A Letter from the Pastor

THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD

School supply displays are front and center in the stores. Backpacks, glue sticks, pencils and pens, notepads and planners. Everything a child might need to learn is now being collected in preparations for a new school year. Whether you now have or used to have children go off to their first day of school, we can all think back to one of our own first days. It was a new beginning. A new teacher and classroom. Maybe a whole new school. New classmates and a new locker. You were much older and wiser than when you last left, and this year was going to be different. You were going to study harder and get better grades. You'd make an effort to get all of your homework done early so you could spend more time with friends or on the playing field. It was a new year, and you came in with a new attitude.

But after that first week of school, you began to settle in again and realized that not much had changed. At first, you were excited for school to start, but quickly, you began to dream of the next summer vacation. Your aspirations to do better faded away, and you decided to just do what you've always done before.

This is what often happens in life. We get excited about something new and then get bored with it. We have lofty plans for the future that never come to fruition. We think that things will get better if we try harder, but they never seem to. And soon enough, we’re bored, and everything becomes “the same old, same old.”

This is how a Christian can often feel as well. You search for God to give you something new and exciting, to spice things up, and bless you with all your heart’s desires. You have big plans for the future that you hope God might help you with, that if you pray hard enough, go to church often enough, that he’ll give you what you want. But soon enough, you realize that not much has changed. It’s the monotonous life you’ve become accustomed to and the same dull church that never wants to budge on anything. You hear the same sort of message preached from your pastor. The same stale bread and wine. The same service just about every Sunday with no surprises, nothing new. And soon enough, you’re bored with the church, with the Christian life, and everything becomes “the same old, same old.”
But, St. Jeremiah writes in the book of Lamentations: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:22-23). The mercies of the Lord are new every morning, not that it is a new kind of mercy, but that the same mercy which you received in the past remains the same every day. It doesn’t grow stale. It doesn’t get old. It has no beginning and no end. It’s an eternal mercy that will never cease or come to an end. The Lord doesn’t grow tired in this mercy. He doesn’t get bored in forgiving you. He never gives up on you but continues to do what he has always done—love you.

Your life may get stale at times. You might get bored and tired of “the same old, same old.” But, the church is never stale. It never gets old. It has stood the test of time and continues to do what it’s always done. The church continues to give you the mercy of God—that mercy which flows from our Lord’s pierced side and into the Baptismal font and the cup of the Lord’s Supper. In the church, God forgives you again and again. He washes you clean. He feeds you. He speaks to you. He makes you new.

The church doesn’t need to spice things up. The church stays the same, because God stays the same. He is constant and concrete. He doesn’t move or fade away. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and so is his church.

When you get bored of life, when you’re disappointed because your plans don’t turn out the way you want them to, do not get frustrated and feel hopeless. Come to the church. There, you will find what you are looking for. There is what the world cannot offer you. There, God is with you and for you. His mercies are new every time you enter into his holy temple, and such mercy will never disappoint.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

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**From Time to Eternity: Waiting for the Resurrection**

*Sunday, October 14, 2018 @ 4:00 pm*

*Grace Lutheran Church*

*303 W. Ruth St., Auburn, MI  48611*

A hymn festival that focuses on God’s precious promises in the midst of our present pain while we wait for the perpetual paradise of the life of the world to come.

Commentators: Rev. David Fleming, Our Savior, Grand Rapids
Rev. Aaron Schian, Grace, Auburn

There will be a mass choir made up of members of area churches.
Anyone who wishes to participate in the mass choir should contact Kantor Nathan Beethe at kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com or they can call or text him at (989) 460-8014.
**donations**

**THUMB AREA CRISIS CENTER**
donations can be placed in box under fellowship hall window

- SEPTEMBER window cleaner

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**
donations can be placed in box by the coat rack

- **BABY CARE KITS**
  - Lightweight cotton t-shirts
  - Long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
  - Jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts
  - Bath-size bars of gentle soap

- **HIGENE KITS**
  - Bath-size towels
  - Bath-size bars of soap
  - Sturdy combs

- **SCHOOL KITS**
  - Ruler (centimeter and inch)
  - Pencil sharpener
  - Blunt scissors
  - Unsharpened #2 pencils
  - Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
  - Box of 24 crayons
  - 2.5" pink eraser

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**KNOWN SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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<tr>
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<td>Landen Tetil</td>
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<td>Sarah Spencer</td>
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**KNOWN SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

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<td>23</td>
<td>Ralph &amp; Sue Knapp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Neal &amp; Heather Rushford</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Ryan &amp; Danae Palm</td>
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**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**MICHIGAN BEAN FESTIVAL**
Friday, August 31, 2018 to Monday, September 3, 2018
*see fellowship bulletin board for more information*

**HARVEST DINNER**
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAIRGROVE, MI

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 at 5:00 PM
ROAST BEEF, SIDES, AND DESSERTS
INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

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**September Divine Services**

*(services with Holy Communion)*

**Sunday, September 2, 2018**
The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Divine Service Setting 3
Luke 17:11-19

**Sunday, September 9, 2018**
The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Divine Service Setting 1
Matthew 6:24-34

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**
The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Divine Service Setting 3
Luke 7:11-17

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**
The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Divine Service Setting 3
Luke 14:1-11

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**
The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Divine Service Setting 1
Matthew 22:34-46
CATECHESIS CLASS

Catechesis is a fancy word meaning “instruction.” It’s this instruction in God’s Word which is essential for each and every Christian to not only grow in the faith but also be able to defend what we believe.

This year’s catechesis class for our 5th through 8th graders begins on **Wednesday, September 12th at 6 pm**. Every Wednesday until the end of May (except during the seasons of Advent and Lent), we will be learning the Lutheran faith based on Martin Luther’s Small Catechism.

Catechesis isn’t just for children. It’s not just the class you take before receiving communion or getting confirmed. **CATECHESIS IS FOR ALL AGES.** Luther’s catechism was written for an infant, a six-year-old child, a teenager, and an adult.

Please, join us on Wednesdays. If you have a catechism, bring it! If not, one will be provided for you. Come and relearn the Christian faith with God’s children in a simple and relaxed format.

For more information, please feel free to speak with Pastor Haller.

JULY VOTERS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for our last Voters Meeting, which took place on Sunday, July 8, 2018, can be found in the bottom row of the church mailboxes.

LADIES AID

**ALL LADIES** of the congregation are invited to join the Ladies Aid group, which picks back up this year on Thursday, September 6th, at 10 am. Join us!

LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE

Tuition assistance forms for next year’s academic year can be found on the back table of the narthex.

PRIVATE CONFESSION

Private Confession and Absolution is available by appointment. You can call Pastor Haller at the church office or on his cell phone: (248) 794-3703.

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen live or from past shows at www.issuesetc.org.

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

Sacred Music for the World

www.lutheranpublicradio.org
Serving our Lord in the Month of September

**Elders for September**
David Weber & Tom Reid

**Ladies Aid for September**
Irene Stange & Diane Spencer

**Sunday, September 2, 2018**
*Greeters: Aaron & Heather Reinbold*
*Ushers: Lee Voss, Jason Hall, David Weber, Tom Reid*
*Refreshments: Sarah Hall, Joanne Hills, Beth Hoppe, Mary Masker*

**Sunday, September 9, 2018**
*Greeters: Dan & Tracey Reinbold*
*Ushers: Ed McAlpine, Earl Voss, Hunter Reid, Tom Reid*
*Refreshments: Lil McAlpine, Karen Mendyk, Sarah Pierce, Susan Pfund*

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**
*Greeters: Leslie Reinbold*
*Ushers: David Hills, Joseph Bublitz, Harold Burnison, Tom Reid*
*Refreshments: Sarah Reid, Heather Reinbold, Joanne Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold*

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**
*Greeters: Steve & Melinda Reinbold*
*Ushers: Larry Spencer, Brian Steinley, Daniel Bublitz, Tom Reid*
*Refreshments: Tracey Reinbold, Diane Spencer, Irene Stange, Bev Voss*

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**
*Greeters: Larry & Diane Spencer*
*Ushers: Harold Burnison, Vic Trisch, Jim Burnison, Tom Reid*

**If you are unable to provide refreshments when scheduled, please switch with someone on the list.**

**If your name is not on the Greeter and/or Refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.**

**the Secondary Elder assigned for that month will also serve as the fourth usher.**

**If you’re not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call another usher to replace you.**