

LIFE TOGETHER

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. —Matthew 18:20

As sinners, we are in desperate need of God's grace. Without it, we are left empty-handed and stuck in our sin. This is a situation we can't climb out of or improve. We are where we are—dead in our trespasses and sins. But God is gracious, that is, he gives freely to sinners. He forgives them, strengthens and keeps them, until they are with him forever at the resurrection. God gives us his grace in more than one way. Our Lutheran Confessions teach us this:

God is extravagantly rich in his grace: first, through the spoken word, in which the forgiveness of sins is preached to the whole world; second, through baptism, third, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar; fourth, through the power of the keys and also through the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren.

The grace of God earned by his Son on the cross and from the grave is now hand-delivered to us that we might receive it and have it as our very own, first, through the Word and then through the sacraments (Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Confession). The last item mentioned by Martin Luther seems a bit strange and out of place: "the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren." This means that our simple conversations with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ is a way in which God is gracious toward us sinners. It is not only good but necessary for us, as the body of Christ, to be with one another, to talk with and encourage one another. This means that we shouldn't just show up for church and sneak out the back door, for we are a family. You matter to me, and I matter to you. We need one another, for solitude is the place where the devil does his best work. When we are left alone to fend for ourselves, we will lose more times than not. Martin Luther writes this on the matter:

Everything is less burdensome if you have a brother with you; for then the promise applies (Matt. 18:20): "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Therefore solitude should be shunned and the companionship of familiar people sought, especially in spiritual perils.

We do not fully realize the negative impact we have when we do not attend the Divine Service on a regular basis. We are missing out on being there for our brothers and sisters. Your absence matters, and it has a deep effect on the rest of us. You need to be there for yourself, to receive the forgiveness of sins in Word and Sacrament, but you also need to be there for others, to stand beside them, sing with them, and receive God's grace together with them, but also to converse with and console one another, as Christ does for us.

So, come to the fellowship time after the Divine Service and stay for Bible Study. Come to church dinners and any other event our congregation has. Come and be with one another. This is not only good for you but also for the brethren.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller



Why does the pastor wear such strange clothes?

The word "holy" is often used to describe things in the Christian Church. We read from the *Holy* Bible. We are washed in *Holy* Baptism. We partake of the *Holy* Communion. And we are called saints, that is, *holy* people. This word "holy" is often thought of to mean "perfect" or "without any sin," but it actually doesn't. Rather, something that is holy is simply *different*. It has been made different from the average and ordinary. A holy thing or person has been separated by the Lord for his good purposes. The Holy Bible is different from all other books, for God is its author. Holy Baptism is not at all the same as washing your hands. Holy Communion is unlike any other meal you eat. And we, as saints, have been separated and saved from the rest of the fallen world.

This is why our worship is so different from anything else we see in our lives. The church's message is one of free forgiveness, grace with no strings attached, and mercy that has no end. The extraordinary love of our Father is so unlike the world, and therefore, so is the way we worship.

And so also are the clothes the pastor wears. He doesn't have an ordinary wardrobe. On Sundays, he's not wearing his casual t-shirt and jeans. If what he's doing in worship isn't ordinary or casual, but rather extraordinary and holy, then his clothes ought to match that. They should be different.

First, the pastor wears a **clerical shirt**. It's black with a white collar, a reminder that he is a sinner, darkened by original sin, and the only good thing he has to offer us is what comes from his vocal cords. God's words are spirit and life, and that's what the pastor is called to preach and proclaim, thus his collar is white.

Second, for the Divine Service, the pastor wears what most consider to be a "robe." It's actually called an **alb**, taken from a Latin word meaning "white." The alb completely covers the pastor, just as the righteousness of Christ covers all our sins. His role in the Divine Service is not to be seen or noticed, but all the attention is on the God who comes to serve us.

On top of the alb, the pastor wears a **stole** around his neck, which represents the yoke of Christ, as Jesus says "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28). The pastor stands in Christ's stead, and the stole helps us remember that.

If the pastor is also administering the Sacrament of the Altar as the celebrant, he may also wear a **chasuble** over the alb and stole. Holy Communion is the pinnacle of Chrsitian worship, and again, the one who consecrates and hands out our Lord's body and blood is doing so by the Lord's command. The pastor is the ambassador for Christ, and so it is fitting that he look like Christ (compare the chasuble to what Jesus is wearing in our sanctuary's artwork).



