



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

October 2021

Priorities

I came upon this old Lutheran Hour ministry brochure that really spoke to me. Let me share just a part of it in this edition of our GraceNet.

It's about time you got your priorities straight! So many people don't. They are hurrying after things that make little difference in this world, or in eternity.

When the city of Pompeii was destroyed, some 2,000 people lost their lives. Among them was a woman who loved finery above everything else. When the deadly rain of fire came down she decided to run to the harbor and escape by ship. That was the right priority.

But then she stayed behind just long enough to gather as much of her jewelry as she could carry. That was the wrong priority.

She snatched up her rings and thrust them on her fingers. There was not time to hunt for a box. That was a right priority. But she did pick up as many things as she could hold, rushed into the street, clutching her pearls and diamonds, her rubies and sapphires, her gold brooches and her earrings – a wealth of goodies. But it was the wrong priority.

She had delayed too long. The poisonous fumes overcame her as she ran, and with all her trinkets she stumbled, fell, and died, clutching the things she prized so much. There, under the ashes of Pompeii, she lay, and when the excavators found her, she was still lovely, and her hands were still laden with jewels.

That is why: if you have neglected Jesus as Lord of your life – if other things have come first – it's about time to get your priorities in order.

But there's more! It's about time you stop making excuses when it comes to salvation.

Excuses are a common part of our day-to-day living. Policemen, when they investigate accidents, hear ridiculous excuses all the time. Here are just a few of them:

"A car came out of nowhere and struck my car."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

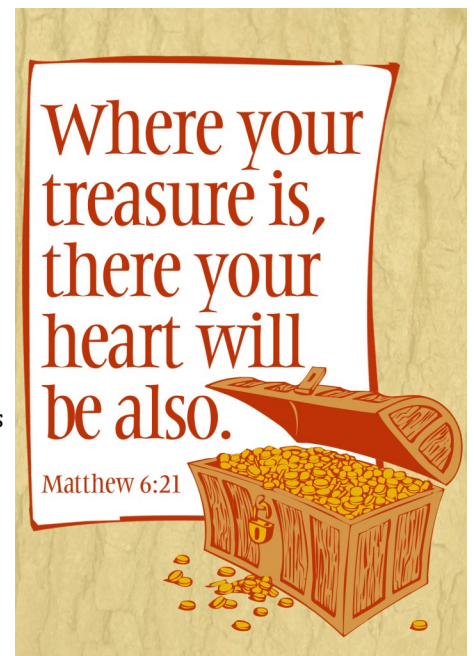
As ridiculous as those excuses are they are no more ridiculous than the excuses people make to the Lord.

"I have to make money, and don't have time for God." God says: *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."* (Matthew 6:19, 20)

"I am not that bad. There are others worse than me." God says: *"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:22, 23)

"I am not ready to become a follower of Jesus right now." God says: *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."* (Isaiah 55:6)

"My friends keep me away from the Lord." God says: *"He that walks with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed,"* (Proverbs 13:20)



(Continued on page 2)

Priorities (Continued from page 1)

“Being a Christian means I have to give up too much.” God says: *“The Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will be withheld from those that walk uprightly.” (Psalm 84:11)*

“I don’t know how to be saved.” God says: *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)*

It is about time to realize that all excuses, any excuses which keep us away from the Lord are ridiculous. And a day is coming when you won’t have a choice.

~ Pastor Rich

Holy Spirit, reform our lives daily as you reform the church, that together we may better serve you in love.

LWML News



Thank you for supporting StreetHopeTN.org and becoming more aware of the needs of victims of sex trafficking in our area.

Now our focus is on **LWML Sunday on October 3**, when we will wear purple to highlight Mites for Mission Grants. Thanks to Susanna Beeler for being our Young Woman Representative and sharing her enthusiasm.

The Quilt Ministry at Grace has produced over 80 quilts this year! We will finish tying these quilts for Lutheran World Relief on **Friday, October 8, at 10:30 a.m.** You are invited to come and help pack them for shipping on **Saturday, October 23, at 10:00 a.m.** They will be sent by LWR around the world to provide comfort and shelter to many who have lost everything, in places like Haiti and the Middle East. The group will not be quilting in November and December, but will continue to collect materials for next year, including assorted fabrics, sheets of all sizes, and any color crochet thread. These items may be left in the Coffee Area. Our thanks go to Nancy Duthey and Thrivent for providing batting and to Mary Krempasky, Mary Schultz, Debbie McFall, and Susan Klemmer for scheduling and organizing this effort to share the love of Jesus.

Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests



The Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** at kdmcgee08@gmail.com (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** (evbrown@gmail.com (865-870-5603)). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church family, please contact Kristin or Ev with your interest.

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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.

Taste and See

Dear family and friends, the verse for today is: *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.”* (Psalm 34:8) Whenever you talk about God, the big word is “good.” But I can hear somebody say, “The earth is full of a lot of things, but where is the goodness of the Lord? Hasn’t He heard of cancer and coronaries, cemeteries and hospitals, crushed hearts and deformed babies, and a lot of other things?”

In spite of everything happening in the world, and also to you, I am here to tell you it is true: “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Unless you know that the Lord is good, life will become a meaningless blob of nothing. God is good. This is true. The God who made this world has visited our planet. He has made a personal call and maintains a personal interest in this world in Jesus Christ. It is a good earth because God is good in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and who rose again for our ultimate victory.

In Jesus, the goodness of God was at work to rescue people from sin and death and the devil. In Jesus there is forgiveness, in Jesus there is real life. Forgiveness is for all who trust in Him. Yes, the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord! Yes, this world is full of all kinds of ugliness and cruelty and suffering, some of it we have brought upon ourselves, some of it brought on by others, and all of it by the curse of sin which causes everything to die. But because of Jesus we have hope, we have life, we have a marvelous future. *“All things work together for the good of those who love God.”* (Romans 8:28)

Life is like a rug where on the bottom side all you see is snarled and twisted lines, with threads that don’t seem to be going anywhere. But God looks on the topside where He is drawing the design and putting together the pattern. God knows what He is doing. *“O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him!”*

All by itself pain and suffering is bad, but God can turn the bad into good. Pain can be God’s way of helping a person to put their trust in Him. Pain and suffering is like a refining furnace. In the furnace impurities are washed away and the gold of faith comes out in all its glory. Trust in God and thank Him for those pains of yours. They tell you that you are well worth the effort....that you are precious in His sight.

Sometimes people say, “Good God,” not really knowing what they are saying. Most of the time it is said irreverently. But it is true! God is good! On the cross, in Christ, God took the pain of the world and literally suffered hell for you and me. What can you say about a God like that, except that He is good? Go ahead and say it out loud: “Good God! The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.”

In Jesus, death is not the end. In Jesus, hope is not an empty dream. In Jesus, death is turned into a doorway to eternal life. *“O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trust in Him.”*

The Good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep, love,
Pastor Stephen Skov

Can You Read This?

κηρύσσω εὐαγγελίζω διαλέγομαι καταγγέλλω λαλέω

NO! It isn’t written in your language, not even in your alphabet. The words are Greek words used in the Bible, but they are meaningless if you can’t read them. God wants all people to be able to hear the Good News about Jesus. In order for that to happen, God’s Word needs to be written and spoken in the language of people around the world. For that to happen we need to have translations into the language of all people groups.

Please pray that God would inspire people to work at translations so that everyone will have God’s Word in their own language.

For more information, please contact Paul Muench, who was at one time the Executive Director of Lutheran Bible Translators. Lutheran Bible Translators works very closely with Wycliffe Bible translators to get good translations of the Bible to all people groups.



