

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.org



June 2023

We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Grace Family,

With the arrival of June, we find ourselves having moved from the Season of Easter (Easter Tide) to the Season of Pentecost. This move is also the dividing point between the Festival Season and the Teaching Season of the Church.

The Festival Season (sometimes called The First Half of the Church Year) begins with Advent and takes us through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter Seasons as we follow Christ from the Prophet's foretelling all the way to His being Crucified, His Resurrection, and His Ascension.

The Teaching half of the Church Year (sometimes called The Sec-

ond Half of the Church Year) takes us from Pentecost Sunday, where we celebrate the gifting of the Holy Spirit, all the way to the end of the Church Year.

As you pay attention to the changing of the colors of the Seasons of the Church Year you will notice that the banners, altar paraments, and the Pastor's Stole change to Green following Pentecost Sunday (Red) and Trinity Sunday (White). Green represents growth which reflects that the second half of the Church Years is also referred to as the "Teaching" half of the Church Year. In this season we continually call upon the Holy Spirit to teach us about this Christian faith into which He has called, gathered, and enlightened us through the Word as we

hear it proclaimed, and as we read and study it together.

As the Teaching Half of the Church Year implies, it might also be considered the "Learning Half" of the Church Year. With that in mind, I encourage you to take every opportunity to ready, mark, learn, and study God's precious Word together as the fellowship of believers called Grace Lutheran Church. Strive to join us each Sunday as we gather around God's Word and Sacraments in the Divine Service, the study of His Word in the Sunday morning Bible Class and any other opportunity to be in His Word together as the Grace Family of Faith.

In His Service and Yours
Pastor Schultz

The Church Word for April: Atonement, Reconciliation



“You won’t die,” hissed the snake. So, what could it hurt? So Eve and then Adam ate the fruit. What they didn’t realize is they had ruined everything. In effect, they told God they knew better than him. They built a wall between God and us. But that was not all, they built walls between them and set their descendants up for constant warfare in one form or another forever. And, it turns out, God was right. Cut yourself off from the source of life and you die. Slowly, but surely, your body wears out. Creation itself tries to kill you and everything lives for itself and nothing else. Thorns infest the ground.

When two people are angry with each other, someone has to

bring them together. Often it is an apology sealed with a small sacrifice — one man buying his angry friend a beer, a husband bringing flowers to his wife or other sign of giving a part of themselves to reconcile. The bigger the breach, the more dramatic the sacrifice. An employee resigns to save the company and restore faith in it. A child works off the cost of the window her softball broke.

God told us from the beginning what that sacrifice must be. A holy God cannot live with a sinful, selfish being. To be reconciled to God means to die. Yet God loved us from before he made the world and does not want sinners to die. So God himself provided the sacrifice to bring about at-onement — atonement. First it would be prize lambs or other livestock that would hurt for a shepherd to lose. Yet that would never really do. So his people still die.

It would take the sacrifice of sinless human life to bring God and his children back together. Yet they are in short supply — all humans are born sinful. And God

himself is sinless — but he cannot die — or so it seems. God is his grace decided to redeem us with the sacrifice of his Son — his only Son— whom he loved. This is not divine child abuse as the atheists charge because God is the Holy Trinity. When the Son of God died, God was sacrificing himself. So, the Eternal Son, the author of life, became a man in the womb of the Virgin Mary. When he died on the cross for us, he saved us with his own blood. The curtain of the Holy of Holies tore from top to bottom and the walls between us came tumbling down.

Now we are at-one with God. In every Divine Service, the Lord Jesus seal the New Covenant in his blood. He gives us his body to eat with the bread and his blood to drink with the wine. It is a down payment on the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, which we will join all too soon. Then fully reconciled with God, we will live with him forever.

Rev. Robert E. Smith
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

©2019 Robert E. Smith. All rights reserved. Permission granted to copy, share and display freely for non-commercial purposes. Direct all other rights and permissions inquiries to cosmithb@gmail.com

Trinity Sunday and the Athanasian Creed

While this creed is a part of the Lutheran Confessions, it is usually used in services on Trinity Sunday. It is found in our hymnal and in the Book of Concord. While it is long and rather complex, it is an important confession of the Christian faith.

Background: in the late first and early second century, one of the

main centers of Christianity was Alexandria, Egypt. There were two main leaders in the church, Athanasius and Arias. There was considerable tension and dispute between them and both struggled to maintain the leadership position — but that is a subject for another time.

Athanasius was a staunch defender of the doctrine of the Triune nature of the one, true God. Arius had a very different view of God and the

divinity of Jesus. This struggle moved beyond Alexandria and was troubling much of the Church of that day. Emperor Constantine called a gathering of the leaders of the Church at Nicaea in 326AD. A near unanimous vote affirmed Athanasius and condemned Arius as a heretic. The meeting also formulated the Nicene Creed — also in the Lutheran Confessions.