August Divine Services (services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, August 6, 2023 The Ninth Sunday after Trinity Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, August 20, 2023 The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, August 27, 2023 The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Mark 7:31-37

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Marge Montgomery
- 16 Daryl Winter
- 17 Harold Burnison
- Joann Van Every
- 19 Pastor Joshua Haller
- 23 Daniel Reinbold
- 30 Pamela Ill

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Paul & Lisa Hodgkinson
- 26 Gordon & Joanne Bigham
- 27 John & Ruth Ann Kaijala
- 29 Larry & Diane Spencer

Dear Partner in Christ,

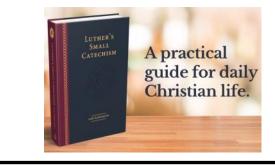
Thank you for your generous donation to POBLO International! Your financial partnership is a great blessing and allows us to continue meeting the physical, social, and spiritual needs of Muslims and other immigrants and refugees in the United States by sharing the love of Jesus with them in practical and culturally relevant ways.

In His Service, Rev. Farrukh Khan Development Director, POBLO International

CATECHESIS

Junior High Catechesis (5th through 8th grade) begins Wednesday, August 23rd, at 7 pm.

High School Catechesis (9th through 12th grade) begins Sunday, September 10th, at 6 pm.



FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES...

MEN'S STUDY The Lutheran Confessions starting Saturday September 16th

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Romans starting Wednesday, September 13th

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Acts starting Sunday, September 10th

Dear Ministry Partner,

Thank you for your support of this ministry and the life-affirming message we are sharing with our clients. Thank you for continuing to pray for us. We need partners like you as we continue to do what Christ has called us to do.

For the sake of His kingdom, April Woodall Executive Director, Positive Alternatives



Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

> Jean Adams 8678 W. Deckerville Rd. Reese, MI 48757

> John & Ruth Ann Kaijala 6004 Gilford Rd. Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery 8039 Massoll St. Reese, MI 48757

Lorna Bills Brookdale Bay City 734 North Pine Rd. Bay City, MI 48708

NEXT VOTERS MEETING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 @ 11 AM

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.

Like us on Facebook



Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:

www.gracefairgrove.org



STEWARDSHIP

August Coffee Money Seminary Student

The Stewardship Board's guarterly mission for July through September will be to Bethesda, also known as AbleLight, which is in need of financial help especially at their group home in Frankenmuth, where they provide residential housing for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Please consider supporting them this quarter. Specific envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex.



Free Clothing Giveaway

Thank you to all those who donated clothing and schools supplies, for all those who set up and took down, and to those who invited over 200 visitors into our building. The extra clothing, along with twenty seven quilts, were donated to the Orphan Grain Train in Sebewaing.

thank

Grace Family-

What a fantastic time of worship, learning, and fellowship we received at this year's "Beyond Reasonable Doubt" Higher Things youth conference at Southern Illinois University. Our worship services were led by the faithful Pastor III, whom we all loved! We went to plenaries, breakaway sessions (one led by our very own pastor), fun activities, and twelve worship services. Thanks be to God!

The range in topics that were included, but not limited to at this year's conference, included "Proof We Can Trust the Bible as Eyewitness Accounts," "God, Science, & Philosophy," "Those Doubts We Have," and probably the most popular by our youth, "Trauma, Triggers, & Faith." Such topics helped each of us to delve into our faith a little deeper.

Activities were plentiful! Some played laser tag, nine square, participated in wax formations, a talent show, bumper ball, rock climbing, painting, and much more! he kids were excited about their new found friends from OK, and dubbed them "the Okies!" How wonderful for these new found relationships with other young adults from different states, and that they all share in the same faith!

The highlight of the week being the conference; we also had a great time touring The Ark Encounter on our way down to SIU. What a massive structure and feat that it was to build such an awesome replica of a beloved account of the Bible.

It was a packed week! But oh how our roots were planted a little deeper in our LCMS faith!

The youth of Grace and myself would like to thank each of you for all the financial support, encouragement, and prayers that you gave to us this past year to assure our spots at this year's Higher Things! The bottles and cans that were

donated, some of the boards gave their meal donations, and the support of all our youth dinners is what made Higher Things 2023 possible! Thank you!!! Thank you to Hannah Haller for joining us as a chaperone and to Pastor Haller for driving us to and from and for presenting.

