



Acts of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church & School



2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2nd—Finance—5:30 p.m.

Church Council—7 p.m.

October 4th—Oktoberfest Family Night—5:30 p.m.

October 5th—Women’s Guild Luncheon—Noon

October 9th—All Boards Night

October 27th—Trunk or Treat—6 p.m.—8 p.m.

October 29th—Reformation Unity Service—10 a.m.

REGULAR SERVICES

- Saturday Evening 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday New Song 8:30 a.m.
- Didache Hour (Sunday School & Bible Study) 9:45 a.m.
- Traditional Divine Service 11:00 a.m.
- Family Night Bible Study & Youth, Wednesdays 6:00p.m.

Full calendar at: <http://www.grace-lutheran.com/grace-monthly-calendar>



Our Vision: Connecting people to Christ by connecting people to people.

4301 16th Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Church: (727) 527-1168 School: (727) 527-6213 Ext Care: (727) 526-8212 Thrift Store (727) 525-8083

Church: www.grace-lutheran.com

School: www.glsfl.org



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Grace Lutheran Church & School - St. Petersburg, FL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Dear friends in Christ,

This month marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I could write something lengthy about that remarkable confluence between world and church history, but frankly others have done and are currently doing a far better job of writing than I. So instead, I'm going to use this space to encourage you to join the celebration as best as you are able.

If for some reason you are reading this and unaware of what we are talking about, an Augustinian Monk, Dr. Martin Luther, challenged theologians for the Institutional Church of his day to a debate, by hanging a series of 95 theses on the Church door in the University town of Wittenberg, Germany. The date was All Hallows Eve, October 31st, 1517. While his intent was simple, to help reform that Church, he and other Reformers were ultimately kicked out or excommunicated, therein fracturing the Church in the Western World to this very day. Eventually, even the Roman Church underwent an internal Reformation of sorts, so that the clear Gospel of Salvation by God's Grace through faith in Christ Jesus was once again being proclaimed, at least somewhat, in all churches.

At Grace, we are offering several significant events to help us celebrate. The first will be our annual Oktoberfest Family Night on Weds., October 4th at 5:30 PM. We will have a meal, followed by a devotional service that night. It will also be an opportunity for us to contribute towards relief efforts towards the damage done by last month's hurricanes.

On each of the following Wednesdays, there will be an adult Bible Study entitled "A Man Named Martin." The study is at 6:00 PM in the Art Room, and will help us to understand why the Reformation was such a significant historical event.

Finally there will be a Unity Service on Sunday, October 29th at 10:00 AM. This is normally a grand event, but all of the stops will be pulled out this year. If you have friends that enjoy music, this will be the service to invite them to.

I'm looking forward to the celebration. But more than that, I'm looking forward to being able to celebrate this incredible historical event with all of you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Loughran

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

When you imagine the life of a parish pastor, you might not think that there would be much travel involved. Stay at church, write sermons, teach Bible class, lead youth group. Preaching the Word and administer the sacraments on the weekends. And yet, I find myself traveling much. Certainly, there are large trips for me looming. A President's convocation, a youth gathering, a training trip to Madrid. Travel to be with my family in Christ is certainly something to look forward to. Travel with my wife's family over the Thanksgiving holiday is something else I await eagerly. This is worldly travel, a worldly journey. All of the trips I take physically, are opportunities to grow in Christ. They are opportunities to love my neighbors near and far (Matthew 22:34-40).

What accompanies our worldly journey in the living in our daily lives; and when we are given the opportunity to travel throughout creation, is our journey toward Jerusalem. No, not a place across the Atlantic Ocean, but being forever with Christ our King (Rev 21:1-27). As the end of the church year looms large in front of me, as does my worldly travel, the journey with my family in Christ at Grace continues. I thank God for all of you, and pray for you, and ask that you would pray for Kelly, Abigail and I (1 Thess 1:2).

Peace as we journey and grow in Christ together,

Pastor Hartman

Music Ministry “NOTES”

 **Music Ministry- REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN for Chancel Choir, Men’s Choir, Joy Choir and Handbell Choir!** Please see Jennifer Tippett, Matt Wahl, or Guy Spann for details!