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|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 10/1 | Bill Crain | 10/14 | McKenzie McIlwain |
| 10/1 | Barbara Laneman | 10/14 | Joretta Schneider |
| 10/1 | Trent Pyles | 10/15 | Kathy Murphy |
| 10/1 | Bob Strickland | 10/16 | Susan Heitner |
| 10/2 | Michael McCay | 10/17 | Steve Kreiss |
| 10/2 | Rylan Pyles | 10/17 | Anna Stoddard |
| 10/3 | David Hart | 10/18 | John Kuehl |
| 10/3 | Tom Schoenfelder | 10/19 | Byron Mahan |
| 10/3 | Jeanine Smith | 10/20 | Cathy Callies |
| 10/3 | Carol Wooden | 10/20 | Keith Denton |
| 10/4 | Ev Brown | 10/20 | Tisa Mees |
| 10/4 | Steve Kremasky | 10/21 | Laura Bretscher |
| 10/4 | Beverly Miller | 10/21 | Cameron Smithey |
| 10/4 | Janet Schmitt | 10/22 | Becky Hoag |
| 10/6 | Caroline Dreke | 10/22 | Alex Jones |
| 10/6 | Ryan Dreke | 10/22 | Leighann Smiley |
| 10/7 | David Kabela | 10/23 | Joseph Angelino |
| 10/8 | Elizabeth Dreke | 10/23 | Don Cox |
| 10/8 | Brenda Gaddis | 10/23 | Cate Turner |
| 10/8 | Susan Klemmer | 10/26 | Randy Bueckman |
| 10/8 | Stacey Maston | 10/26 | Jeanette Webster |
| 10/8 | Pastor Steve Skov | 10/28 | Savannah Curtis |
| 10/9 | Nancy Burdine | 10/28 | Lexie Glisson |
| 10/9 | Olivia Dodson | 10/28 | Alexandra Howe |
| 10/10 | Alana Harter | 10/28 | Allen Smith |
| 10/10 | Debra Rice | 10/29 | Matthew Kothe |
| 10/11 | Brittany Pafford | 10/29 | Rosie Turner |
| 10/11 | Diane Verley | 10/30 | Daniel Hoag |
| 10/11 | David Wade | 10/30 | Marcie Strickland |
| 10/12 | Sheila Donnelly | 10/31 | Keith Abraham |
| 10/12 | Larry Miller | 10/31 | David Ishee |
| 10/12 | Pam Streufert | 10/31 | Grace Pitcher |
| 10/13 | Irene Holden | 10/31 | Richard Wright |
| 10/14 | Linda Hults | | |



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|-------|------------------------------|
| 10/2 | Joe & Pam McGhee |
| 10/2 | John & Deborah Stegner |
| 10/4 | Richard & Linda Sturk |
| 10/6 | Bryan & Jenny Payne |
| 10/9 | Tom & Ashley Cruise |
| 10/10 | Derek & Kaitlin Knoernschild |
| 10/11 | Douglas & Wendy Butzine |
| 10/13 | Steve & Carol Kreiss |
| 10/14 | Bruce & Barbara Collet |
| 10/14 | Derek & Anna Wilson |
| 10/15 | Amy & Tim Baserman |
| 10/17 | Dale & Stacy Henderson |
| 10/20 | Dennis & Barbara Laneman |
| 10/22 | Al & Pam Streufert |
| 10/27 | Alan & Jennifer Bush |
| 10/27 | Russell & Shawna Hembree |
| 10/28 | Dale & Leona King |



Bible Quiz

Hebrews 11 is called the Hall of Faith because it's a partial list of ancestors who lived out their belief in God. Who is named in this chapter?

- A. Adam, Eve and Seth
- B. Abel, Enoch, Noah and Sarah
- C. Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab
- D. Deborah, Bathsheba and Huldah
- E. A and B
- F. B and C
- G. C and D



Answer: F

October Scripture of the Month

Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf.

~ Psalm 66:5

October Children's Curriculum Themes

In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for October.

~ Frieda Guthrie

| DATE | THEME | VERSE |
|------------|--|---|
| October 3 | God tells us how to respect others. | <i>Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 19:18-19)</i> |
| October 10 | Only God deserves our worship. | <i>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. (Exodus 20:2-3)</i> |
| October 17 | We can all serve God. | <i>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17)</i> |
| October 24 | Be brave for God. | <i>Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that the labor of the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)</i> |
| October 31 | Pay attention to God. | <i>Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf. (Psalm 66:5)</i> |



Operation Christmas Child

The Christmas season is just a few short months away. But why wait until the last minute? Need ideas of what to put in a box? Check out the bulletin board in the children's wing for some great ideas. Christmas Child Boxes can be donated year round, there are updates on how to pay, and we are ready to help with any questions you may have about this ministry. Don't feel like packing a shoebox? We will gladly accept donations for any items you would like to donate towards a box. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at childrensmin@visitgrace.org or Paul Guthrie at pgvint3@gmail.com



~ Blessings,
Paul and Frieda Guthrie



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

During the month of October, let's celebrate Pastor Rich and Pastor Danny by letting them know how much we love them, appreciate them, pray for them, and thank them for all they do for us. We have two wonderful Pastors—let them know how special they and their families are to us!! The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.

