



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

November 2021

## *When Faith Is At Its Best*

*From the Book of Hebrews*

**T**hrough my years of ministry I have seen many go through horrible circumstances. There are two general reactions. For one group, it drove them to trust Christ all the more. The other group lost faith in God. I often think that the Book Hebrews was written for both groups.

In the beginning of the book it testifies to the greatness of Jesus Christ and the salvation He brings. The author warns us about "neglecting such a great salvation." (2:3) He tells us that Jesus suffered when He was tempted so that He can help us when we are tempted to despair. (2:18)

The book offers some stern warnings like in Hebrews 13:12: "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you and evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God." They are the ones who like the Israelites fleeing Egypt and slavery, rebelled against God and whose bodies littered the wilderness. They never made it to the Promised Land. They were unable to enter it because of their unbelief. (3:19)

But in this book there is much more encouragement. The Lord knows we can face some great trials and trauma in life. But Jesus is our High Priest – the one great mediator between us and the Father. So in Hebrews it says: "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (4:12)

There are many exhortations in this portion of the Word of God. We are urged to be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises of our God. (6:12) Patience and waiting are significant themes in this book. We are to have such a confidence in Jesus's love and in our salvation that no matter what we face that we, "...hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering..." (10:23)

Chapter 11 of Hebrews is often called the "Hall of Fame of Faith" chapter. The chief characteristic of each of these heroes of faith is that they died with faith still not having received what was promised but rather looking forward to that "Heavenly City." Abraham and Moses and many others were cited for their clinging to the promises of God yet to be realized in this life. These promises spurred them onward trusting in the faithfulness of God.

In chapters 12-13 we have the powerful mixture of warnings and exhortations. We are told that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Christians who have gone before us) and that we are to run the race of life with endurance keeping our eye on Jesus who is the founder and perfecter of our faith. (12:1-2) The image is of Jesus running ahead of us and for the joy of saving us, He endured the cross.

We are urged not to grow weary (12:3). Many of us may be enduring tough trials but we haven't had to face bloody persecutions that other Christians have triumphantly faced. (12:4) And we are to remember that God disciplines those whom He loves to make them even stronger. (12:6)



*(Continued on page 2)*

## Faith (Continued from page 1)

We are warned that we should not let a “root of bitterness” spring up in us or give into sexual immorality or idolatry. (12:15-16) We are to keep a sharp eye out for strange teachings and false doctrine and avoid them.

The book ends with such hopeful statements of God’s promises. “I will never leave you or forsake you.” (13:5) “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” (13:6) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (13:8) He is ever loving and compassionate wanting you to be saved. And finally we are to know that the present world is not our home but we should pin our hopes on Jesus and living in His home – heaven. (12:14)

~ Pastor Rich

*Thanksgiving is a spiritual exercise, necessary to the building of a healthy soul. It takes us out of the stuffiness of ourselves into the fresh breeze and sunlight of the will of God.*

~ Elizabeth Elliot  
*Keep a Quiet Heart*

## LWML News



**O**ur Lutheran Women in Mission are collecting for Christmas again! Please consider helping the **Isaiah 117 House Project** with donations of children's hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks. These warm clothing items will go to children who have been removed from a dangerous situation, usually with nothing, but what they are wearing. The children will be placed in foster care, but they need to know that they are loved while awaiting the process to new homes.

Please leave your gifts of love in the coffee area before **December 11**, when the LWML will meet to package these items by size and have them ready for a speaker from Isaiah 117 to deliver them before Christmas. For more info go to **Isaiah117house.com** and share the love of Jesus.

On **Saturday, November 6**, we will leave Grace at 8:15 a.m., to go to St. Paul, Wartburg, for the LWML Fall Zone Rally where we will meet with ladies from our sister churches and gather the following items for Storehouse Ministries: shampoo, dish soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

## Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests



**T**he 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](mailto:kdmcgee08@gmail.com) (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** ([evbrown@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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.*



## Thank You for Your Service

**V**eterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

A huge thanks and blessing to all of our veterans who have served this country—past, present, and future! We honor you!

## Double Down

**A**fter you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the Devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation and good deeds. For if Satan’s temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, hell have an incentive to leave you alone.

~ St. Ignatius of Loyola  
(1491-1556)



**Daylight Savings Time  
Ends**

**Sunday, November 7**

## Count Your Blessings

*When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done*

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.*

*When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold.  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your Lord on high.*

*So amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey’s end.*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

~ Johnson Oatman, Jr.  
1856—1922





11/1	B.J. Huffaker	11/16	Will Baker
11/1	Leslie Poker	11/17	Russell Hembree
11/1	Catherine Smithy	11/18	Easton Harter
11/2	Luke Duenckel	11/18	Angela Hays
11/2	Marlene Landon	11/18	Shirley Houchin
11/2	Laura Scraggs	11/18	Paul Mees
11/2	Luke Stapel	11/19	LaVonda French
11/4	Abigail Callies	11/19	Philip Roth
11/4	Bruce Collet	11/20	Matthew Bretscher
11/4	Robyn Corner	11/20	Stephanie Schoenfelder
11/5	Vera Elseroad	11/21	Sloane Haase
11/5	Jill Murphy	11/21	Linda Jaekel
11/5	Jack Newport	11/21	Mason Martin
11/6	Holly Kaplan	11/21	Erick McIlwain
11/7	Will Haynes	11/22	Kristen Ingeneri
11/7	Sonya Nanstad	11/23	Ava Abraham
11/7	Nathan Peterson	11/24	David Haase
11/8	Robby Anderson	11/26	Drew Baker
11/8	John McCay	11/26	Carrie Fisher
11/10	Leah Cleland	11/26	Esther Kabela
11/10	Trevor Ingeneri	11/26	Ethan Spradlin
11/10	Troy Shafer	11/27	Oliver Anderson
11/11	Mike Pyles	11/27	Michael Perry
11/12	Nancy Surprenant	11/28	Chloe Callies
11/13	Mark Frizzell	11/28	Hank Jones
11/13	Tripp Keeton	11/28	Debra Wolfe
11/13	Joe McGhee	11/29	Christian Guthrie
11/14	Don Mings	11/29	Jonathan Mees
11/15	Theresa Angelino	11/30	Mark Klemmer
11/15	Rachel Vick	11/30	Sydney Pettiford
11/15	Calen Wright	11/30	Owen Scheibe



## November Scripture of the Month

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done.*

~ 1 Chronicles 16:8



11/1	David & Jennifer Kessler
11/2	Patrick & Sherri Buchanan
11/4	Joe & Sarah Dew
11/9	Greg & Diane Nichols
11/12	Rich & Debra Wolfe
11/15	Daniel & Becky Hoag
11/15	Sandy & Tom Seay
11/17	Tommy & Sherry Colwell
11/18	Todd & LaWanda Duenckel
11/18	Erik & Megan Kabela
11/22	Steve & Marjorie Jergesen
11/24	Randy & Donna Bueckman
11/24	Bob & Beverly Miller
11/27	Craig & Janet Schmitt
11/28	James & Katha O'Hatnick



## Bible Quiz

**N**aaman, the commander of the Aramean army, had leprosy. Who told his wife about a prophet in Samaria who might be able to cure Naaman? And who was that prophet?

