



The King's

Business

## Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive  
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

[www.gracelutheranhi.org](http://www.gracelutheranhi.org)



**September 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

#### Greetings in Christ!

It's hard to believe it is already September.

It is somewhat traditional for Congregations to approach September with a sense of renewal. Many congregations "take the summer off" from many of the regular activities of the Church. Some take a break from most weekday activities as summer has a way of reducing attendance at these weekday gatherings. Some congregations drop Sunday School (or the Christian Education Hour) as families go on vacation while the schools are out.

This is all to say that when September rolls around pastors and

people aren't surprised to see activities revving up as temperatures begin to cool, kids are back in school, and the return of churchy activities is the rule.

In the August Newsletter I allowed you to peek into this roving mind of mine as I was contemplating our Fall Christian Education Program. Since there have been a few requests to study Liturgy I've decided that it would be a good subject for Sunday mornings Christian Education Hour. So, following Labor Day Weekend, and after a "get-away" for Sharon and me, we will have an introduction leading us into a weekly discussion of the various parts of the Liturgy beginning Sunday, September 17.

I believe you will find it interesting as you might learn some things you either never knew or have forgotten. I also believe you will find it benefiting your weekly "Worship Experience." I've never liked using the phrase "Worship Experience", but it will do for now.

As Sharon and I will be gone September 4-11 there will be no Thursday Bible Study on September 7<sup>th</sup>, it will return on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will then begin to study the Lessons of the Day for the following Sundays. Doing this on Thursday gives us more time to dig into those readings as well as feedback/questions from you as I prepare the sermon of the following Sundays.

*[continued next page]*

In preparation for the study on Liturgy there are often concerns/questions concerning making the sign of the cross. Sadly, this historic act of Christian piety had fallen into the biases of anticatholic rhetoric. Thankfully, with a recovering of the act of making the sign of the cross as the confession that you were and are marked as of one of the redeemed by Christ crucified it has return to confession Christians.

The Lutheran Service Book (LSB)

encourages all the baptized to make the sign of the cross at the Invocation and elsewhere throughout the service. There in red, we read, “The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.” The sign of the cross is not just for the pastor to make, but the whole congregation is free to do for themselves.

The sign of the cross is the oldest symbol of Christianity. The cross and specifically the crucifix, that is the cross containing the body of

Christ, represent clearly that **Jesus Christ and Him crucified is the object of our faith and worship.** There is no other sign more Christian than the cross, and it is a sign for all the baptized to use in worship and devotional life.



*In His Service and Yours*  
*Pastor Schultz*

## Church Words Last Things: The Great Tribulation



Jesus had quite a bit to say about his return. The signs that we are in the last days are clear. He will return suddenly, so be ready! The angels will descend, the dead will come to life again, we will all gather before his judgment throne. The lost will then be thrown with the devil and his angels into hell and we will go with him to live forever. But where is talk about the Tribulation and the Millennium? Jesus never speaks about a seven-year period of special punishment of the world for their sins or an earthly reign at the end of time,

much less a thousand year one. So where does the talk of a millennium on Christian radio, in endless end time and prophecy books come from?

The concepts of the Rapture, the Great Tribulation and a one-thousand-year reign of Christ prior to the final judgment are less than 200 years old. John Nelson Darby first taught the idea that that faithful Christians would be “raptured” — removed from the world at the end of the current age just as God poured out his wrath in a seven year “Great Tribulation” when the Anti-Christ would rule and severely persecute people who became Christians — mostly Jewish people. At the end of this period Christ was to return to rule the world for 1000 years. After that he was to judge the world, condemning the lost, the devil and his angels to hell, while the saints will live with God forever.

These views, popularized by the *Scofield Reference Bible* and evangelical authors, became an estab-

lished theology among Fundamentalist, Evangelical and independent Protestant Churches. Some Pastors and Evangelists speculated that current events fulfilled Biblical prophecies, treating the Bible like a giant algebra problem. Some even set a date for the rapture — and recalculated when the prediction failed. Yet the whole view of the end is not true.

All of the signs Jesus taught apply to all the time between the Ascension of Jesus and his return at the end of time. No one knows the day or the hour of his return (Mark 13:32). It will be a normal day like any other — until it is not. (Luke 17:26-35) Jesus calls on us to stay awake. We do not know when he is coming for us — at the end of days — or the end of our days. Either way, we should be about what God has called us to do, so when he comes to take us home, we are ready to greet him.