Yet again, as we look to next year's conference, we ask that you keep us in your prayers as we prepare. We ask for your unwanted cans and bottles, and that when our kids have dinners, please come and support them! Clearly, the trip this past year wouldn't have been made possible without you!

God bless and keep you always! Pax. Tracey L. Reinbold, Youth Director









THE DAILY READINGS

"God's Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints."

Tuesday, August 1st	Psalm 70	1 Sam. 17:1-19	Acts 26:1-23
Wednesday, August 2nd	Psalm 71:1-8	1 Sam. 17:20-47	Acts 26:24-27:8
Thursday, August 3rd	Psalm 68:4-10	1 Sam. 17:48-18:9	Acts 27:9-26
Friday, August 4th	Psalm 56:1-4	1 Sam. 18:10-30	Acts 27:27-44
Saturday, August 5th	Psalm 21:1-7	1 Sam. 19:1-24	Acts 28:1-15
Sunday, August 6th	Psalm 92:1-9	1 Sam. 20:1-23	Acts 28:16-31
Monday, November 7th	Psalm 144:3-10	1 Sam. 20:24-42	1 Cor. 1:1-25
Tuesday, August 8th	Psalm 62:1-7	1 Sam. 24:1-22	1 Cor. 1:26-2:16
Wednesday, August 9th	Psalm 94:8-15	1 Samuel 25:1-22	1 Cor. 3:1-23
Thursday, August 10th	Psalm 14	1 Sam. 25:23-44	1 Cor. 4:1-21
Friday, August 11th	Psalm 51:10-13	1 Sam. 26:1-25	1 Cor. 5:1-13
Saturday, August 12th	Psalm 99:1-5	1 Sam. 28:3-25	1 Cor. 6:1-20
Sunday, August 13th	Psalm 68:1-6	1 Sam. 31:1-13	1 Cor. 7:1-24
Monday, August 14th	Psalm 33:13-21	2 Sam. 1:1-27	1 Cor. 7:25-40
Tuesday, August 15th	Psalm 132:11-18	2 Sam. 5:1-25	1 Cor. 8:1-13
Wednesday, August 16th	Psalm 11	2 Samuel 6:1-19	1 Cor. 9:1-23
Thursday, August 17th	Psalm 24:1-6	2 Samuel 7:1-17	1 Cor. 9:24-10:22
Friday, August 18th	Psalm 107:1-9	2 Samuel 7:18-29	1 Cor. 10:23-11:16
Saturday, August 19th	Psalm 12	2 Samuel 11:1-27	1 Cor. 11:17-34
Sunday, August 20th	Psalm 51:1-8	2 Samuel 12:1-25	1 Cor. 12:1-13
Monday, August 21st	Psalm 139:13-24	1 Kings 1:1-4,15-35	1 Cor. 12:14-31
Tuesday, August 22nd	Psalm 97	1 Kings 2:1-27	1 Cor. 13:1-13
Wednesday, August 23rd	Psalm 111:1-10	1 Kings 3:1-15	2 Cor. 1:1-22
Thursday, August 24th	Psalm 27:1-11	1 Kings 5:1-18	2 Cor. 1:23-2:17
Friday, August 25th	Psalm 32:1-7	1 Kings 7:51-8:21	2 Cor. 3:1-18
Saturday, August 26th	Psalm 36:7-12	1 Kings 8:22-30,46-63	2 Cor. 4:1-18
Sunday, August 27th	Psalm 72:1-7	1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13	2 Cor. 5:1-21
Monday, August 28th	Psalm 48:1-8	1 Kings 11:1-26	2 Cor. 6:1-18
Tuesday, August 29th	Psalm 17:6-14	1 Kings 11:42-12:19	2 Cor. 7:1-16
Wednesday, August 30th	Psalm 29:10-11	1 Kings 12:20-13:5, 33-34	2 Cor. 8:1-24
Thursday, August 31st	Psalm 68:15-20	1 Kings 16:29-17:24	2 Cor. 9:1-15

-Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Voter's Meeting July 09, 2023

