

Grace News

For All the Saints

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses....
let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

It had become a custom for us to gather as a community of faith at various times during the year. To gather during Ash Wednesday, on occasion during Lent, Holy Week and Reformation Sunday did not seem unusual. Year round preparations were made to raise up these holy times of the year. It wasn't until the suggestion was made that we gather for All Saints Day; different but doable. The talk and plans were made; style of worship and parts were decided upon and then the day, or more appropriately, the night came.

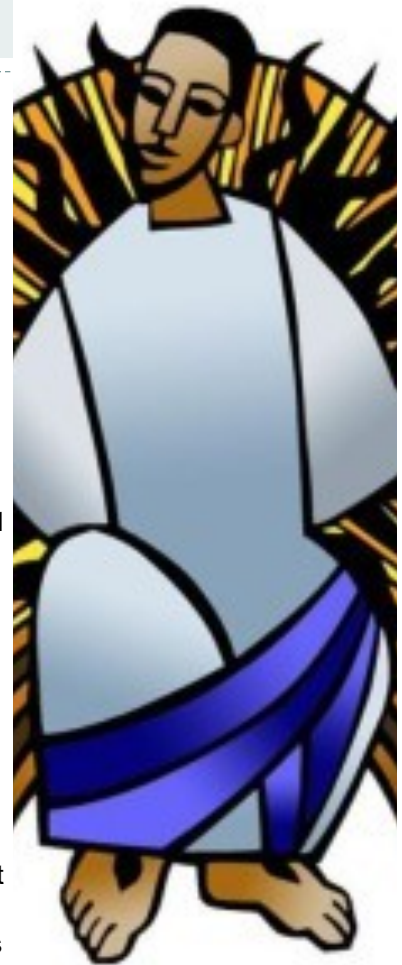
The sanctuary was bathed in candle light. An eerie sense came over the place. Shadows were cast and moved about as the wind teased the flames. Faces that could be seen clearly during the day or even in a well lit room, were now hidden in the half shadows. It was as if we were there, but not quite. Or, something was there just outside of our ability to see clearly.

The pastoral train began its slow procession to the nave. About halfway up the aisle we came to a stop and the first name of the long list of those who had died in the past year was read. In the quiet the name echoed off the walls. As this first name began to fade and we prepared ourselves to hear the next, a response was heard. "Here!" Collectively there was an inhaling at the response.

As I look back on that particular event I remember the response of many of the people that night. As names were read and responses were heard, tears began to be shed and heads nodded as the truth became known. Though dead, these people had been raised. Though gone, these people were very much present. Though sinner, these people are the saints of God.

All Saints Day/Sunday is a festival of connection. Rich in history, it reminds us of our history as part of a larger community of faith, a community that transcends time and space. The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that we are surrounded by this cosmic community, a community that serves as witness and encouragement in the life we live in Christ.

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For All The Saints



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- All Saints Day/Sunday is a festival of connection. Rich in history, it reminds us of our history as part of a larger community of faith, a community that transcends time and space.

YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH ...



October 27, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

“You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32)

On Reformation Day, we gather as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – in our congregations, across this church, and with our Lutheran family around the globe – to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This centennial has provided a welcome occasion to learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation, while strengthening our understanding and commitment to our ministries. It has given us an opportunity to look back on the history of our tradition and to discern how we are being called forward together in Christ.

As the first centennial of the Reformation to take place in the context of our church’s deep ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships, this anniversary is unfolding in a spirit of reconciliation. Together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, and other ecumenical companions, we have taken significant steps on the way to unity, justice and peace. With our inter-religious neighbors, we also have deepened mutual understanding across religious lines and collaborated for the common good.

Over the course of this year, in initiatives and events across this church and The Lutheran World Federation, we have been inspired by the ways in which Lutherans continue to share boldly the gifts of our tradition. One of these is Martin Luther’s insistence that the unconditional promise of God’s love in Jesus Christ frees us to love and serve our neighbors. This counter-cultural message is as fit for us today as it was for Christians 500 years ago.

