



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

January 2017

Time to Make Some Changes

When in your life have you not needed to make some changes? I am not talking about New Year's resolutions, and particularly I am not referring to weight loss goals. What I am speaking about is bringing your entire life in conformity with God's will.

Repentance is best defined as turning around. We often think that repentance is only about sorrow for your actions and thoughts. For sure this is a big part of repentance. But the second part of repentance is to believe the Gospel – believe the forgiveness that has been won for you. Our Lutheran Confessions put it so well: *“True repentance is nothing else than to have contrition and sorrow or terror on account of sin and yet at the same time to believe the Gospel and absolution (namely that sin has been forgiven and grace has been obtained through Christ) and faith will comfort the heart and again set it at rest.”*

Repentance is followed by resolve. We strive always to bring our lives in alignment with the new life we have been given. We were recreated in this life to do good works – to be holy and consecrated to our God.

A big problem for many people is that they see no need to repent and, therefore, no need to change. *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”* This is why reading the Word of God (which powerfully convicts us) and taking inventory of our life is so vitally important. The first step in making needed changes in our life is to recognize our sin. If you won't admit you are sick, you will never go to the doctor.

There are a number of ways to make an inventory list to help you see yourself as you really are. You can go through the 10 Commandments and think deeply whether you are truly obeying them. It is most helpful to use Luther's catechism that has a deeper and thoroughly Biblical interpretation and the aids we have added to it in our modern catechisms.

I personally have used Galatians 5:19-23 which include the acts of the sinful nature and the fruits of the Spirit as my inventory.

The sinful acts are: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, and orgies.

But I find the fruits of the Spirit to be an even better gage as to where I am spiritually. With a score from 1 (the best) to 5 (the worst) where am I with regards to these attributes.

The fruit of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

To take an inventory often is a very wise thing to do. Is it time to make some changes in your life? I am sure it is for both you and me.



~ Pastor Rich

Join the Challenge

Pastor Rich has challenged all Grace members and regular attendees to read the New Testament during 2017. Join us in this challenge and be blessed by God's Word this year. You can pick up a booklet with a schedule of readings at the church or read according to your own schedule.

Get Into the Word!

Resolutions

*"Resolution One:
I will live for God.*

*Resolution Two:
If no one else does,
I still will."*

~ Jonathan Edwards

Our Grace Family Meet Lauri Martin

It's a brand new year, and if you are one of many, no doubt you have thought about making at least one resolution, which will allow you to be a "better person" overall. Our Laurie Martin has a head start because she has always been on the lookout to seek this achievement due to her adventurous spirit. She was born in Midland, Michigan, where this comes natural since these folks tend to move fast just to stay warm!

She has been married to Drew for 34 years, and her loving spirit (along with his) produced the following: Patrick and wife Hallie, who then gifted them with grandchildren Lilly and Shepherd, and daughter Michelle, who resides in Dallas, Texas.

Her most interesting job experiences involve two: working with a colleague who taught her "how a Christian could have a close personal relationship with Christ and the model of what that looked like." Secondly, do ask Laurie about her experience with the Nano-Mechanical Company where she tested all kinds of things like Touch Screens, Bowling Balls and Human Hair. Even her two dogs Jasmine and Jonas are avid listeners for those stories!

Serious eating finds her truly enjoying all seafood and spicy Mexican or Chinese cuisine. And hobbies include gardening, cooking with granddaughter Lilly, rocking grandson Shepherd, or quietly watching cooking shows and absorbing the latest techniques.

Can you believe Laurie concluded that her children "already needed their nails trimmed" when she saw them for the first time. Parasailing came in as a close second when it came to listing "most memorable moments". Ready for some more exciting facts? If she could be anyone she wanted, Laurie chooses : a career coach or a private pilot who would engage in flying missionaries any where they were headed. And if not that, she would choose teaching young women how to cook so that they would be better equipped than she was when starting out as a newlywed.

Her family's laughter and pictures of them are tucked in as valued possessions, which goes side by side with her "sense of humor and her gift of encouragement to others" as best assets. Laurie offers that she is a first generation American whose Father was born in Poland and came to America when he was five years old. "Dad taught our family all about patriotism and serving our country!" He taught her much more than that---as you can see by re-reading this composite of a very wonderful and fine woman!



~ Pat Kopp

GraceNet is published monthly by
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.

Welcome to a New Year!

