

THE WITTENBERG WAY

PASTOR'S PAGE



Dear Grace Family,

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing summer. And I hope that our sermon series through the Apostles' Creed was beneficial too. It is good to be rooted in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. This fall we are returning to Year C of the three-year lectionary, which focuses on the Gospel of Luke. Here we see the Lord Jesus setting the pattern for the whole of our Christian life. We are, after all, Christians: *those*

who follow the Christ. And our Lord Jesus gives. He is generous and His generosity is all encompassing.

He takes the time to teach the disciples. He stops to listen to the woman who reached out to touch the hem of His garment. He has compassion on a tired, hungry crowd and feeds them. In other words, when He gives, He gives of Himself: time, effort, attention, concern.

That's a great reminder as we get back into the busyness of the season with multiple services, Augsburg Academy, Wednesday Bible study, and the support of the G.L.O.R.I.A (Grace Lutheran Organ Restoration in Action) stewardship campaign. As I preached recently, "There is no church of 'me,' only a church of 'us.'" We together are blessed to have our share in the "communion of saints."

A little girl, observing a beautiful colored church window radiant with light, asked her mother, "Who do the figures in the window represent?"

"Saints."

The child replied, "Oh, I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through!"

The stained glass windows of Grace Lutheran have "let the light shine through" for the past ninety years. They tell the story of God's amazing love for His creation as each window depicts a scene from history. I recently came across a little self-published booklet written in 1982 by Pastor Emeritus Jacobsen on the stained glass windows in our sanctuary. In each issue of the Wittenberg Way this year, we will feature one window and allow it to help teach us the Bible's story.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pr. Brian Thomas

September 2019
Volume 11, Issue 8

On The Sign Of The Cross In Baptism

A Poem by Henry Alford

In token that thou shalt not fear
Christ crucified to own,
We print the Cross upon thee here,
And stamp thee his alone.

In token that thou shalt not blush
To glory in his name,
We blazon here upon thy front
His glory and his shame.

In token that thou shalt not flinch
Christ's quarrel to maintain,
But 'neath his banner manfully
Firm at thy post remain:

In token that thou too shalt tread
The path he travelled by,
Endure the cross, despise the shame,
And sit thee down on high:

Thus outwardly and visibly
We seal thee for his own:
And may the brow that wears his Cross,
Hereafter share his crown.



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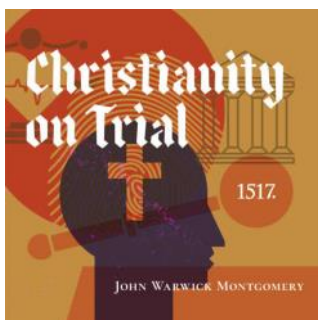
To fully appreciate the intricate details of this beautiful window, you'll need some binoculars as the "Rose Window" is located high above the altar. This window has for its subject the great hymn, *Te Deum Laudamus*, which means "We praise Thee, O God." The chanted version of this hymn can be found in the Matins service, and the versification of it, "We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God" can be found on page 941 in the Lutheran Service Book. The *Te Deum Laudamus* inscription can also be found inlaid on the chancel floor as you come forward to commune.

The central figure in the window's design is Jesus vested as High Priest and King and grouped with symbols of the Holy Trinity. On the throne are indicated the "Alpha" (beginning) and "Omega" (ending). The symbolism surrounding the throne are those of the four archangels together with the four evangelists. The power of the ascended King is suggested by the rainbow and interspersed stars of the heavens.



In the small cusped sections surrounding this the various orders of worshippers referred to in the hymn are indicated: Holy Church, the noble army of martyrs, the goodly fellowship of the prophets, the glorious company of the apostles, etc. This serves as a reminder that when we gather to worship our Lord we do not do so alone. We are joining "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven" to laud and magnify His glorious name.

1517



PODCAST OF THE MONTH

www.1517.org/podcasts/christianity-on-trial

Welcome to *Christianity on Trial*, where the claims of Christianity are examined and judged by the rules of evidence as used in the court of law. Your host, Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, is a lawyer, theologian, and an accomplished defender of biblical Christianity. He is no stranger to the rules of evidence or the courtroom.

HERE WE STILL STAND is an invitation to celebrate the gospel truths reclaimed in the Reformation and a call to incite a modern Reformation under the banner of the finished work of Christ. It is a three day event packed with teaching, music, food and fellowship all focused on the radical message of God's grace toward sinners. Come and join this assembly of sinner/saints standing in the freedom of the gospel. The conference is held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina in San Diego from Oct. 17-19. All conference activities, meals, and hotel accommodations are in this one location. So get ready to eat, sing, learn and fellowship! <https://www.herewestillstand.org/>



G.L.O.R.I.A.