On this day, and into God’s future, we are called to be a public witness to how God is continually at work, in and through us, re-forming the body of Christ in a world broken by sin. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dwelling in the Word
All Saints, November 5, 2017
Revelation 7:9-17

"After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

The Gospel reading for All Saints is Matthew 5:1-12, the Beatitudes. However, I love Revelation and always rejoice in any opportunity to preach from it. What better day than All Saints?!

This Sunday you will undoubtedly name and the names and tell stories of some of these saints. There are people every nation, all tribes and languages. Yes. Heaven is the ultimate refuge, God's sanctuary, that place where asylum seekers find a true home.

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Amen and Amen!!

Bp. Dave



The Parable of the Ten Maidens

Matthew 25:1-13



*"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day
or the hour."*

Matthew 25:13

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Us:

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

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Visit us on Facebook at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

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

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Pray, Fast, Act

This day also serves to remind us that the Saints are not just the “greats” of faith like Peter and Paul, but they are also you and I. In our baptism and by our lives we witness to the faith, to the Christ. You and I also respond with, “Here!” when the roll call of saints is listed.

In this light we remember those from our congregational, and extended family who have been gathered unto God in the past year, those who have been faithful and have run with perseverance the race that was set before them, who now celebrate the life promised to them in their baptisms.

George Luciani

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Novel Ideas meets on the final Tuesday of the month (Nov 28th). This month it is a “dealer’s choice” as we focus on Biographies or Auto-Biographies that we have enjoyed reading and would like to share. Come prepared for a lively group discussion, full of laughter and fun.

See you at FUMC—Davis Hall @ 5:30ish!

Upcoming Events

Dec 2

Hanging of
the Greens,
2pm @ FUMC

Dec 2-3 Fes-
tival of Trees

Dec 10

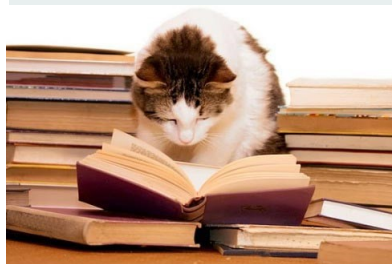
Worship @
Prison

Dec 17

Combined Service @ 10am & Children’s Program

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service @ 7pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Service @ 10am





Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Nov 5	Phil Schmidt	Kunninggrud, Schmidt	
Nov 12	Regina Marks	Rice, McMullen	
Nov 19	Kevin Hedgepeth	Hedgepeth	
Nov 26	Dot Hansley	Hensley	
Dec 3	Phil Schmidt	Lee, Boyd, Wendling	
Dec 10	Dawn Large	Hertenstein, Large	
Dec 17	Regina Marks	Marks	
Dec 24	Jerry McMichael	McMichael	
Dec 31	?	?	

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Nov 1	Birthday	Midred Kasari
Nov 13	Birthday	Ruth Konningrud
Nov 15	Birthday	Jonathan Larson
Nov 19	Birthday	Micah Madore
Nov 22	Birthday	Bill Hill
Nov 25	Birthday	Cindy Ruhl
Nov 26	Birthday	Mary Wendling
Nov 27	Birthday	Kj Inch
Nov 29	Birthday	Shirley Pettit

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9a Starbucks	2 11:30a Open Table 1pj Quilters	3	4
5 <i>All Saints</i> 8:45a Worship 10a Fellowship & Education  Daylight Savings Time Ends Revelation Study 6pm	6 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	7 8a Coffee Group VOTE  Election Day	8 9a Starbucks 10a Gather Study	9 11:30a Open Table 1pj Quilters	10  VETERANS DAY Veteran's Day (observed)	11
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
12 23 Pentecost 8:45a Worship 10a Fellowship & Education	13 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	14 8a Coffee Group 6:30p Leadership Mtg.	15 9a Starbucks 9:30a Foot Clinic	16 11:30a Open Table 1pj Quilters	17	18
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
19 24 Pentecost 8:45a Worship 10a Fellowship & Education	20 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	21 8a Coffee Group	22 9a Starbucks 10a Gather Study 7p Service	23  Thanksgiving Day	24	25
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
26 Christ the King 8:45a Worship 10a Fellowship & Education 5:30p Worship @ Prison	27 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	28 8a Coffee Group 530p Novel Ideas	29 9a Starbucks	30 11:30a Open Table 1pj Quilters		
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						