HealthLine

Please note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies, and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



Transfusions Protect Brain After Stroke / Machine Helps Stroke Victims Regain Movement

Neuroscientists at West Virginia University say that the key to minimizing brain damage following a stroke may be a transfusion with blood from a person who has never experienced a stroke. The neuroscientists' animal study is the first to show that blood replacement can improve the outcome of ischemic strokes, which are usually caused by a blockage of arteries leading to the brain. Although there are medicines that help dissolve clots and improve blood flow, they must be given within three hours following a stroke. This study, which was published in Nature Communications, found that blood transfusions can be given up to seven hours after the stroke and still have a positive impact. Following stroke, the composition of the person's blood changes, increasing levels of an inflammatory enzyme called MMP-9 which can lead to leakage in the blood-brain barrier the degeneration of brain tissue. Blood replacement removes these inflammatory cells and decreases MMP-9 levels, lessening brain damage.

A stroke survivor focused on how he wanted to bend his elbow and then the robot exoskeleton attached to his left arm obeyed his unspoken command, moving his crippled limb. Contreras-Vidal and his team at the Brain Machine Interface Systems Laboratory at the University of Houston created a device (robot exoskeleton) that would capture a person's intention to move via their brainwaves, then then transmit that intention to a therapy robot. An EEG skullcap strapped to the participants' heads monitored the parts of their brain that control movement. After a dozen therapy sessions most patients retained their improved function for two months when therapy ended.

A Reformation Reminder

When Martin Luther went to church the door showed an image of Christ judging the world. The altar and the cross inside were to remind that Jesus had died for our sins. For Luther the cross was a reminder of God's wrath at sin. A question based on Job 4:17 plagued him, "How can a man be right with God?"

His father hoped Martin would become a lawyer and provide for his aging parents. On one return trip to the university in Erfurt lightning struck near him. A lightning strike was a sign of God's wrath. About the same time there was a knife incident involving a young friend, and the friend died. Luther and the friend would both have been in their very early twenties in age. Luther's friends said this friend's death shook Luther even more than the lightning strike. He sold the very expensive law reference book his father had bought for him, and he entered the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt. Luther walked away from the money his father paid for Martin's education.

Luther was never able to feel he had done enough to satisfy God's requirements. Johann von Staupitz listened to Luther as a father confessor. Unlike Luther, when Staupitz saw the cross and the altar in a church he was reminded of God's mercy. He urged Luther to trust in the mercies of God. Staupitz decided the best way for Luther to be helped was to help others. Staupitz had taught the Bible at the new Wittenberg University, but his administrative responsibilities had increased and he arranged for Luther to take over his old teaching responsibilities.

Luther was lecturing on the Psalms, Romans, and Galatians. He really struggled to understand what St. Paul meant in Romans by, "The righteousness of God is revealed in this...the righteous person shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17). In Luther's training righteousness was something active that individuals must do to satisfy God.

Luther came to Psalm 31:2 in his lecture preparation. He was very familiar with the Psalms and would have recognized its sister verse in Psalms 71:2. "In your righteousness rescue and deliver me...save me." As he pondered that, he began to realize God's righteousness is something passive we receive from God, not something we must strive to do. Suddenly, the Bible was a new and exciting book to Luther. The gates of heaven had opened.

As Luther began to publish his discoveries there was resistance. He was called to give account of himself at debates and congresses. He argued from the Bible. His opponents argued papal authority. Each time he responded to a summons he did not expect to come back alive. Eventually, he was declared a heretic and could be killed on the spot by anyone who saw him. But, the political climate was also changing and he survived. The stakes for anyone who follows the Bible have sometimes been higher than we expect.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken





REFORMATION

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church-LCMS
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Fax: (865) 691-4895
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:



“Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve”