



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.org



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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.

It's a Matter of Trust

One of the saddest features, for me, of the entire pandemic is the lack of trust the world has shown. These days, no one trusts anyone else about anything. It doesn't matter what the issue is, someone doesn't trust others concerning what they say or do. The examples I could give number in the hundreds of thousands and few aspects of life would escape. You can think of a bunch too.

There remains but one in whom we can place our trust and know that we will never be disappointed. Of course, that one is our Heavenly Father. Hear the words of **Psalm 199:89-96**:

Our God is a trustworthy God. We can make this claim by the truth laid out for us in His Word, by His demonstration of His love for when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior, and by the never-ending fountain of His hope, mercy and grace in our lives.

I ask you—never lose sight of the trustworthiness of our Lord. In all the questionable words and actions of those around us, always know the Lord can be trusted by you and me and all who believe. Let that trust sustain you in these days.

*Forever, O Lord, Your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
You have established the earth, and it stands fast.
By Your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are Your servants.
If Your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget Your precepts,
for by them You have given me life.
I am Yours; save me;
for I have sought Your precepts.
The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider Your testimonies.
I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but Your commandment is exceedingly broad.*

Pastor Herring

Stewards of Our God-given Vocations

The Pocket Bible Dictionary defines vocation as a calling based on God's purpose and grace (2 Timothy 1:9). The Apostle Paul urged believers **'to walk worthy'** of their Christian vocation (Ephesian 4:1). God has given each of us different vocations. At birth, we were given the vocation of being a child. Many of us have brothers and sisters, so we have the vocation of being siblings. If we marry, we have the vocation of spouse, and, with children, we have the vocation of parents. Our place of residence makes us citizens of our neighborhoods, cities, counties, states, and our country. Our work is a vocation. At baptism, we are given the vocation of being Christian.

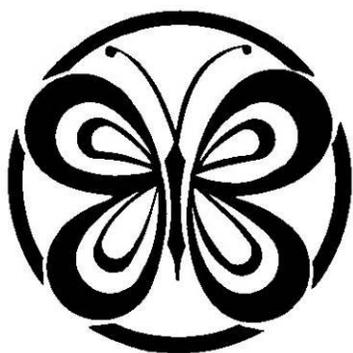
As God's people, we see our vocations as gifts from God, and, with His help, we can honor Him in each of our vocations. The Apostle Paul tells us **"And whatever**

you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17). Jesus should accompany us in every vocation of life. In each of our vocations, we have a responsibility to do our best and show God's love in all that we do. For example, as a married person, I am to love and cherish my spouse. As parents, we are to provide for the physical well-being of our children and most, important, help them to grow in their relationship with Jesus. To walk worthy, as Paul encouraged, implies that we are to be God's representatives in all of our vocations. In our homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and churches, we are, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to reflect God's image and values in each of our vocations. God's image reveals a spirit of kindness, patience, love, and generosity. We are to bring good to others and glory to God in order that His kingdom might advance.

Our careers or places of work are what we reference most when we think about vocations. To work and have a vocation is a wonderful gift from God. Pastor Tony Evans in his book *Kingdom Stewardship* tells us that we are to "stop leaving God at church. Take Him to work. He wants to be part of the widgets you are making, letters you are typing, businesses you are building, and entrepreneurial risk you are taking. He wants to be a part of the education you are pursuing. He wants to climb the ladder with you."

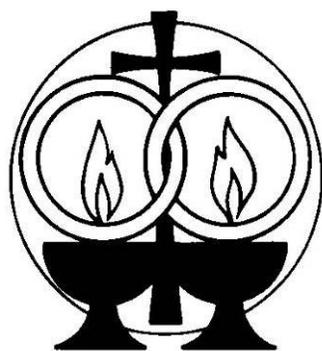
Our vocations are truly our calling in life. Vocation is much more than our jobs or where we work to earn a living. Our vocations are the places where the Lord has stationed us to love and serve our family, friends, and all people. Our vocations bind us together in loving relationships. These are the relationships that God calls us to steward.

Pastor Herring



June Birthdays

Maurice Duebler	14
Sheldon Knuth	18
Terri Herman	21
Glenna Cates	29



June Anniversaries

Dean & Lisa Bennett	1
Joe & Joan Schardl	4
Ken & Bernie Haydon	19

Thank You!

To all our people for bearing with us in these times of the virus pandemic. We have had to cancel or postpone many things and to change our worship, first to on-line and then to 'social distancing' in our building. We have been able to put out an abbreviated newsletter for now. We pray things will be getting back to 'normal soon'. For now we can only thank all of you for your understanding and working to keep the Word of God and the Sacrament available to all. These have been trying times for all, but your support and prayers have been of great importance.

The Elders