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

## Reports from the Mission Field

Dear Grace Family,

As a means to help us 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. This month, I submit the following.

Pastor Schultz



Only weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine, I was asked to welcome and assist Ukrainian refugees—a mother and daughter from Dnipro. I met them on a cold rainy night at Hamburg's central station. They quickly recognized the cardboard Ukrainian flag I had prepared. Exhausted after three days of travels, they hugged me—tears in their eyes, grateful for their safe arrival. A nurse by profession and also multilingual, Lyubov immediately started teaching newly-arrived

Ukrainian nursing students the German language. The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (ELCU), Rev. Serge Maschewski, knew Lyubov and soon asked her to reach out to the LCMS, to explore whether we might provide supplies for ELCU churches: Communion ware, warm clothing and shoes, etc., but also helmets and bulletproof vests for ELCU pastors providing pastoral care on the battlefield. Lyubov and I teamed up with Viktor Bender, a Russian (!) living in Germany, and together we procured the desired items. Fast forward to the LCMS Convention: As a token of appreciation for our newly resolved church fellowship and also for the much-needed supplies, Bishop Maschewski presented LCMS Pres. Rev. Dr. [Matt Harrison](#) with a helmet that, as it so happened, Lyubov, Viktor, and I had pro-

cured. The Bishop had worn it while visiting his parishioners fighting on the front lines. On one occasion, a drone struck, and he was hit by fragments. Even though the attack blinded him for 20 days, the helmet saved his life. In fact, that same helmet was later worn by another ELCU pastor, who was likewise struck but who also survived. Praise God for Lyubov and the many ladies around the world like her: strong, dignified, and—thanks to her faith in Jesus Christ—full of courage in the face of adversity (Pr 31:25)—and sometimes even saving lives in the process. (Insert: ELCU Pres. Maschewski, LCMS Pres. Harrison; courtesy of the LCMS/Frank Kohn; large picture: Viktor Bender, Lyubov Galimova).

Rev. Christian C. Tiews  
Hamburg, Germany

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

I am going to start a women's Bible Study in my home beginning later in September or at the latest October following my surgery recuperation. The 2 studies I am looking at are: **Pew Sisters by Katie Schuermann** and **Promised Rest by Michelle Diercks**. If you are interested please contact me, Sharon, for more information. Blessings from your Sister in Christ!

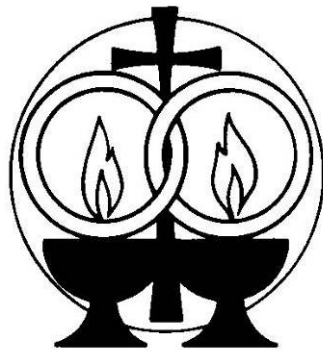


The **Grace Men's Fellowship** will resume its meetings on the second Monday of the month beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Join us, guys!



## September Birthdays

Thomas Achord	3
Janice Willmuth	8
Mike Smith	19
Kenneth Haydon	20
Stephanie Garrett	25



## September Anniversaries

Tony & Janice Willmuth	7
Thomas & Becky Achord	18
Randall & Diana Senica	18
LaVerne & Terri Herman	20
Ken & Ruth Wegener	25

## Grace Women's Guild

Grace Women's Guild needs volunteers for our **Altar Committee**. Members of this committee are primarily responsible for preparing the weekly Holy Communion. There are other responsibilities as well.

Currently, only two of our members are serving on this committee so more ladies are needed. Training will be provided. Please give this prayerful consideration and contact Terri Herman, Dianna Mancuso, or Jane Bleser if you would be willing to serve our church in this way. This will be on the agenda for the Guild meeting in September.

## Women's Guild

Dear Sisters,

All women of Grace are invited to attend our next Women's Guild meeting on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> starting with fellowship at 10:30AM. Following fellowship is the business meeting. I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for projects through the remainder of the year. Please be in prayer for the officer's elections which is in November. The President's position is open and is on the agenda for discussion and questions. Our guild is the best and I look forward to seeing all of you!

"I have called you friends for everything that I learned from my father I have made known to you." John 15:15

Terri Herman



Guild Luncheon in August