 **Special Thanks-** Thank you to all of you who were so patient during Hurricane Irma. I pray that your lives will be back to normal as quickly as possible. I am especially thankful to Cory Hall, Matt Wahl, Guy Spann and our choirs who were flexible as we had to make changes to our services. I also am VERY thankful for all of our wonderful congregants too! That Saturday night “Unity” service before the storm hit, was especially meaningful with so many there to sing and pray. Huge thanks also to Pastor Loughran, Pastor Hartman, and our Principal Nicole Clifton who made it possible for those to see the service from afar! It was awesome to see people passing the peace via our live Facebook feed.

 **Music and Worship Sunday is October 8th-** We will be commissioning all of our musicians at both worship services that morning. There will be wonderful music at the services from Men’s Choir, Joy Choir, Chancel Choir, New Song Band, Church Handbell Choir, and a brass quartet. Don’t miss this wonderful and important event in our church year! Continue to pray for the many people who give their time and talents to praise God in this ministry!

 **Reformation Unity Service for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is Sunday, October 29th-** There will be ONE service at 10:00am! We will celebrate this important event in our church history as our combined church choirs, New Song Band, Church Handbells, a brass quartet, and a combined children’s choir of about 100 students from our day school!

 **Fall Festival Concert & Art Show-** This annual event will be held on Wednesday, November 1st at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary in conjunction with Family Night! All of our school music ensembles: Bells of Grace, Elementary Band, Wildcat Band, Orchestral Strings, Praise Team, Choristers, Spirit Singers, and Drama will be performing. Ms. Pejack will also have student artwork on display.

 **Pinellas Lutheran Choir rehearsals begin soon!** The choir will begin rehearsals for the 32nd annual presentation of Handel’s *Messiah* on Sunday, November 5th in our sanctuary from 3:00-4:30 p.m. We need plenty of singers, especially MEN! Please see Jennifer Tippett or Lois Hannewald if you are interested in singing with the choir this year.

As always, keep our Music Ministry in your prayers move into the busy times of the church year. We would love to have more musicians to join us so that we can magnificently proclaim God’s glory at every service we offer! We always have room for more singers, ringers, instrumentalists, and sound board techs!

God’s richest blessings to all of you!

Jennifer Tippett

STEWARDSHIP

We are nearing the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, All Saints' Eve, 1517, when Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows" (Galatians 6:6–7).

"The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages'" (1 Timothy 5:17–18).

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He writes:

When Paul says "all good things," this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. . . . The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: "God is not mocked." . . . All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: "Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages"; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel." It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages . . . it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office (LW 27:125–126).

In other words, pastors are not to suffer from low wages just because they are servants of Christ and the Word. They are to share in the livelihoods of all to whom they preach the gospel and instruct in the faith, so that the Word can be proclaimed and the faith carried from one generation to the next.

STEWARDSHIP CONT.

General Fund	Aug 2017 – Jul 2018	Beacon at the Crossroads (through Aug 2017)	
Received in August	\$31,791	Received	\$607,136

General fund giving in the first month of the new fiscal year was \$31,791. Funds received toward the Beacon at the Crossroads campaign have reached 81% of goal. Continue to keep Grace's ministries in your prayers. Reflect on your own giving and whether you can step out in faith with an increase in your weekly offering or pledge to the Beacon at the Crossroads campaign.

The Board for Stewardship encourages electronic giving. Currently, 35 Grace families are giving this way. Secure, automated electronic giving - administered by Vanco Payment Solutions - can be set up on Grace's website, grace-lutheran.com. If you pay bills online, automated giving can also be established through your bank's website. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the church office or a member of the Board for Stewardship.