[continued next page]

Unfortunately, the struggle between the views of the nature of God continued and more statements were made and revised. The final version was approved by the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD and has been used by the Christian Church through the ages since that

time.

The Athanasian Creed declares that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord's incarnation are "the catholic faith." In other words, this is what the true Church of all times and all places has confessed. More than fifteen

centuries later, the Church continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has given Himself for our salvation.

Kenneth Haydon. Elder

Reports from the Mission Field

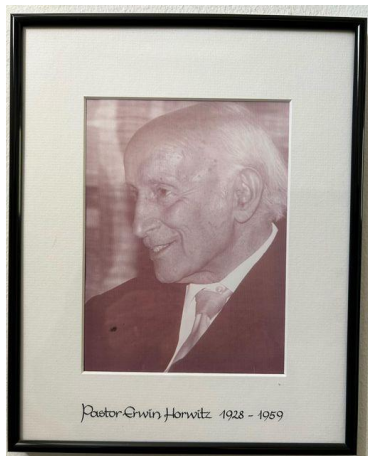
Dear Grace Family,

As a means to help us be better connect to the work that goes on in the Mission Field, and the work of our LCMS Missionaries, I've asked the Rev. Christian Tiews permission to reprint some of his

reports in our monthly newsletter. Many of you have met Rev. Tiews as he came to Grace to give one of his presentations considering demonic oppression and possession. Not long after he visited us the LCMS Mission Board issued a

Call to him to be a Missionary to Germany and specifically to the many Islamic immigrants arriving in Germany. Again, this month, I submit the following.

Pastor Schultz



I serve Iranian Lutherans in two churches in Hamburg, one of which is Zion Lutheran (SELK). In the early 1940s, one of its parishioners was a lady named Margarethe Guradze. She was Jewish by birth and later converted to Lutheran Christianity. For years, the congregation had been able to protect Margarethe from the Nazi authorities. However, in the wee hours of July 15, 1942, the Gestapo knocked on

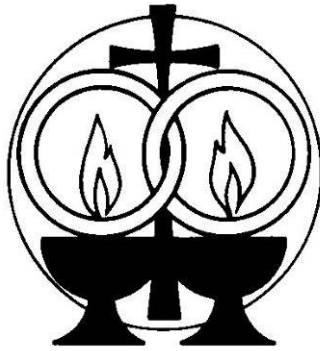
the door of her apartment and hauled her off to a temporary detention center. Zion's pastor, Rev. Erwin Horwitz, also of Jewish descent, was soon notified of her arrest. He himself had been locked up years earlier because of his Jewish heritage. Amazingly, every Sunday morning the Nazis allowed him to attend to his pastoral duties at Zion, but every Sunday evening they escorted him back to the work camp. Jesus tells us in John 10: 'I am the Door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.' And then: 'He who enters by the Door is the shepherd'—we might also say undershepherd—of the sheep.' Pastor Horwitz was an excellent undershepherd. Even though he knew he would be walking into the lion's den, he *had* to visit Margarethe in the detention center because she would soon be forced to set out on a journey

from which she would most likely never return. And so, surrounded by Jews, Christians, and all sorts of other "enemies of the state" fearing for their lives, Pastor Horwitz gave Margarethe the most important nourishment possible for her journey: the Lord's true body and blood—for the forgiveness of her sins, life, and salvation. Soon afterward, Margarethe was transported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, where she would be imprisoned for two years. On May 15, 1944, she would then be herded into a railway car headed for Auschwitz. Margarethe would never return. *** How awesome to consider that whenever we take Holy Communion with our Iranian friends at Zion Hamburg, we are invisibly joined by all the company of heaven—including Margarethe and Pastor Horwitz.



June Birthdays

Sheldon Knuth	18
Terri Herman	21
Glenna Cates	29



May Anniversaries

Dean & Lisa Bennett	1
Randall & Vicki Garrett	17
Ken & Bernie Haydon	19



Men's Fellowship

We will be taking the summer off from our regular meetings. If something comes up, you will be notified. Look for our meetings to resume in September!

The Women's Guild

We take the summer off from our normal meetings; however, we still gather at times for Fellowship.

We will be meeting for Lunch on Tuesday, June 20th at **11:00 AM** at the **Thai House** in Eureka Springs.

If you can join us please list your name on the Sign-up sheet at the back of the church. We want a good count for the restaurant so they can be ready for us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 20th.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Herring, Secretary



What are all these goodies about?

Check the back of the Calendar Page

Oh, and there were more besides.

Our thanks to the Senicas for their hospitality and generosity

Summer Time

Official things are often slow on the church's long term planning, but things do come along and we will try to inform everyone by the bulletins, emails, or texts as needed