life. For ease of study, the Gospel of John from the Common English Bible translation is included.

Wake the Bride: Facing These Last Days With Your Eyes Wide Open by **Jeff Kinley** (228.6 Kin): Kinley poses the question of just how ready are we for Christ's return. This guide to a study of Revelation was written to give great comfort and peace in uncertain times and to infuse a sense of urgency and expectancy in the church while providing a massive dose of hope for all.

Stealing From God: Why Atheists Need God to Make Their Case by **Frank Turkel** (239.8 Tur): Turkel exposes the ways in which atheists' justifications for their tenets actually prove that God really exists. He refutes their contentions and presents a powerful and persuasive case for C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity (231 Lew). He equips his readers to defend what they believe. Also in the library is **I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist** (229.8 Tur), a book he co-authored.

Happiness by **Randy Alcorn** (248.4 Alc) Christians are frequently perceived as joyless and judgmental. Even some Christians believe that God wants them to be holy and not happy. Alcorn, drawing upon the Scriptures, dispels these misconceptions providing evidence to support God's desire for us to experience joy, peace, contentment and delight.

New on DVD

Available on Blu-Ray/DVD is the powerful, faith-based film

based on the true story of Tony Nathan, **Woodlawn** (B-R/DVD Woo). "In 1973, a spiritual awakening captured the heart of nearly every player on the Woodlawn High School football team.

Their dedication to love and unity, in a newly desegregated school filled with racism and hate, leads to the largest high school football game ever played in the torn city of Birmingham, Alabama, and the rise of superstar, Tony Nathan" (taken from the DVD case).

New Fiction

If I Run by **Terri Blackstock** (Fic Bla): All evidence suggests that Casey killed her friend, Brent. She is forced to run and live as a fugitive until she can uncover who did. However, she must stay one step ahead of Dylan Roberts, criminal investigator, until she is vindicated.

The Restoration book 3 in **Prairies State Friends** series by **Wanda E. Brunstetter** (Fic Bru): Priscilla, an Amish girl in Prairie State, Illinois, truly cares for David Morgan, an Englishman. But Elam has been in love with Priscilla since their childhood. He resents David and in a jealousy-driven decision may destroy all of their lives. Book 1 is **The Decision** and Book 2 is **The Gift**, both available in the library.

Beyond the Silence by **Traci Peterson** (Fic Pet) Lillian is excited about her new job as a nanny. But after her arrival, she hears rumors about her employer, Woody. Her charge, six-year-old Jimmy, has not spoken since witnessing his mother's death. Lillian wonders if she is in danger or if Woody is the real victim.

The First Hostage by **Joel C. Rosenberg** (Fic Ros): With the words, "The president of the United States is missing" journalist J. B. Collins puts the entire world on alert. ISIS has just attacked in Jordan and terrorists have threatened chemical warfare. Collins and the Secret Service must locate and rescue the leader of the free world before catastrophe strikes. This is a follow-up to his book **The Third Target** (Fic Ros), his first J. B. Collins novel.

Find these and titles about Easter on display in the library throughout the month.

~ Mary Schultz

It Is Finished

The Gospel of John intentionally uses words with more than one meaning. For example, in Chapter 3 Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again if he were to see the Kingdom of God. But, the word in question also means “from above.” That Nicodemus must be born from above actually makes more sense in the context, since Jesus began talking about that which is born of the Spirit, Who gives that birth from above. Nicodemus obviously understood Jesus to mean “born again,” but Jesus meant “born from above.” We might wonder which John intended. Our Western minds think of “either or,” but John has a Hebrew background and it can handle “both and” more easily than we do. The answer is John intended “both.” By considering each meaning, we can see a different aspect of entering into God’s Kingdom, much like looking at a diamond from slightly different angles and seeing different colors.

Another word with multiple meanings in St. John is Jesus’ word from the cross in 19:30, “It is finished.” Although that requires three words in English, the Greek text of the New Testament expresses it with only one word. Verse 28 gives us some direction as to how it is to be understood, namely: “in order to fulfill what was written in the Scriptures.” But, this word has a history of multiple applications and uses.

One use of the word is to indicate the fulfillment of what was prophesied about Jesus. Another refers to a person dying, and Jesus certainly was at the point of death. It can also refer to the end purpose of something, as in the goal for which Jesus came has finally been accomplished. It was used commercially. When something was purchased and the bill was paid, this word appeared first on the receipt. So, Jesus paid the full debt of our sins. According to one source, the charges against a prisoner were posted on his cell door. When he had served his time, this word was written across the list of charges to indicate his debt to society was completely satisfied. While we might ponder over how Jesus would have been in prison and who the warden would be, the penalty for our sin was satisfied as if Jesus served our sentence in our place. The same source also mentioned the successful accomplishment of a mission by a military commander. And, it means God’s righteous requirements have been met.

The word occurs in John 19 as a perfect tense verb. The perfect tense means it happened in the past, but a unique aspect of the perfect tense is that the results of its happening continue even now into the present—a past action with present results. So, “It is finished!” in all of its shades of meaning and application continue for us even now throughout all of our lives.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace’s very own Sheila Wittke.

NEW AIR TIME: Tuesday Afternoon at 3:00 p.m. (January through June 2016)

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)
 CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)
 AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

MARCH 2016 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 01 - Concussions in Youth - Dr. Joshua Johnson
- 08 - Ischemic Strokes and TIA’s - Dr. Keith Underwood
- 15 - Pelvic Organ Prolapse - Dr. Bryce Bowling
- 22 - Ovarian Cysts - Dr. Susan Schwarz
- 29 - Holes in the Heart in Newborns - Dr. Michael R. Liske



Holy Week Worship Schedule



March 20 - Palm Sunday

8:00a - Traditional Service

9:30a - Blended Service

11:00a - Contemporary Service

March 24 - Maundy Thursday Service

7:00p

March 25 - Good Friday Service

7:00p

March 26 - Easter Festival

10:00a - 1:00p

March 27 - Easter Sunday

7:00a - Sunrise Service

8:00a - Traditional Service

9:00a - Easter Brunch

9:30a - Blended Service

11:00a - Contemporary Service



Parade of Tables

*Saturday, March 5
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

The Parade of Tables is a luncheon for women where each hostess decorates her table according to a theme. Tickets are sold to fill each table and proceeds go to a charity. This continues to be a fun and successful event at Grace.

The theme for the decorations for this year's Parade of Tables is Era or Day in History. (For example: the Roaring 20's, the 50's or 70's, 3000BC and the building of the pyramids, 1492 Discover of America, 1776 Independence, etc.)

If you are interested in hosting a table or buying tickets to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board down the hallway from the coffee area to the right of the mailboxes. Guidelines for hosting a table and information on the charity can also be found on the bulletin board.

Tickets will also be sold on Sunday mornings closer to the event.

Save These Dates on Your 2016 Calendar



2016 Sports Camp

June 12-16, 2016

Grace Lutheran Church

2016 Summer Camp

July 23-29, 2016

John Knox Center



“Early Bird” Special for July 23-29 Summer Camp

Take advantage of our “Early Bird” special on registration for the July 23-29 Summer Camp at Kingston’s John Knox Center. From now until Sunday, March 6, registration will be \$325.00. We will take registration for that price from now through March 6 in person beginning at 1:00 p.m. Beginning March 7, the price will become \$375.00. Children will have daily Bible study, games, crafts, swimming, and music, as well as other adventures!

If you have any questions, contact Frieda Guthrie or Pastor Mark Bushuiakovish by calling the church office.



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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