- A. The king of Aram; Elijah
- B. Naaman's wife's sister; Isaiah
- C. An Israelite servant girl; Elisha
- D. A visiting emissary from Israel; Jeremiah



Answer: C (see 2 Kings 5:2-3, 8-10)

## November 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 November.

~ Frieda Guthrie

DATE	THEME	VERSE
November 7	<b>God is with us.</b>	<i>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)</i>
November 14	<b>We can have faith that God will do big things in our lives.</b>	<i>And without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)</i>
November 21	<b>Remember what God has done.</b>	<i>Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. (1 Chronicles 16:8)</i>
November 28	<b>God's power works for good.</b>	<i>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)</i>



## Operation Christmas Child

The Christmas season is just a few short weeks 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](mailto:childrensmin@visitgrace.org) or Paul Guthrie at [pgvint3@gmail.com](mailto:pgvint3@gmail.com)



~ Blessings,  
Paul and Frieda Guthrie

## Moral Without Religion

**I**t is a statement you see more often in public. "I can be moral without religion." This statement assumes religion is just a human endeavor, like something from philosophy or the arts. But, we believe it is about God's revelation to us and deals with how we can know Him.

There is the assumption that the sole purpose of religion is to make people better and more moral. There is no understanding that we are lost and condemned creatures who cannot save ourselves. Yes, it is always a wonderful thing when someone comes to know Christ and turns his life around. But, long term growth in godliness can also be a slow process with many setbacks. Becoming a Christian does not guarantee greatly improved morality, at least not right away.

There are four questions every person asks sooner or later. Those questions show what is lacking in the assertion someone can be moral without religion. The questions are: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? Simply becoming a relatively moral person does not address those persistent questions. The answers to those questions mean recognizing we are created by God to have a relationship with Him in Jesus Christ in which the guilt of our sin is taken away and our life has a purpose beyond itself. Equating religion with only morality puts no value on the death and resurrection of Jesus and fails to understand His importance.

Around the time of Jesus there was a very respected Jewish rabbi who seemed to have a wise answer to every difficult question. He had many devoted students. When he was on his deathbed, he spoke of his uncertainty about what would happen to him after death. His students reminded him of his wisdom and the wonderful things he had done, of how he had served God and taught others. None of those gave him any comfort, and he died in great distress about his standing with God.

Many religions teach great moral principles. They are good religions by which to live. There can even be non-religious philosophies that help people become more moral. But, when it comes time to die, they offer no comfort. Only the Christian Faith assures us Jesus went to the cross to bear the punishment of our sins and to defeat death for us so that it is now the gateway to eternal life.

A pastor was invited to a banquet and sat next to a man who had given lots of money to cancer research. The pastor asked the man why he gave large sums of money. The man said he knew he was not getting any younger, and he might one day be diagnosed with cancer. He hoped the money he gave now might lead to a cure later so he could live longer. It was all self-centered. Becoming moral without God is also.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

## HealthLine

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

~ Sheila Wittke



### Migraine Linked to High Blood Pressure

**A** study published in the journal "Neurology" found that women who suffered migraine headaches before menopause were at increased risk of developing high blood pressure after menopause. In the 20-year study of 56,202 women who did not have hypertension or cardiovascular disease before menopause, those who reported experiencing migraines before menopause were 29 percent more likely to develop high blood pressure after menopause. The increased risk was similar in women who had migraines with an aura, which is an invisible emanation or quality surrounding a person, and women who had no aura. The study's lead author, Gianluca Severi, Ph.D., suggested that physicians may want to consider the significance of women who have a history of migraines and, therefore, may be at a greater risk for developing high blood pressure.

# Save the Date

## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 12, 2021

5:00—7:00 p.m.

Grace Family Life Center



## Upcoming Advent Services

**D**uring Advent Season this year, we will be having Advent services at noon and 6:30 on December 1, 8, and 15. We will also have special Advent devotional books available starting November 14.

## The Journey Begins at Advent

**W**hen Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."



So then, just as you received  
Christ Jesus as **LORD,**  
**CONTINUE**  
to live your lives in him,

**ROOTED** and **BUILT UP**  
in him,

**STRENGTHENED**  
in the faith  
as you were taught,

and overflowing with  
**THANKFULNESS.**

**Colossians 2:6-7, 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.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:



***“Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve”***