Executive Director, Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order. Pastor Haller opened with a reading and devotion from today's Epistle reading 1 Peter 3:8-15 and closed the devotion with prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Roll call was taken with 23 members present and 4 excused.
- Minutes reviewed from April 2023 Voter's meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Diane Spencer and 2nd by Susan Pfund. Motion carried and approved to accept the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Huntington accounts have been closed. Handout showing Frankenmuth Credit Union checking account balance as of June 30, 2023 is \$26,490.16 and current balances of Designated Funds and Church Extension accounts.
- Additional handout showing monthly revenue vs. expenses for both General Fund and Designated Funds. Remaining balance of 2023 overall budget is \$119,160.43.
- Discussed overages in Elders budget for Organist Conferences of \$220 and Catechesis Supplies of \$94.21. Steve Reinbold
 motioned to approve the current overages in the two items of the Elders Budget. Dan Reinbold 2nd the motion. Motion
 carried and approved.
- Mary Masker mentioned that the Social Security budget item will reflect an overage for this year for payroll taxes as 2022 payroll tax was paid out in January as a yearly payment. For 2023, the IRS sent a letter requiring payroll taxes be paid on a monthly basis, so the budget for 2023 will actually end up with double the payroll taxes paid out. Aaron suggested that this would be a budget item to approve the overages at the end of the year.

CHURCH PROPERTIES ~ Tom Reid

- The parking lot has been repaired, resealed and restriped by Yeager Asphalt and paid in full from the Building Fund. Larry Spencer has contacted Yeager to come out and check several spots that may need to be redone.
- South entrance door has been repaired and still looking into replacing the CD player for the Carillon.
- Bid from Mike Starkey/Men of Many Trades to paint the North, East and South walls of the Fellowship Hall for \$4,240.

ELDERS ~ Steve Reinbold

- Continued study of the Book of Concord.
- Tuition Assistance forms are available for families to submit for the 2023-24 school year and Pastor Haller sent out letters to families encouraging them to enroll their children in LCMS Lutheran schools.
- September 16th will be the first Men's Morning Bible Study and will be held every month on the 3rd Saturday.
- Planning to combine the next Holy Conversations with the Church Anniversary which is 11/10/2024.
- Reviewing Pastor Haller's salary adjustment to allot for owning his own home instead of living in the parsonage.
- Elaine Lokinski transferred out to Bad Axe.
- Spring cleaning was done and Elders board will be signing up to help with altar flowers.

EVANGELISM AND MERCY ~ Leslie Reinbold

- Seeking volunteers to help with the set up and tear down for the Clothing Drive to be held on Friday, July 21st from 4-7pm and all day Saturday. Come when you can during the week to help with set and sorting clothes.
- Would like to have popcorn and gathering for Labor Day fireworks.

LADIES AID ~ Diane Spencer

- Encouraging boards and members to sign up for Altar Flowers. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
- Offering to make desserts for the Church Anniversary Luncheon and to work on gathering pictures of previous pastors and families from years past.

FELLOWSHIP ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Served special treats on Mother's and Father's Day holidays. Meeting to organize and set a date for a church BBQ.
- Cleaned the kitchen for Spring cleaning.
- Work on luncheon plans for Church Anniversary.

STEWARDSHIP ~ Joanne Hills

- Coffee money in July and September is going to Worship Anew. August coffee money will go to our seminary student.
- Special Missions collection for Education Sunday in September and Mission Sunday in October will both be sent to Luther Classical College.
- Stewardship board's special quarterly mission for April through June was the Lutheran Hour and we will be collecting for the Bethesda Group homes in Frankenmuth for our 3rd quarter mission for July through September.
- We are checking into a commemorative gift, possibly coasters with a picture of Grace church for the Church Anniversary.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Youth served Easter Breakfast for funds to go towards Higher Things 2023. They will be leaving on Monday, July 17th and returning on Friday, July 21st.
- Trying to plan a fun activity for all of our Youth on August 2nd at Stardust Lanes.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Jr High catechesis with begin Wednesday, August 23rd with 7 catechumens. High School with start September 10th.
- Michael Reid and Gabi Reinbold were confirmed on June 25th.
- Sunday School/Bible Class is studying the Propers for the week and the book, "An Explanation of the Common Service."
- Mid-week Matins service is still being held Wednesday morning and the Wednesday bible study resumes September 13th.
- Pastor Haller and Hannah will be attending the Higher Things conference with the Youth, July 17th 21st.
- Pastor Haller will be attending the Bugenhagen Conference in Racine, WI July 24th 26th.
- Pastor Haller and Hannah will be on vacation August 7th 15th.
- Pastor Haller and Hannah purchased a home at 4818 Slack Road, Fairgrove and will be moving in at the end of August.

OLD BUSINESS

- Kitchen remodel update: Inspector, Kent Singer said the kitchen is good as it is with the exception of needing to add a hand washing station. We need to request a permit a few days prior to events and he will schedule an inspection. Pastor Haller motioned to form a committee, one person from each: Fellowship, Ladies Aid and Church Properties. Diane Spencer 2nd the motion. The committee should meet, select a person to head the committee and have some basic ideas for the next Parish Planning meeting on September 19th. Motion carried and approved.
- Elders have selected November 10th, 2024 for our 75th Church Anniversary service. Fellowship board needs to decide if we should have a luncheon after the service or decide on a different time on Saturday or Sunday evening.

NEW BUSINESS

- Aaron Reinbold presented information gathered by Elders to make an adjustment to Pastor Haller's salary as he has
 purchased his own home and will not be living in the parsonage. Tom Reid 2nd the motion. Considered Home Equity
 allowance, utilities and rent comparison. Steve Reinbold motioned to increase Pastor Haller's salary from \$52,420 up to
 \$63,000 as of July 1st, 2023 which is an increase of \$881.66 per month for the remainder of 2023. Motion carried and
 approved. With this change, elders need to check on possible property tax and insurance rate changes on the parsonage.
- New Church Directory: check with Rummel Studios in Frankenmuth / put together now or after Church Anniversary?
- Float for Bean Festival Parade: Elders are in charge of finding a truck and small trailer. Evangelism should decide on something to hand out along the parade route. Welcome to any suggestions for a theme.
- Tom Reid made a motion to accept the bid from Men of Many Trades to paint the North, East and South walls of the
 Fellowship Hall for \$4240. Dan Reinbold 2nd the motion. Mike Starkey added that he should be able to include painting
 over the top half of the West wall as well. The funds will come out of the \$1202 Designated fund and the rest from
 Church Properties Ground Improvements. Motion carried and approved.

Next Parish Planning Meeting will be on September 19th at 7pm. Next Voter's Meeting will be on Sunday, October 8th at 11am.

Motion to adjourn made by Dan Reinbold and 2nd by Steve Reinbold. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and singing of the Doxology.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Mary Masker Secretary/Treasurer AUGUST 2023

Elders of the Month: Thomas Reid (989) 225-8315 & Steven Reinbold (989) 233-5097 Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703 Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	S
			9:30 am Matins		Pastor's Day Off	
		7 pm Elders				
6	7	8	6	10	11	12
The Ninth Sunday			Pastor Haller on vacation	on vacation		
after Trinity 9:15 am Divine Service		9 am Quilting Bee				
LU:45 am sunuay scriool & Bible Study		7 pm Properties				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Pastor Haller on vacation		9:30 am Matins		Pastor's Day Off	
The Tenth Sunday after Trinity						
9:15 am Matins						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity		9 am Quilting Bee	9:30 am Matins		Pastor's Day Off	
9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study			7 pm Catechesis			
27	28	29	30	31		
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity			9:30 am Matins			
9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School						
& Bible Study			7 pm Catechesis			

Serving Our Lord in the Month of August

Elders for August Thomas Reid & Steven Reinbold

Ladies Aid for August Jean Trisch & Irene Stange

Sunday, August 6, 2023

Refreshments: Leslie Reinbold, Tracey Reinbold, Diane Spencer Propers Choir: Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Gabriella Reinbold, Winston Reinbold Acolyte: Michael Reid Bible Study Babysitter: Gabriella Reinbold

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Refreshments: Laura Starkey, Bev Voss, Cindy Voss *Propers Choir:* Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Refreshments: Helene Weber, Chelsea Worden, Ashley Bublitz Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre Bible Study Babysitter: Julia Hargash & Isabella Reinbold

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Refreshments: Sandy D'Addezio, Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery *Propers Choir:* Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold *Acolyte:* Tristan Pierce *Bible Study Babysitter:* Chelsea Worden

**If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office. **If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.