



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

July 2017

Memorial Day

The following was presented by Senior Chief Paul Mees at our May 28, 2017, services. It is well worth repeating and remembering those who have died and those who are currently serving to protect our freedom. As our Independence Day celebration approaches, let us continue to Remember Them.

"They tell of courage never quelled, Of duty noble done, Of that dark, awful lonely death, Of everlasting glory won. And dearer still, a nation's love." (From William Ross Wallace).

Memorial Day is the recognition of that very thought; that more important than courage or duty or honor, is a nation's love. Memorial Day is a day for the citizens of this country to remember those who died in service to this country, regardless of who they are, regardless of the circumstances that brought them to their demise. **Remember them this weekend.**

Many of them died giving birth to this country, not knowing if fellow countrymen would turn them in as traitors. Many were starving and ragged in the dead of winter. **Remember them this weekend.**

Huge numbers of them died when this country could no longer tolerate being slave masters to other human beings, so they took up arms, sometimes against their own blood. They would defend the gift of freedom for all, they would not sit on the sidelines and take a knee while this country was torn apart, rather they charged up a hill and took a bayonet. **Remember them this weekend.**

All throughout history and into today, people fight and die in defense of God's gift of freedom for all mankind. They leave their homes and their families, slogging through jungles and mountains and deserts, on the high seas and from the air, fighting determined enemies intent on imposing their domination on others.

Some died in blazes of glory, others scared and hunkered down hoping only to survive the night. Whoever they were, whatever the circumstances were that lead them to their death, whether they volunteered or were drug into conflict kicking and screaming, they died in the cause of your freedom, and I believe it is our duty as free men and women to **remember them in that vane this weekend.**

Freedom has always demanded lives be sacrificed, and someone else has paid our tab. And what they ask in return is the love of their countrymen. It's a small price to pay, and I think we should give that to them, I believe they have earned it.



(Continued on page 2)

Memorial Day *(Continued)*

On this Memorial Day weekend, many say we should not get so wrapped up in the cookouts and the swimming, the sporting events or the concerts. They say that we should be more reverent. I don't share that view. These things that we do as a country on this and many other weekends are the blessings of freedom. If I died planting a tree, I would hope my family would enjoy its fruit early and often.

So please, honor those that died defending the tree of freedom this weekend by acknowledging their sacrifice and enjoying the fruits of your freedom as you see fit. But do not be silent in giving them their due. Let your kids, your family, your friends and all others hear you love them, and I pray your gratitude will be infectious. There is a generation coming up behind us that will one day run this country, and they could use to see us in a bold show of gratitude.

Do not feel you have to give thanks with dark solemnity, rather do so with radiance and joy as if you have been given a tremendous gift . . . because you have.

I will close with a quote from General George S. Patton who said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

~ Senior Chief Paul Mees

July Scripture of the Month

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord . . .

~ Psalm 33:12

Our Grace Family

Meet Michael Perry

Michael Perry is surely someone on which to keep an eye! He was born in Detroit, Michigan and has been married to our girl, Penny, a gifted person in her own right. The one fact that garnered the attention of this writer is the admiration and support he offers her in HIS biography! Marriages would have an extra shot of nutrition if all couples cohabitated in such a manner. Their marriage has lasted over forty-two years, produced two children---Michelle and Michael, who have increased the Perry family to a healthy number. Our Mike worked for Hewlett Packard Unix Hardware repair for 25 years, so Mike is able to retrieve many work related memories. Hobbies: Ham radio and flying. No wonder he is contented to be "just me." Yet his favorite moment occurred when "Jesus entered his heart." He treasures his radio equipment and "just might be talked into organizing a Ham radio club-- and it is probably safe to say he would be more receptive if it were organized just after Mike finished a delicious meal from Puleo's Restaurant on Merchant Drive. In closing, Mike reverts his attention to wife Penny by strongly suggesting that "she is my best asset" and how much he appreciates her gifts. Mike closes with humor by telling us that he is in the movies--"Driving Miss Penny." I suspect "Miss Penny" knows what a gem she has in her spouse!



