



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

June 2017

An Interview with Pastor Mark

I interviewed Pastor Mark Bushuiakovish as he finished his ministry here at Grace. He was a great Associate Pastor for 5 years and had many, many accomplishments. We will miss Pastor Mark and Betsy and their two boys, Jack and Charlie. *(Pastor Mark's last day and last sermon was on this past Mother's Day, May 14.)*

When you first arrived, what mystified you about Knoxville or Grace?

Grace is definitely a melting pot of people from all over the country and even the world! It has always been a great joy learning about where people come from and what Grace means to them! My biggest struggle was in trying to figure out if Joan Scraggs was mad at me or not, since her southern phrases were never all that clear to me!

What brought you the most joy in your ministry at Grace?

The best thing about Grace is the people. I have loved working alongside such an amazing and encouraging family. It has been a personal privilege for me to partner with the families here and having a front row seat to witness our awesome youth as they mature in their faith.

What areas of ministry that you led of which you are most proud?

I am proud of many things that we do at Grace. One of the things that I am most proud of is our Summer Camp and the way that it has already positively influenced the faith of our Children. Of course, this was only possible because of the amazing staff that God has blessed this camp with!

What caused you the greatest challenge as you began your ministry?

The most difficult challenge I had when I began my ministry here was trying to navigate what it means not only to be a "Pastor", but also what it means to be "Pastor at Grace". Understanding the culture and my unique place in it was something I had to learn (at times the hard way), but it was also one of the greatest blessings in my life, as I have been able to grow more comfortable in my own skin and better understand my own place in the whole of God's kingdom.

Your preaching kept getting better and better, what do you attribute it to?

I am learning that the only way to grow at anything is through useful feedback and practice. Thankfully Pastor Rich was willing to sit with me each week and go over my sermon and give me his insight and knowledge. Then I would strive to take that feedback and practice, practice, practice before the next preaching opportunity. One of the biggest blessings is

Interview *(Continued)*

the encouragement I have received from the Congregation, who I always felt was rooting me on!

Was there a funny moment that sticks out to you?

We have had a lot of laughs in my time here, none more than our staff meetings. The ones that I will remember the most were the "field trips" we took for Staff Birthday lunches, when we could take our show on the road!

Having been here five years as Associate what advice would you give the next associate?

Be yourself, seek to serve and love others, and let them love and bless you.

Did you adopt any southern ways?

No...okay maybe smiling at strangers! That one is gonna get me in trouble when I get back up north!

Will you at least root for the Tennessee Vols right behind your Michigan Wolverines?

Tennessee will always be my SEC team. And the Vols do have a cute little football stadium.

What is your outgoing challenge to the members of Grace?

That each person strives to make sure the next generation knows of the love that their great God has for them!

~ Pastor Rich



Other Events to Look Forward to:

June 11-15 - Grace Lutheran Sports Camp

June 25 - Church-Wide Picnic

July 22-28 - Summer Camp

"Ahoj Christians!" Summer Camp

Saturday, July 22 - Friday, July 28

This year our Summer Camp theme is, "Ahoj, Christians!" As Matthew 6:21 (our theme verse) warns us, "Where our treasure is, so will our heart be also!" As Satan tries to sink the ship of our lives, we will be faced with two options, storing our treasures in heaven, or on earth. We will seek out this week what it means to store our treasures in heaven, and how doing this will help keep our ships afloat under any attack!

Camp dates are Saturday, July 22-Friday, July 28. Cost of camp is \$375.

You can find registration forms on a bulletin board near the Family Life Center or the Children's Ministry Office.

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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.