GRACE LUTHERAN ORGAN RESTORATION IN ACTION

BUY GRACE BAGS AND RECYCLE

How many times do you run into the grocery store and forget your bag? Buy a red Grace bag for \$5 to support the organ restoration and put the bag next to your seat in the car. You'll always have it and get some nice compliments in the stores.

BEHIND THE SCENES ORGAN TOUR

Three dates and times have been set-up for a behind the scenes tour of the inner workings of our pipe organ and console. This is a great opportunity to see how our pipe organ works and why it needs restoration. Michael Burke will be conducting these tours and since space is limited, there will only be 15 persons in the choir loft. The dates and times are: Sunday 9/15 @ 12:30 pm; Tuesday 9/24 @ 11:30 am and Friday 9/27 @ 6:30 pm. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Refreshments will be served.



BENEFIT ORGAN CONCERT ON NOVEMBER 1

Mark your calendars for this exciting event here at Grace. On November 1 at 7 PM, world-renowned and San Diego civic organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez will perform a concert to benefit the restoration of the historic pipe organ at Grace Lutheran Church. Pre-concert courtyard reception (6:30) and meet the organist post-concert. Seating is limited. Donations accepted, with all proceeds to benefit the restoration project.

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER 16 AUCTION

Gift cards of all kinds, event tickets (concerts, games, plays), a getaway retreat to your vacation home, your time, talent or services, prepare and host a dinner in your home, specialty food or wine, gift baskets or items for auction baskets. Some great donations have starting coming in. Thank you for your generosity!

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY

The Organ Restoration Benefit Gala will be held on Saturday Nov. 16 from 6—10 pm. Tickets can be reserved now in the church office for this festive event including a courtyard reception, dinner, live and silent auctions with a fun balloon pop and jazz entertainment throughout the evening.



The Junior and Senior High School age members of Grace are needed to serve during our Organ Concert reception on November 1st and during our Fund Raising Gala on November 16th. Please let Ms. Gretchen Jordan know your availability and willingness to serve on either or both dates. gjordan@gracesandiego.com

Did you know you can make your offering or send a donation the same way you pay household expenses, send gifts and shop for groceries with your phone or laptop? We love seeing you in church, but often you might run out of the house and forget your offering. It's easy, on your computer or laptop, log into your bank account and add Grace Lutheran Church to your pay bills. You can set up for regular contributions each week or monthly. If you would like to use your phone, Scan the QR code to the right with your phone or text a dollar amount to 84321 to give now. Check out the new Giving page and updates on our website.



My Child is Too Young for Church and Sunday School

PAGE 4

by David Yow

He won't sit still. She doesn't listen. Maybe I'll bring them when they're older. They don't pay attention. Does God even care? It's so difficult.

What's a parent to do?

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them."
Matthew 19:14

Now, there's a thought.

Grace Lutheran Church is rolling out a new class designed especially for parents of young children to attend with their kids. "Enduring Faith Foundations" begins September 29 at 9:15 in the St. Paul classroom. And dads, moms, and their little tots – newborn to age 3 and older – are welcome. No previous experience necessary.

This class will be informal – hey, we're talking about toddlers and their parents together in the same place -- but structured to give parents clues about ways they can provide the enduring foundations for Christian faith at home, with time to try things out right there, and hit the road with some quality books and materials to support that growth during the week. You know the Church's ancient motto for that? *Lex orandi, lex credendi*. Or, to put it another way, *you are what you eat*.

This isn't a parenting class by experts like Dr. Bev Yahnke, and no silver bullets or quick fixes will be offered.

But we will spend time exploring ways to bring your child to a fuller participation in the services of the Church, prayers you can do as a family, books that belong in their library to teach them about Jesus, resources for answering children's questions about God, and the practical joys of living daily in their baptism.

Dr. Martin Luther understood that families must be equipped to nurture their children in the faith. Because let's face it. It's not easy. It's not automatic. Training, commissioning, practicing, and living the faith is a not simply a Sunday thing.

But it does start on Sundays, right there in Divine Service where the Lord gives His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. And this short, 6-week class is one way that Grace Lutheran Church supports and educates parents – parents for whom Luther's easy-to-use Small Catechism was written – and helps them feed and nourish the baptized children they have been given. Think of this opportunity as "training the trainer." That's what you're doing with your littles, isn't it? Training. (Think Hebrews 12:1-2, Proverbs 22:6, etc.)