As we begin a new year, we continue to see growth in the library and the resources it provides to you. Each month new materials are added, some of which are highlighted in these articles.

New Non-Fiction

After Christmas by **Jeremy Howard and Doug Powers** (232.9 How): Now that the celebration of Jesus' birth, Christmas, is over, many non-believers will wonder what it was really all about. In seven brief chapters, Howard and Powell offer a biblical-based explanation of who Jesus is, the problem He came to solve, His death on the cross, and His resurrection. They unpack the theology and evidence on how Christ's birth changed the world. Each chapter ends with thought-provoking questions for reflection. The full Gospel of Luke is included.

A Flood of Evidence: 40 Reasons Noah and the Ark Still Matter by **Ken Ham and Bodie Hoag** (213 Ham) "*That there was a flood 4,000 years ago is not provable. In fact, the evidence, for me at least as a reasonable man, is overwhelming that it couldn't possibly have happened; there's no evidence for it.*"--Bill Nye. Evolutionist Bill Nye repeatedly attacked the global Flood recorded in the Bible at the historic debate with Ken Ham over creation-evolution at the Creation Museum on February 4, 2014. Did you ever wonder why he did this? The reason was simple. He had to. This book is a comprehensive layman's text that answers the countless questions about the Flood and Noah's Ark from a biblical and scientific perspective. This is an easy read filled with facts—a foundation for visitors to the Creation Museum and/or Noah's Ark.

God's Outrageous Claims: Thirteen Discoveries That Can Transform Your Life by **Lee Strobel** (248.4 Str): Best-selling author Strobel chooses thirteen of God's astounding claims about us that are scattered throughout Scripture revealing truths that give hope and confidence in our walk with God. Some of what he presents is challenging as well, but all of it is intensely practical. Included among the claims are: There's freedom in forgiveness, a dose of doubt may strengthen your faith, playing it safe is a dangerous way to live, and ten others.

In 2017, The Lutheran Church will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In recognition of this historic event, Thrivent Financial has sponsored an exclusive Luther exhibition of more than 100 objects that are on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA). The exhibition runs from October 30, 2016-January 15, 2017. I had the privilege of attending "*Martin Luther: Art and Reformation*," experiencing a close-up look at some of Luther's personal possessions, such as his monk's robe; his many German transla-

tions of books for both children and adults; a copy of his handwritten last will and testament; his beer stein; his Bible; a copy of the 95 theses; and the pulpit from St. Andrews Church in Eisleban from which he preached his final sermon three days prior to his death. The pulpit was disassembled in Germany and sent to MIA for reassembly and display. It will be returned to St. Andrews, where it will continue to be used following the exhibition.

While there, I purchased the following for the library:

Martin Luther: Treasures of the Reformation (270.6 Mar): This book is a catalogue of all the objects, archaeological finds, manuscripts, art, printed materials, and sculpture from the exhibit complete with a detailed description of each and its significance to Luther. Perusing this catalogue offers everyone an opportunity to view the exhibit from the comfort of his/her own home.

Martin Luther and the Reformation: Essays (270.6 Mar): These essays by and about Luther give a clear picture of who Luther was, the culture of his time and the religious and political climate of his day as well as Luther's impact on our world today. The book is filled with illustrations and pictures to support each essay.

Martin Luther's 95 Theses: With Introduction, Commentary, and Study Guide by **Timothy J. Wengert** (270.6 Wen) As its title states, this short book contains a copy of the 95 theses, background on their inception and the practice of indulgences, and the reaction to their posting.

October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day That Changed the World by **Martin E. Marty** (270.6 Mar): Martin's book is a companion to Wengert's and also includes a copy of the 95 theses. As a renowned religious scholar, he sums up its history, influence, and meaning for us 500 years later.

Quote from Luther on the approach to living: "*God grant us all to live as we teach and to practice what we preach.*" (2004 Thrivent Financial Calendar)

Find these materials on display in the library throughout the month.

~ Mary Schultz





Births in the Church Family

Brooklyn Blair Hicks

and

Blakely Brianne Hicks

Born: December 20, 2016

Proud Parents:

Brad and Samantha Hicks

Anna Caroline Vick

Born: December 20, 2016

Proud Parents:

Carson and Alison Vick

January Scripture of the Month

But the fruit of the Spirit is

love,

joy,

peace,

patience,

kindness,

goodness,

faithfulness,

gentleness,

and self-control.

Against such things there is no law.

~ Galatians 5:22-23, NIV

Christian Symbols



Three Chests

Sometimes called “three arks,” this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because Scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the Biblical account doesn’t say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”

~ Matthew 2:11, NIV

“Be Blessed” or “Bless Yourself?”

You know God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3--“In you shall all of the families of the earth **be blessed**.” meaning all peoples shall benefit from Christ, the descendant of Abraham. Some newer Bibles read, “In you shall all of the families of the earth **bless themselves**.” Which is correct?

This promise is repeated several places in Genesis and in additional books of the Old Testament. In most of them the Hebrew verb is understood to be passive, meaning “shall be blessed,” and corresponds to what is familiar to us.

But, in some repetitions the Hebrew verb is normally understood to be reflexive, meaning the action of the verb bends back on the one acting. The one acting does so with respect to his own interests, or, “In you all families of the earth shall bless themselves.”

Hebrew verbs do not stay neatly categorized in boxes. According to a standard grammar,* the verb type that is normally passive can sometimes be used as a reflexive. On that basis and for the sake of harmony, some newer Bibles render Genesis 12:3 as a reflexive, or, “In you shall all of the families of the earth bless themselves.” But, less often mentioned is that the same standard grammar asserts the normally reflexive type of verb can also be used as a passive, which reinforces the validity of the traditional understanding of Genesis 12:3.

Since rules of grammar do not really help determine which reading is correct, but do help us understand why some adopt an unfamiliar reading; it is appropriate to ask how Jews with no vested interest in connecting Christ to Genesis 12:3 have understood it through the ages. About two centuries before Christ, Jews produced a Greek translation of the Old Testament for their children who were then speaking Greek as their native language. In that Greek translation known as the Septuagint even those repetitions of the promise to Abraham that use the Hebrew reflexive form are translated in a passive manner further reinforcing the traditional “shall be blessed” reading.

My brother gave me a little computer program designed to help the user better learn Biblical Hebrew. One of the practice sentences is Genesis 12:3. The on-board translation provided by the Jewish authors of this software is the traditional “shall be blessed,” not the unfamiliar “shall bless themselves.”

St. Paul quotes Genesis 12:3 in his letter to the Christians of Galatia (3:8). He likely used the Septuagint. He quoted from it and shows his understanding is the traditional “shall be blessed.”

The grammatical evidence for the alternate reading makes it a possibility, but similar evidence for the traditional reading has equal merit. Both the New Testament and Jews with no interest in advancing the New Testament view support the traditional understanding.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

*Waltke & O'Connor. See a discussion of this on the Internet at:

http://www.academia.edu/368089/Hithpael_and_Niphal_In_Biblical_Hebrew_Semantic_and_Morphological_Overlap



Lessons from a Snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun!
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive
- We're all mostly made of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!!

Smokin' at KARM

Social Ministries, aided by Grace's own Holy Smokers and several other members of the congregation, ended 2016 on a high note by providing and serving lunch at Knox Area Recue Ministries (KARM) on Saturday, December 31. Paul Guthrie and Jan Wuornos supervised the serving line as more than 225 people were fed.

The Holy Smokers spent Friday, December 30, smoking 30 pork butts to turn into pulled pork sandwiches, and that along with smoked baked beans, chips, and cookies, made for a happy new year's meal for those served at KARM the following day. Needless, to say the food was a big hit!! (Rumor has it that Grace has the best meals!)

In addition, on Saturday morning, the Holy Smokers towed their smoker downtown to KARM and set it up outside, smoking 160 hot dogs for the crowd prior to lunch being served. It was a cold, wet and windy day, and the folks were most appreciative.

Grace Lutheran Social Ministries Team serves in a rotation of seven other local churches to provide lunch at KARM every seventh Saturday throughout the year. This ministry, led by Paul Guthrie, is always looking for volunteers to help during Grace's turn. There are plenty of opportunities to be ambassadors for Jesus on one of these Saturdays, and you are guaranteed to be blessed by participating.



HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace member Sheila Wittke.

NEW AIR TIME: Wednesday Evenings - 10:00 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

JANUARY 2017 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 04 - The Aging Face - Dr. Clyde Mathison
- 11 - How Serious are Aortic Aneurysms - Dr. Deanna Nelson
- 18 - Defining Multiple Sclerosis - Dr. Michael D. Kaufman
- 25 - The Effects of Sleep Deprivation - Dr. Farruckh Siddiqui



"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

JEREMIAH 29:11

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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:

