

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.org



November 2020

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.

Give Thanks? For What?

The above responses may be all too common this Thanksgiving. With the accustomed family gathering taking place on a much smaller basis or not happening at all, there will be many who will be complaining that they have nothing to be thankful for. That kind of attitude can be the norm if we allow ourselves to be placed at the center of our November celebrations instead of our Heavenly Father.

It can be distressing that we won't be together with our children and their children plus other ancillary

relatives and guests on November 26 (or whenever your planned event is scheduled) but, really, is this the reason not to be thankful?

We like things to be the way we think they should be, and we don't handle well those times when something like a virus comes our way and causes us to face the unpleasantness of life. Illness, relocation of family, loss of financial strength, and many other things can negatively impact our lives. We begin to wonder if God even cares about us and our plans.

Well, He does and He doesn't. He wants you to be safely nestled in His arms and live with Him forever in heaven. That is the reward of the faith He has given us and that

is the hope we hold on to with every fiber of our being. That's His plan for you and all who believe. Our Lord wants you to be safe as you live a life that gives glory and honor to Him. He also cares about your happiness on this earth but not always in ways that we appreciate.

Listen to His words from the prophet Jeremiah: **"For I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."** (Jer 29:11) God knew all about this pandemic and He has provided each of us with all we need to face this time of our lives.

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He knows exactly what you and I need to deal with the quarantines, the absence of family and friends, the possible threat of illness and even death, and everything else that has changed in our lives. Being locked up in our homes sure looks like a prison sentence but He has still given us His Word to read and dwell upon. His forgiveness is still as new today to us as it was the first time we brought our sins to Jesus.

This is where our thankfulness should start—with God and His gracious gifts. Nothing can take them away from us and knowing how much He loves us can help us cope with the issues that we're facing because of COVID-19. Our Heavenly Father has plans for our welfare and because He watches over us now, we know He has a wonderful future filled with hope awaiting us.

My plans have changed during the past seven months just as yours have. I may not care for much of what I see in the world around me at this time, but I still know my Lord remains constant in His love for me and will bring me home to heaven. For that I am very thankful—today and every day!

Pastor Herring

Tapping Into God's Rich Supply

Most of us do not see ourselves as rich in resources to share. We tell ourselves that we are too busy to give much time to the Lord's work, and we surely view others as more gifted than we ourselves. Yet God, Who has created us, has called us to carry out His purposes for our lives and those around us. When we tap into the rich supply of His love and grace, He enables us to walk humbly with Him and follow His will.

By grace through faith in His Son, we are saved and when we, by His grace, tap into God's rich supply

through a relationship with His Son, we can do the **“good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do”** (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus is the Vine, and we are the branches. As we remain in Him through Word and Sacrament, we are nourished in order to bear the fruit that stewards bear (John 15:5).

Our humble walk with God does not climb ever steadily upward, and, at times, we remove ourselves from the life-giving sustenance Jesus provides us with. Like Paul, we confess that we often do the wrong we don't want to do and neglect to do the good we want to do (Romans 7:15). But by grace, we tap into God's rich supply of

His sanctifying power. He has given us His Holy Spirit Who calls us to Himself, gathers us together in the fellowship of believers, enlightens us with His gifts, and sanctifies us.

Knowing what God has done for us and continues to do for us, we show our gratitude and praise for the One Whose rich supply enables, equips, and empowers us to be His stewards. Through faith, we understand that when we serve others, we are serving the Lord. May each of us find joy in our service to others and may God enable us to be His faithful stewards.

Pastor Herring

The Lord's Prayer.