Stewardship Board Contact:

Charles Kard

charleskard@hotmail.com

(727) 560-5534

SMOOT'S ANNIVERSARY



We recently shared the 75th wedding anniversary celebration with long time Grace members Fran and Jim Smoot with cake, cookies, and punch in Fellowship Hall. Fran and Jim have been members of Grace Lutheran Church and School for over 50 years. Fran has been an active member of LWML, Altar Guild, Women's Guild, and Women's Bible Study group. Jim has been an usher, a member of the Board of Trustees, and has participated in many wood working activities including making our beautiful communion rail. We are grateful for the blessings of these wonderful friends and the joys of their happy marriage of 75 years.



WOMEN'S GUILD

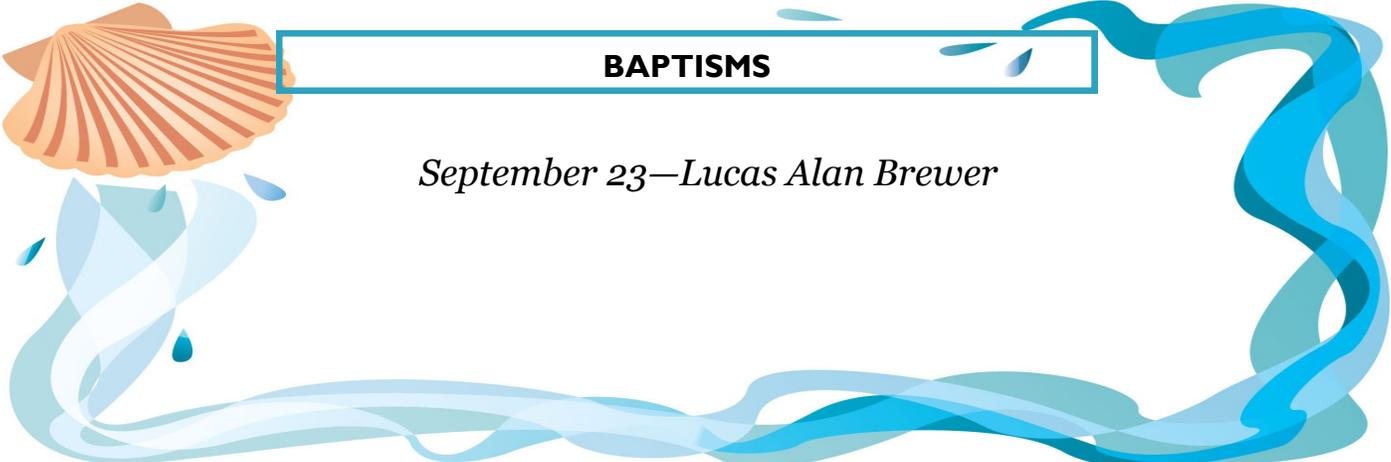
The October Meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017 in Fellowship Hall at noon. We will celebrate Fire Prevention Month with an exciting presentation by St. Petersburg firefighters. Anyone interested in this important topic is welcome. Lunch will be furnished by the officers. Plan to attend, and bring a friend or two!

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday, November 5th, we will be celebrating All Saints' Day during our worship services. If you have loved ones who have joined our Lord during this past year and would like them included in the bulletin, please share their names with the church office.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN

University Lutheran, the campus ministry at Florida State University, is seeking to develop an alumni network, **the LutherNole Network**, that is specifically focused on **helping new graduates from FSU become acclimated to the new cities they find themselves in after graduation**, including connecting them to your church. **If you are an FSU alumni at a Lutheran church**, we would love to be able to connect newly graduated students to your church through you. To get involved or to find out more, please send an email to jan@universitylutheranchurch.org or visit <http://luthernoles.org>



BAPTISMS

September 23—Lucas Alan Brewer

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)



Find us on Facebook:

“Grace Lutheran’s Women’s Missionary
League—LWML”

LWML

WANTS

YOU

Our October Mite Collection will be on Saturday, October 7th, and Sunday, October 8th. If you are an LWML member, please come to the back of the church during the final hymn. We need three people to collect the mites, three more to hand out the Mustard Seed Devotions, and the rest of us to greet people and explain what great work we are doing around the globe. If anyone will be going to the Saturday service, please let Mary Anderson know. Remember to wear your purple because we are the "Purple Ladies".

Our October Meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our Secretary, Beth Christofel, will lead us in a Bible Study. Refreshments will be served and the Officers will furnish the drinks. October is Reformation Month. Everyone will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation. We will also be planning our project for the Craft Show on December 2, 2017, in our new Multi-Purpose Building.

We continue to recycle the following items: empty inkjet printer cartridges, empty laser printer cartridges, used cell phones, laptops (including the power cords), digital cameras, e-readers, tablets, GPS systems, and scientific calculators. We are earning money for the 2019 convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Please place your recycled items in the LWML white trash can located outside the new Breezeway.

As always, we thank you for your continued support in all our endeavors.

FROM THE THRIFT STORE...

GLC Recycling Program

Grace Lutheran sponsors a recycling center located behind the Thrift Store. There are containers for plastic, glass, newspapers, and aluminum cans. Proceeds from the collection center benefit our Growing with Grace Building Fund.

Our Thrift Store is open Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., but we need YOUR help as volunteers. Contact Jim Heath, our manager at (727) 218-8674 to volunteer or with questions. Donations are always needed. THANK YOU!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Please remember to contact the church office with any address or phone number changes, including your cell phone or email address. It's important for us to keep in touch with you! Please also let us know when your students go off to college.

Altar flowers are available for 2017—the sign-up poster is located in the back of the church! Each arrangement is \$35 (you may order one or both), and you may take them home after late service on Sunday or Monday morning. Give them in memory of someone, celebrate a special occasion, or give thanks to God!

Grace School Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.— 4 p.m.,
and Fridays 8 a.m.— noon



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Michael Halfast, Augustine Gonzalez
- 2 James Harazin
- 3 George Knudsen, Kersti Loughran, Julie Reed, Terence Wells, Brewster Preston
- 4 Michelle Beaudreau, Brittany Hummel, Ashton Harris
- 5 Kim Brown
- 6 Hannah Buck, Daniel Lally, Amber Natoli
- 7 Charles Kard, Kevin Loughran, Nathan Skrede
- 8 Betty Binder, Donna Hammer, Michael Simpson
- 9 Leroy Bierbower, Barbara Lockenvitz
- 10 Beth Christofel, Emily Roberts, Aiden Carmona
- 11 Casey Germain, Denise Halfast, Floyd Pauley, Haden Schleede, Peyton Sheridan
- 13 Scott Eicher, Bill Gee, Bev Mason, Suzy Schenider
- 15 John McLay, Candice Wery, Saideli Silvestre-Morales
- 16 Trudy Dawkins, Todd Mitchell, Jennica Mullins, Heather Rushing-Peterson, Elizabeth Hayes
- 17 Evan Asher, Ben Schillinger
- 18 Guy Spann
- 19 Jacob Marsicano, Lee Roberts, Nani Wells
- 20 Bridgett Chavez, Matthew Franks
- 21 Anthony Guss
- 22 Kelly Hartman, Karen Xoumphonphakdy, Michael Franks, Matthew Rosales
- 23 Isaiah Curtis, Caidence Hedges
- 24 Elizabeth Coffman, Isabel Gee
- 25 James Kard
- 26 Jeffrey Chene, Cheryl Clifton, Stacy Redmond
- 28 Jim Repetto, Carey Roland
- 29 Ralph Land
- 30 Jacob Schillinger, Kristin Shambaugh, Manuel Silvestre-Morales
- 31 Victoria Filson, Hazel Hyatt, Jennifer Tippet

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 James & Paula Hatfield, 13 years
- 3 Mark & Cindy Largel, 19 years
- 5 Ron Campbell, 26 years
- 6 Jeff & Debbie Riber, 33 years
- 18 Mark & Chaia Curtis, 37 years
- 19 Bertram & Maddie Ahrens, 15 years
- 26 Patrick & Amy Ryan, 26 years

REMINDER

If you have something you would like included in our monthly newsletter "Acts of Grace", please email your article to **churchoffice@grace-lutheran.com**.

Our deadline for the November newsletter is October 18th.