~ 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.

*Please join us for the
Installation Service of
Reverend Travis Ferguson
as Associate Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church*

Sunday, July 30, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Reception will immediately follow the service



A Prayer for July 4

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love. Amen.



Events to Look Forward to

July 14 - Family Movie Night - 6:30 - 8:30p

July 22-28 - Summer Camp (last day to register of July 9)

July 30 - Pastor Ferguson Installation Service - 4:00 p.m.

September 1-3 - Grace Family Retreat - Fontana Village

October 30 - Trunk or Treat - 5:30-7:30p

HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show.

NEW AIR TIME: Thursday Evenings - 9:00 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Stream for DISH or Direct: Go to CTVKNOX.org. Click on Icon and watch

JULY 2017 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 06 - When to Have Gallbladder Surgery - Dr. David Harrell (taped 8/12/15)
- 13 - Sinusitis Treatment with Balloon Sinuplasty - Dr. Clyde Mathison (taped 5/11/16)
- 20 - Defining Multiple Sclerosis - Dr. Michael Kaufman (taped 7/13/16)
- 27 - ADHD and Dyslexia - Dr. John B. Robertson, Jr. (taped 6/10/15)



Grace's own **Sheila Wittke** has recently retired after 38 years of hosting the HealthLine program. She has been such a blessing and has provided such a wonderful service to the community through this program. Repeats of previous shows will run through the remainder of 2017 from July 6 through December 31.

Books on Christian Life Added

Non-Fiction

Chase the Lion: If Your Dream Doesn't Scare You, It's Too Small by **Mark Batterson** (248.4 Bat): "**Chase the Lion** is more than a catch phrase; it's a radically different approach to life. It's only when we stop fearing failure that we can fully seize opportunity by the mane...This is a wake-up call...Our dreams should scare us. They should be so big that without God they would be impossible to achieve." (back cover)

Wounded in the Church: Hope Beyond the Pain by **Ray Beeson** and **Chris Hayward** (248.4 Bee): These two pastors address head-on the issue of Christians hurting Christians within the church. The result is often shame, rejection, despair or loneliness resulting in "being done" with God and the church. This much-needed guide uses first-person stories to offer the redemptive message desired to restore those wounded. Through God's grace, there is always hope for the hurting.

Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants by **Louie Giglio** (248.4 Gig): For all who find themselves in the grip of an adversary like fear, rejection, anger, or addiction, their ability to live a full and free life is hampered. As they lose sight of God, they settle for a life far less than God's best. Putting a new twist on the story of David and Goliath, Giglio uncovers the key to that better life. It is not a better slingshot, but rather keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer, Jesus.

Between Heaven and Hollywood: Chasing Your God-Given Dream by **David A.R. White** (248.4 Whi): Actor and producer of the **God's NOT Dead** movies shares his life from the wheat fields of a small Mennonite town in Kansas to the bright lights of Hollywood. He challenges his readers to discover the passions God has instilled in them and to pursue them. Your passions may bring God's kingdom a little closer to the world in which we live. White tells his story in his characteristic wit and wisdom.

Josiah's Fire: Autism Stole His Words, God Gave Him a Voice by **Tahni Cullen** (616.89 Cul): This is the true story of a toddler diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder who suddenly lost his ability to speak, play, and socialize. Five years later, just as suddenly, Josiah began to type paragraphs about God, music, science, history and heaven on his iPad. Read his remarkable story.

New Fiction From Popular Christian Authors

Threads of Suspicion by **Dee Henderson** (Fic Hen): In book two of the **Evie Blackwell Cold Case** series, Evie is honored to be named to Governor Bliss's newly created Missing Per-

sons Task Force. She has had a long-life dream of solving cold cases hoping to secure justice for the victims and their families. Teamed with New York policeman David Marshall, they pursue leads on two seemingly unrelated cases in Chicago—the disappearance of a private detective and a missing Brighton College student. They are soon on the trail of a serial killer.

Love Story by **Karen Kingsbury** (Fic Kin): Kingsbury continues the saga of the Baxter family. Two story lines are the focus of this novel. First, in response to his grandson's heritage project, John must relive his life with his beloved wife Elizabeth who died of cancer, opening his heart to pain and beautiful memories. The second story involves Cody Coleman and his broken relationship with Andi Ellison. Both are trying to move on—Andi to the Gulf Coast and Cody to Montana, until a "chance" sighting changes Cody's plans.

Deep Extraction by **DiAnn Mills** (Fic Mil): Book two in the **FBI Task Force** series. Special agent Tori Templeton faces her biggest challenge as an agent when her best friend's husband is murdered, and her friend is the agency's prime suspect. Tori must remain impartial while working to clear her friend's name in the process.

New For Our Children

The One O'Clock Miracle by **Allison Mitchell** (J Mit): This is a simple retelling of the healing of the King's sick son by Jesus. When the King's servant asks Jesus to come to the King, Jesus tells the servant to return home; the son is well. When the servant returns, he asks the King at what time his son was healed. One o'clock.

Your Magnificent Chooser by **John Ortberg** (J Ort): This delightful children's book uses whimsical text to invite children to use the "magnificent chooser" that God has given them to make the right choices in their lives.

Find these and other new materials on display throughout the month.

Luther's Quote for July on the Preciousness of Friendship: "*I for my part consider the loss of all my possessions less important than the loss of a faithful friend.*" (From 2004 Thrivent Financial Calendar)



~ Mary Schultz

Without a Vision . . .

Surely you have heard someone quote this verse: *“Without a vision, the people perish.”* (Proverbs 29:18 King James Version) It is often used to accentuate the need for a grand design from a leader and then urged on an organization as its future course.

The first problem with is the second half of the verse. The full verse reads: *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”* As frequently happens in Old Testament things, the second half of a verse repeats and amplifies the first half. With that in mind, we learn having a vision is parallel to keeping the law of God. Further, “law” here translates the Hebrew word *Torah*, which is the fullness of God’s revelation and instruction. It is not only God’s threats against our sin, but also His gracious acts for our salvation.

The second problem is our understanding of the word “vision.” While it is always good to know where you want to go and have a detailed plan for getting there, that is not what the Bible is urging in Proverbs 29:18. Consider how other versions of the Bible translate it. *“Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.”* (New International Version, 2011. The New King James Version is identical, except “blessed” is rendered “happy.”)

The word “vision” is not a business plan we develop, but God’s revelation of His will. The same Hebrew word is used in 1 Samuel 3:1. It helps us see the difference between what the Bible says and what people make of it in our day. *“Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.”*

What we learn is Bible words derive their meaning from the way the Bible uses them, not what we read back into them for our contemporary purposes. We also learn to be very careful about assertions supported only by the wording of one particular translation, but do not stand up when other versions are compared.

Thom Rainer has been the pastor of a local church, a mission leader, a seminary professor, and is now a church consultant. In his book, *Eating the Elephant*, he described a different approach to the visioning process. He said most think the leader goes off for a few days of solitude and returns with a grand plan. Then he works to sell the plan to the people in the organization. Rainer said he gathered people in the church, instead, and asked them to describe what they wanted the church to become. Then he collected what people stated and summarized it in cogent points. There was no need to sell it because the people already embraced the points as their own.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

How Would You Feel . . .

If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to him?

If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of him?

If God offered as many excuses as we do and if the excuses were not more justifiable than ours?

If God’s promises were no more certain than ours?

If God withheld his blessings from us as we withhold our offerings to him?

Freedom

*Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.*

*Or, we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way --
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.*

*But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom’s place
Is really in God’s Will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!*

~ Peggy Ferrell

DO NOT USE YOUR
FREEDOM
AS A COVER-UP
FOR EVIL; LIVE AS
SERVANTS OF GOD.

1 Peter 2:16, NIV



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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.*

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