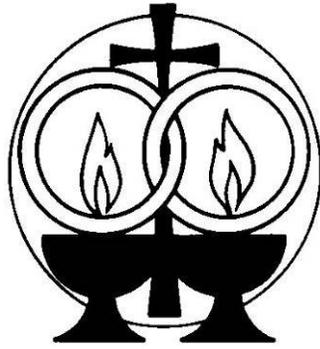
Its very first words are Our Father. Do you now see what those words mean? They mean quite frankly, that you are putting yourself in the place of a son of God. To put it bluntly, you are dressing up as Christ. If you like, you are pretending. Because, of course, the moment you realise what the words mean, you realise that you are not a son of God. You are not being like The Son of God, whose will and interests are at one with those of the Father: you are a bundle of self-centred fears, hopes, greeds, jealousies, and self-conceit, all doomed to death. So that, in a way, this dressing up as Christ is a piece of outrageous cheek. *But the odd thing is that He has ordered us to do it.* [editor's emphasis]

From: Mere Christianity by CS Lewis



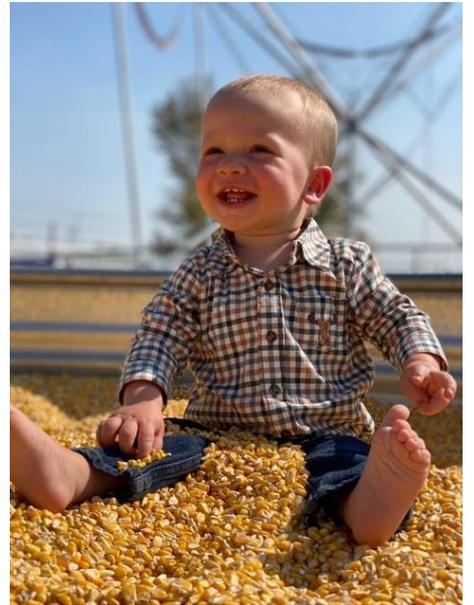
November Birthdays

Stephen Goline	4
Allyson Achord	9
Bernie Haydon	12
Phil Stephens	12
Kyla Eckman	28

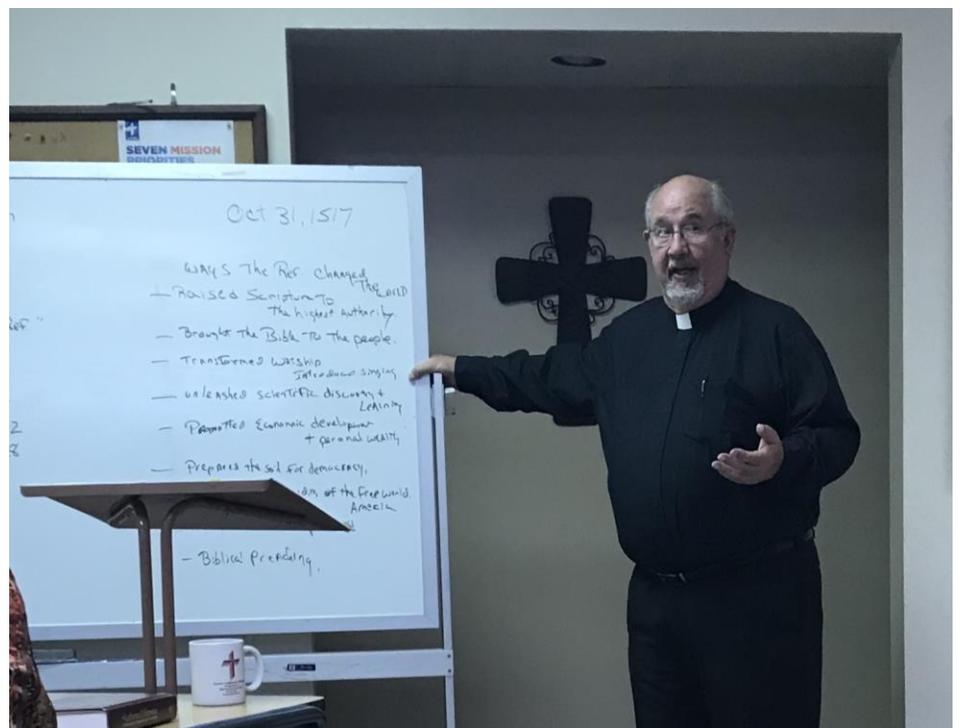


November Anniversaries

Myles & Sharon Schultz 27



Freddie



Pastor Schultz leading Bible Study