John Beil
Catholic High School

Emily Bretscher
L&N Stem Academy

Daniel Bueckman
L&N Stem Academy

Allison Clark
Halls High School

Desaray Frizzell
Hardin Valley Academy

Tim Frizzell
Hardin Valley Academy

Joe Harper
Hardin Valley Academy

Kylie Hatfield
Karns High School

Paige Howe
Grace Christian Academy

Eric Kleckley
Bearden High School

Sam Landon
Farragut High School

Jackson Lappin
Karns High School

Bryanna Marjonen
Niota High School

Leah Orton
Christian Academy of Knoxville

Bethany Peterson
Hardin Valley Academy

Hannah Satterfield
Blount Home Education Association

Ryan Schoolcraft
Bearden High School

Abby Spradlin
Karns High School

Rachel Stock
Halls High School

Kyle Stovall
Farragut High School

Lauren Strickland
Bearden High School

Blake Thompson
Niota High School

Remy Tunstall
Farragut High School

Jonathon Wooden
Powell High School (Dec. 2016)

Aleigh Fisher
University of Tennessee

Kaitlyn Fisher
University of Tennessee

The Waiting Father

Some years ago a man named Helmut Thielicke wrote a book of sermons on Jesus' parables. We have all heard of The Prodigal ("wasteful") Son. Thielicke gave that parable a new name and called it "*The Waiting Father*." That name is one to which many parents today can relate. Undoubtedly, the father in the parable had done the best job he could in raising his two sons. The older was respectful and seems to have followed the patterns his father set. But, the younger turned out quite differently, despite what was surely an identical upbringing.

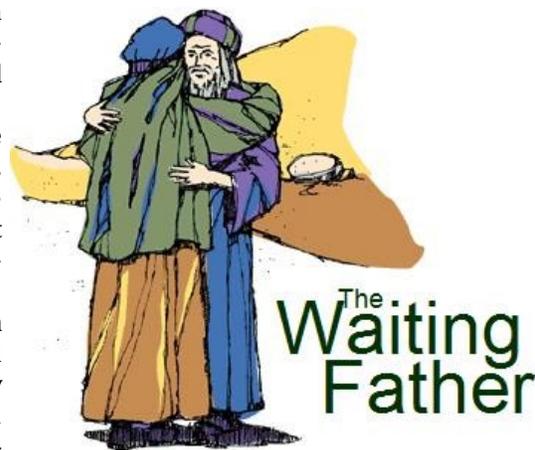
When the younger son asked for his portion of the inheritance; he was, in effect, announcing to the father that he wished the father dead. Many parents have heard actual words like that from a troubled child in the family. Then the son went to a distant country, probably one which the father would not approve. The city of Corinth (Greece) was like New Orleans and Las Vegas all rolled into one in its day. The verb "to Corinthinize" came into the Greek language as an expression for carousing without any restraint, whatsoever. In the distant country to which he went, the younger son wasted his inheritance with prostitutes and buying drinks for his friends. The father probably knew more about what the son was doing than we would guess, and it surely grieved him.

But, the parable is really not about the son. It is about the father who patiently waited for the son to come to his senses. In the parable the father is really God Who waits for us to see our sin for what it is and to return to Him with repentant hearts. And, it is about our heavenly Father's readiness to forgive all who return to Him.

Many years ago there was a white-haired widower in a congregation I served. He was always ready with a smile and kindly despite the shortcomings of his young pastor. The day came when he was in the hospital and everyone knew the end of his life was near. His son was with the rest of us in the waiting lounge. At one point the middle-aged son turned to me and asked if I would go with him back to the father's room. I stood there quietly as the son leaned over the bed and said, "Dad, I am sorry." Nothing else was said by the son, and I have no idea what had transpired, or when. The father forgave the son in his own way. Days after the father's funeral someone from the family who had not been at the hospital commented to me, "I want to thank you for what you did for Billy (the man's son)." Whatever had happened, it must have been big, and the father had waited many years for the son to return.

The next time you hear a mention of "The Prodigal Son," think about "The Waiting Father."

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken



June Scripture of the Month

The father of one who is right with God will have much joy. He who has a wise son will be glad in him.

~ Proverbs 23:24, NLV

Church Picnic



Grace Church Picnic

Sunday, June 25

12:30 p.m.

McFee Park

Everyone is invited. Food, fun, fellowship, games and Splash Pad. Please sign up using one of the green cards on the Information Desk. This will let us know how many will be attending. Also, let us know what you are able to bring or help with. Just drop your card in the collection plate! Hope to see you there!!

The Best Father

Unlike an earthly prince, God didn't take a high-and-mighty title, notes 17th-century British preacher Thomas Watson. Instead God calls himself Father to encourage us to pray to him.

But God isn't just any father. Watson offers these reasons why God is "the best Father":

- He is the most ancient (Daniel 7:9).
- He is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- He is the wisest (Romans 16:27).
- He is the most loving (Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:16).
- He has unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).
- He can reform his children (Acts 9:11).
- He never dies (1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:8).

*Our
Father*

He will call out to me, "You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior."

~ Psalm 89:26, NIV

June Honors Dads and Grads

During this month the library will display books about being a dad and books for students who are graduating from high school or college. Also on display will be materials that have been added recently to the library's collection. This month there is a mix of fiction, non-fiction, and media.

New Fiction

Catching Heat by **Janice Cantore** (Fic Can): In this third book in the **Cold Case Justice** series, Detective Abby Hart and PI Luke Murphy join forces to solve the cold case of a murdered college student. Abby is also on the brink of solving the murder of her own parents 27 years earlier. Their goal is to put both crimes to "rest:".

Sandpiper Cove by **Irene Hannon** (Fic Han): In this third story in the **Hope Harbor** series. Lexie, a police chief, attempts to enlist the aid of an ex-con, Adam, who has turned his life completely around to help a young man who is headed down a path of crime. As Lexie and Adam work together, a special relationship grows between them.

Upon a Spring Break by **Kelly Irvin** (Fic Irv): Irvin begins a new series—**Every Amish Season**. After Bess, a twenty-year-old, mother-to-be, loses her husband, she finds solace in tending the garden of an Englisher-owned bed and breakfast. As her friends try to restore her hope, she begins to believe life can hold joy and maybe even love again.

A Powerful Secret and **A Primary Decision** by **Dr. Kevin Leman and Jeff Nesbit** (Fic Lem): Books two and three in **A Worthington Destiny** series are now available. Follow the lives of the three children of a wealthy, billionaire family as they forge their own lives while striving to earn their father's love.

The Ebb Tide by **Beverly Lewis** (Fic Lew): Sallie would like to travel and see the ocean at least once before she commits her life to the Amish community. She is thrilled when the opportunity to be a nanny in Cape May for a well-to-do family comes her way. While there she forges a special friendship with a Mennonite young man. Eventually, she has to decide which life she is meant to live.

With Love, Wherever You Are by **Dandi Daley Mackall** (Fic Mac): When Dr. Daley and nurse Eberhart meet in a military hospital, they enjoy a whirlwind romance followed by a courthouse wedding before they are sent to the front lines during WWII. Only their letters connect them; sometimes months between receiving them. Mackall's story is based on her parents' WWII correspondences, highlighting the courage of an entire nation.,

Behind the Scenes by **Jen Turano** (Fic Tur): This is book one in a new series, **Apart From the Crowd**. Turano, a master of novels set in the 1880's, has Permilia Griswold making her debut into New York high society of 1883. What she

did not know and what no one ever told her was that just because she made her debut, she's not insured to be accepted. After spending six years as a wallflower, she starts penning a gossip column under the pseudonym "Miss Quilt". Her hope—that this would be her ticket to the dance floor.



New Non-Fiction

The Gospel According to Paul: Embracing the Good News at the Heart of Paul's Teaching by **John MacArthur** (227.1 Mac): Christian author MacArthur presents an exploration of what the Apostle Paul taught about the Good News of Jesus. The Apostle Paul penned a number of passages to the early church summarizing the Gospel message. Each of these passages highlights an essential aspect of the good news. MacArthur examines each of these vital texts, one verse at a time, in an easily readable style yet fully biblical.

The Women of Easter: Encounter the Savior With Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene by **Liz Curtis Higgs** (232.9 Hig): Even though Easter was weeks ago, the message of Easter remains. The encounters of these three Marys will strengthen your faith and engage your mind and emotions.

Grace is Greater by **Kyle Idelman** (234 Idl): The concept of God's grace is difficult for many to understand. In this book, Idelman shows that there is no sin so great that God's mercy cannot rewrite the person's story because God's grace is greater than any mistake, greater than any hurt, and greater than any circumstance.

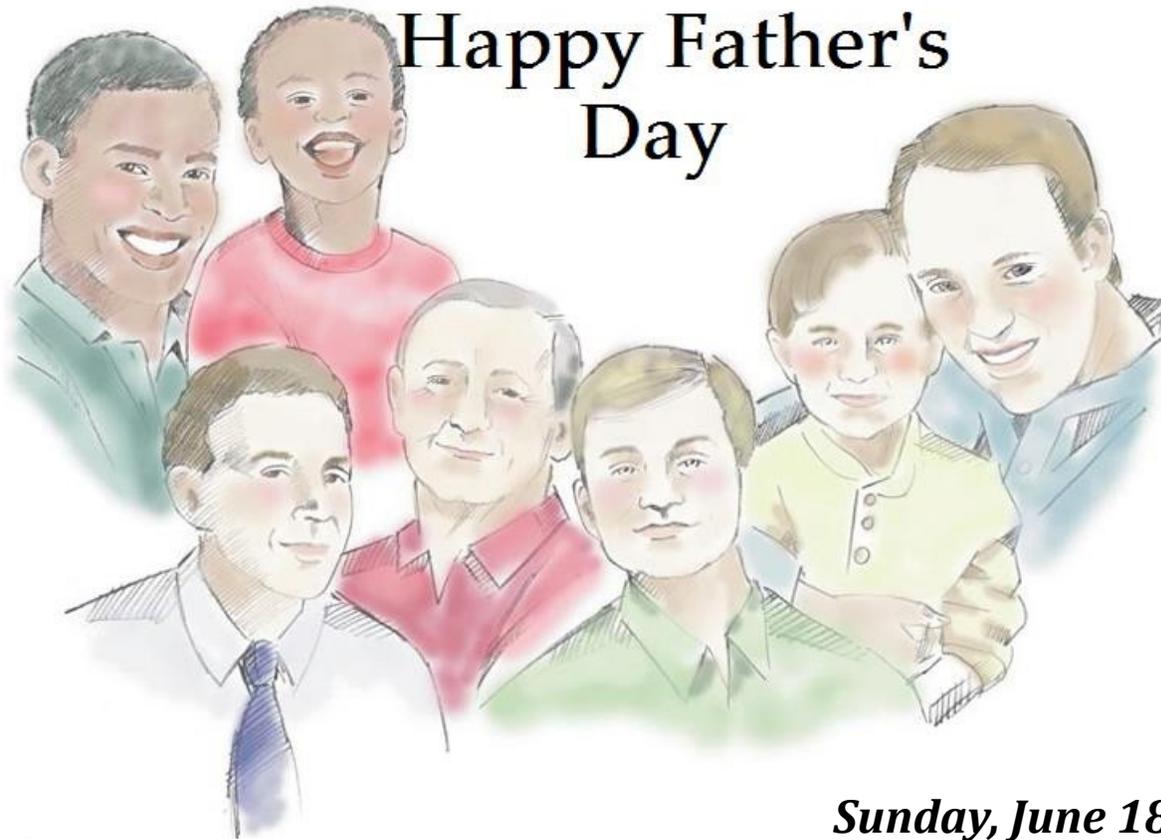
Divine Direction: Seven Decisions that Will Change Your Life by **Craig Groeschel** (248.4 Gro): As its title suggests, Groeschel offers seven important decisions that will change your life and your relationships.

Reformation Study Kits

Lutheran Hour Ministries has produced materials suitable for individual or group Bible study on Martin Luther and on the Reformation movement. Part One covers Luther, the man and Part Two covers Luther and the moment. These "kits" (DVD, guide, and study book) can be found on the DVD shelves amid other Reformation materials. Find them in Kit 270.6 Lut.

Luther quote of the month on "The blessedness of Marriage" *"To have peace and love in a marriage is a gift that is next to knowledge of the gospel."* (From: The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans calendar 2004)

~ Mary Schultz



Happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 18

*Grace Lutheran Church-LCMS
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E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org
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:

