

Grace News



God's work. Our hands.

September 10, 2017

Church @ 8:45a

Service Day begins @ 9:30a
at the Domestic Violence Shelter



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The suggested date for the 2017 dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 10. Mark your calendars today! If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2017!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The name "Lutheran" originated as a derogatory term used against Martin Luther by German scholastic theologian Johann Maier von Eck during the Leipzig Debate in 1519.
- "As church together, it's now more important than ever for us not only to pray, but also stand beside all who are facing many forms of prejudice," stated Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

BARNYARD ROUNDUP!!!



VBS Wrap Up 2017 Barnyard Roundup!

We averaged 31 kids each day for the week.
One of the hottest weeks

of the summer!!!

And about 17 adults each day.

Michelle, Dot, Rochelle, Amber C, Geri, Regina, Kevin, Emilee, Laura, Madison, Vanessa, Shylee Susan, Sue, Lisa, Larry, Marion, Ann, Nancy

Both Pastor Tom and Pastor Jim

Each day 8:45 AM to noon: Opening including "Polly the Pig" Skit, Games, Snacks, Bible Story, Craft, Closing

Mission Project: VBS children raised \$100 and bought 5 flocks of chicks through Heifer International!!

Thursday evening, P23, we had a hot dog and beans meal for all participants and both congregations. About 38 people attended. An overview of VBS was led by Dr. Jim. Kevin cooked hot dogs and a variety of people helped with the beans, salad, drinks, set up and clean up, etc.



ELCA ON GENDER IDENTITY DISCRIMINA- TION



In light of recent public events and conversation, it is important to remember the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) rejects all forms of hatred or discrimination. This includes employment discrimination against the transgender community, as stated in "[Gender Identity Discrimination](#)," a policy resolution that was adopted by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

"As church together, it's now more important than ever for us not only to pray, but also stand beside all who are facing many forms of prejudice," stated Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. "Transgender individuals should not be denied the opportunity to participate in our armed forces. We should honor the courage and sacrifice of all members of our military regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation and join those who serve in upholding the respect and dignity of each person."

The ELCA has repeatedly spoken against discrimination in law or policy related to sexual orientation or gender identity. The [policy resolution](#), adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 2013 – the highest legislative body of the church – instructed the presiding bishop to communicate public support for actions that prohibit "employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity" and encouraged all ELCA synods, congregations and members to do the same. Additionally, as a church, we have committed our support to those whose vocation is in the military ("[For Peace in God's World](#)," 1995).

The ELCA is a church that belongs to Christ and Christ's church universal, where there is a place for everyone. The call of Christ's people today is to celebrate the diversity of God's creative work and embrace all people in the spirit of love, regardless of race or ethnicity, economic status or gender. Presiding Bishop

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.7 million members in more than 9,300 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

For information contact:

Candice Hill Buchbinder

773-380-2877

Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org

DWELLING IN THE WORD

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
- SEPTEMBER 3, 2017
MATTHEW 16:21-28

"And Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

What is it that Peter is complaining about? What is it that must not happen to Jesus? It's his suffering and death, right? (Yes, that's right.)

And what is Jesus' response? You know!

Is it right to put the church at risk through our preaching, practice or actions? Is survival the goal? Is freedom from pain or discomfort the goal? The answer, of course, is "No," but the sentiment is one thing, and the realities of parish ministry are another.

We preachers are pulled in two directions. One, in anger and frustration, we are driven towards what we like to call "prophetic" stances and social justice. Amen! Yet, the prophetic has a cost and while it may be something you, as a pastor or deacon, feel called to personally, it may or may not be something you are called to professionally. And then secondly, we are also seduced into silence or timidity over the fear of alienating members, causing needless discord, or further traumatizing those who come to church simply looking for a little peace. This is not a new insight for any of us. The context in which we live, though, aggravates the tension and - oh ya - the text itself asks the question..

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." says Jesus. As you wrestle with the text this week let me offer a few thoughts.