For more information, please contact the church office or see one of the pastors or the deaconess. All supplies will be provided, except the child you bring with you; we don't have extras. See you Sept. 29!



Grace Lutheran is certainly kid-friendly and it shows each Sunday when Pr. Brian calls the children up to the chancel for the children's sermon. We are very fortunate to have many young families in our congregation with children participating throughout the service.

The children of our preschool are also included in worship when they attend Preschool Chapel every week. In this photo the children learned about Jesus' last words and forgiveness.

MEET OUR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

MISS DANIELLE KULOWITCH

Danielle was born in Bethesda, MD. Her dad was in the Navy and he brought their family to San Diego where she was raised with her brother David. Ms. Danielle is a teacher in our 2 year old classroom and has been at Grace for 7 months. She has a special gift of being kind to others even when they don't like the way she looks. Danielle was 'gifted' with Aperts Syndrome at birth and has conquered the many challenges it has brought her. She has achieved a Bachelor's degree in the field of Early Childhood Development and accomplished her goal of becoming a preschool teacher. She teaches because she loves to enrich the lives of young children.

Her favorite teaching memory was when a child wanted to play with a shape matching game but Danielle didn't really know how the game worked. She went over and sat with the child and helped her. By giving the child that one-to-one attention, she was able to place the shapes where they were meant to go. The child smiled at being able to place the shapes and Danielle was happy that she was able to learn a new game and help a child.

Danielle hopes keep building on her strengths over the next 5 years and learn some new hacks for teaching young children, she is well on her way and we are blessed to have her as part of our Grace family.



MISS LA JUANDA FINLEY

La Juanda was born and raised in West Memphis, Arkansas with her 2 sisters and 3 brothers. She has 2 adult sons, Cornelius and Donald. She also has a sweet dog named Happy who she adores.

La Juanda has been a part of our Grace family for 10 years now. She moved here with her family and has lived in San Diego for 30 plus years. She is blessed to be the mother of 2 loving, caring, and wonderful young men. She has a great sense of humor and loves to laugh.

La Juanda teaches because of her love for children. She loves helping them develop, grow and thrive into independent little people. Some of her favorite memories with the children over the years are doing music and movement with them.

Some of La Juanda's special gifts are praying for others and helping them. She is a very generous person and has started giving out care bags to local homeless on our Christmas break, her goal to give 30 or more care bags by the end of this year.



ADOPT A TEACHER

Parishioners can choose one of our preschool teachers and "adopt" them! Simply by taking one of the bio cards and praying for them, acknowledging their birthdays or work anniversaries, leaving them notes of encouragement or whatever you see fit. Bio cards are available from Rexanna, our Preschool Director or from the church office.

HOW OUR OFFERINGS STACK UP AS OF 7/31/19

2019 Offerings Annual Budget	YTD Offerings Actual	\$142,795
\$246,000	YTD Offerings Budget	\$137,651
	Overage	\$ 5,144

We have been busy here at the seminary since arriving in mid July. Ron is teaching several courses. We start every day in chapel with the students. The 4th year guys preach and the 2nd year guys take care of the liturgy. It's a great way to start the day, and sermons get better as the year goes on! When it's time for the congregation to sit down, the pastor says "Congregation, relax and sit down now."

Ron has been able to preach at different congregations every Sunday and has done many different kinds of services during the week--from funerals to school openings and devotions to anniversary celebrations, and the like. Usually, a congregation presents us with something after the service--not quite the usual honorarium that pastors receive in the U.S. For one service, he received 2 huge bilums (net bags) of vegetables along with 2 live chickens. There were initially 4 live chickens, but it was a hot day and the service was long...and two of the chickens died! (I refrained from telling Ron those chickens might have lived if he had preached a shorter sermon!) Someone still cleaned them and brought them to the house later in the day. At another smaller congregation we received a small bunch of green onions and 5 bananas. The pastor said they didn't have much to give, but they really appreciated our coming to worship with them and bringing the sweet Gospel words in the sermon! It occurred to me that I don't usually think of the "sweet Gospel words." There are still some places just a short plane ride and long walk in the bush away that have not heard those sweet Gospel words. Treasure them every time you have the opportunity!

We have had one English night, using an English Bible story book so that the students who do know a little English can improve their vocabularies. It was a fun evening and actually difficult for us to remember to speak in English rather than Pidgin. Tonight we have students

coming for Bible study. Along with the study, we'll serve them some bread and honey from our bees! The little trade store run by one of the seminary pastor/teachers is selling the honey and it has become really popular. Hopefully, it will be a benefit to the seminary in the future.