- We are called to deny ourselves, not our congregations, church, country or colleagues. I see you doing this. It's hard.
- The point is not denial as such (as in we have to suffer to be sanctified.) Rather, the proper positioning is not reacting out of our 'human' fears and anxieties, but rather seeking to be obedient to the Spirit. Clearly, this is not a simple distinction!
- We are death and resurrection people. Matthew states clearly that this is the first time Jesus starts to get into this. It is always hard to know what to say to the call to death of self. Let's be honest about that.

What do you fear? What do your members fear? What does your congregation fear? What makes you say, "God forbid it, Lord. This must never happen . . ." Were it me, this would be where my sermon would start.

God's speed!
Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke



I will follow Jesus, our leader.

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Us:

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

Grace and Mercy L.C.

POB 1108

Hermiston, OR 97838

(541) 289-4535 (church cell)

(509) 398-0258 (pastor's cell)

gandmlutheran@gmail.com

graceandmercylutheran.org

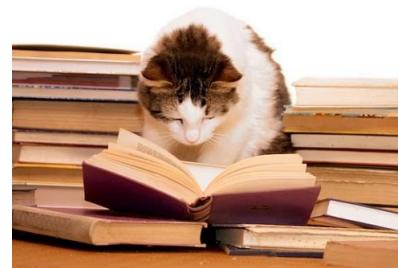
Visit us on Facebook at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

Worship: Sunday Morning @ 8:45 @
First United Methodist Church, 191
E. Gladys

Built on a Rock... In today's Gospel, Peter makes a great yet simple confession of faith and a statement of Jesus' true identity. Jesus tells him that the church will be built on him—on the rock of his confession. Look at your own congregation. Who are the people on whose confession your congregation has been “built”? Do you have their photos? If so, make some heavy cardstock building blocks and write their names and include photocopies of their pictures. Talk to the children about how our congregations are built on the witness of Christ in each believer. Build a simple “foundation” of faith blocks. Invite each child to write their own name on a block and add it to the foundation. If you have a digital camera take their photos to add to the blocks later. Consider extending this exercise to the entire congregation and display the blocks in a visible place in your building for all to be reminded. Be sure to make one big cornerstone for Jesus' name and another large block for Peter. End with a simple prayer of thanks and encouragement to tell everyone what God has done.



1. The word “Protestant” was first used formally around 1529. “Protestant” originates from the Latin word protestari, meaning “declare publicly, testify, protest.”
2. The name “Lutheran” originated as a derogatory term used against Martin Luther by German scholastic theologian Johann Maier von Eck during the Leipzig Debate in 1519.
3. While reformers rejected marriage as a sacrament of the church, they expanded the role of the church in marriage. Couples took an oath before God and the ceremony was moved from outside the church on the doorstep—a medieval practice—to inside the sanctuary in front of the altar.
4. The Reformation created a demand for all kinds of religious writings. Readership was so great that the number of books printed in Germany increased from about 150 in 1518 to nearly 1,000 six years later.
5. By the time Luther died, 30 editions of the Small Catechism had been published. By the end of the 16th century, there were an additional 125 editions in circulation and approximately 100,000 copies in print.
6. An estimated 6,001,500,000 Bibles have been printed since the first one came off the press in the Middle Ages. The first Bible published in North America was printed in 1663.
7. The Luther rose (or Luther seal) was created at the request of printers to have a personal symbol representing the reformer’s faith that could serve as a mark indicating something was an authorized publication of Luther’s. It became widely recognized as the symbol for Lutheranism, and still is today.



Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Sep 3	Kevin Hedgepeth	Hedgepeths	
Sep 10	God's Work. Our Hands	S Meyer/G Meyers	
Sep 17	Phil Schmidt	Lee, Boyd, Wendling	
Sep 24	Dawn Largé	Barbara Hertenstein, Dawn Largé	

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Sep 3	Anniversary	Katja & Jerry McMichael
Sep 6	Birthday	Kari Inch
Sep 14	Birthday	Dorothy Lee
Sep 16	Birthday	Flora Larson
Sep 19	Anniversary	Katriena & Ivan Ford
Sep 25	Birthday	Ian McMichael
Sep 28	Birthday	Aitiana Nava

September 2017