I have included a picture of a recent funeral. (Pr. Rall talks with Rev. Willie Kambu before the funeral service.) It was out in the bush and the people had built a small canopied pedestal for the coffin, which had a small glass window where the person's face would be. We were unable to bury the body on the day of the funeral because the cement for the monument was still wet. The burial was scheduled for the next day.

We would love to hear from you. Emails sometimes take minutes and sometimes days to reach us...you never know! Text messages are more reliable and it has been good to be able to stay in daily contact with all of our children. God keep you all in His care.

Love,

Pastor Ron and Mary Anne

GRACE TRAVELS



Are you ready for a Grace Lutheran Travel Group?

Join Pastor Gleason and Deaconess Doris in June 2020 with a small group of like-minded travelers to Iceland, the land of hot springs, waterfalls, glaciers, the legendary Golden Circle, black sand beaches and Northern Lights. See the Snashall's or Leslie Overstreet for more information.



On August 4th Lucan Schroeder, Lainey Rall, Mia Rall, Nikolas Cross and Dillon Weissman received their First Holy Communion.



On August 11th the Robillard Family, Gavin, Carmen, Lily and Lucas and Nathan Ayan received First Holy Communion.



Aubrey Collom was baptized on July 14th. She is the granddaughter of Richard and Robin Segarra from our choir.

Jacobsen Belgau in his first selfie with Pastor Brian shortly after his birth on Tuesday August 20th. His upcoming baptism will be on Sunday September 15th.



On August 11th Lucas Robillard was baptized and is joined by his family.



Grace Lutheran had a happy group at the SD Legion Rugby game in June. Vanessa Yates, Leigh Ann Bozung, Spencer, Jackson and Kirschten Huntley along with Christina Milligan and a few others had a great time cheering on the team.



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The Reverend
Brian W. Thomas

The Reverend
Gleason Snashall

Deaconess
Doris Snashall

Music Director
Michael Burke

Office Manager
Gretchen Jordan

Preschool Director
Rexanna Blas

Divine Service
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Augsburg Academy
9:30 am

Nursery available



PRAYERS

Today and every day include some time for prayer . . . for yourself, for your church family, and for those in need.

Prayers for strength in time of need: Joe, Ken, Bill, David, Nancy and Kathy, Samuel & Henry, and Rev. Dr. Mueller. For our military and first responders.

Prayers for our missionaries: Rev. James May (Kenya), Daniel Conrad (Central America), Dr. Rev. Ron and Mary Anne Rall (Papua New Guinea), Dr. Rev. John Bombaro (Latvia)

Prayers for the military: Thomas Abbott, Nathaniel Beaver, Andrew Bund, Andrew Burke, Alex Cavins, Gaby Cavins, Christian Cole, Jon Feazel, Jonathan Fisch, Brenda Fonseca, Tajy George, Jack Lynn George, Jr., Joseph Jindrich, Jack Ogden, Dave Miceli, Matthew Morgan, Eric Mitchell, Jacob Neuberg, Heath Russert, and Andrew Warren

Prayers awaiting the arrival of a child of God: Brandon & Jennifer and Michael & Karen as they await the arrival of a child of God.

Prayers for those unable to come to services: Lorna Winterstein, Mary Jane Robinson and Dottye Allen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Sept. 8	9:30 am	Augsburg Academy begins
Wednesday	Sept. 11	10:00 am	Morning Bible Study begins
Sunday	Sept. 15	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Holy Baptism of Jakobsen Belgau Behind the Scene Organ Tour
Saturday	Sept. 21	11:00 am	Memorial Service from Brenda Brommer
Tuesday	Sept. 24	11:30 am	Behind the Scene Organ Tour
Sunday	Sept. 29	9:15 am	Enduring Faith Foundations class begins in St. Paul classroom
Thu-Sat	Oct. 16-18		Here We Still Stand 1517 Conference
Friday	Sept. 27	6:30 pm	Behind the Scene Organ Tour
Saturday	Oct. 26	2-6 pm	Oktoberfest in the Courtyard
Sunday	Oct. 27	10:00 am	Reformation Sunday—one service No Augsburg Academy
Friday	Nov. 1	7:00 pm	Organ Benefit Concert

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

9- Jeff Dorris
11- Andrew Gertz
13- Rachel Thomas
15- Laura Blosser
16- Shawn Merfalen
22- Soren Hansen

23- Caroline Serrano
30- Ruben Castaneda

OCTOBER

1- Karen Dorris
2- Lynn Willis
3- Dennis Bonilla
5- Evie Richards

If we missed your birthday, please contact the church office with your special date.
gjordan@gracesandiego.com