

GRACE

As I write this newsletter article it dawns on me that this will be the last time I will be doing this sort of thing. Not that I mind, since over the years coming up with newsletter articles has been at times a chore. What do you say now?

I also have just come from a gathering of St. Mark's people and two women who are Muslim. It was a time to hear what others believe from those people themselves. It surfaced for me the question – "What does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian?"

When I was interviewed at the last church I served they asked me. "Are you a Christian or a Lutheran?" Not sure why that was asked but I thought about it and answered, "I do not think that they are mutually exclusive". I said that I was a Lutheran Christian.

So, what does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian? From what I have learned and believe it comes down to one word – GRACE. Grace is something I cannot earn. It is not about being better one day and then even better the next. It is not doing part of the work and Jesus coming in to finish it off. Grace as I hear is a gift. It is something God desires to give and in fact does give.

Too often I and many others slide into this attitude or belief that we can do it ourselves. It is inbred into the very culture we live in. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans makes it clear in the first three chapters that this is lie. He reinforces over and over again that on our own we will always come up short.

I have been asked over the years by family members if their spouse or friend will go to heaven. They said that they were not sure if the person believed in Jesus and were afraid of the consequences for that loved one.

I have held onto the assurance that God's grace is not only sufficient for us it is given out of God's great love for me and all creation. God's decision about us, God's way of looking at us, God's posture toward us is rooted in God's grace for all creation. This is what Jesus made clear.

Jesus lived out the grace of God. Women, sick people, children, outcasts, sinners were all welcomed into his company and at his table. In a world in which so many are excluded God's grace gives me direction to how I treat others. If God can accept me and forgive me out of love can I also do the same to those in my life?

To be a Lutheran Christian means starting with grace. You can find it even in the Old Testament as in stories of God willing to "change God's mind" in Hosea or saving Noah from the flood even knowing that humanity will continue to turn away.

Lutheran Christians believe in accountability, they also believe in new beginnings. Isn't this the gift we receive at Holy communion again and again.? Lutheran Christians also believe in living out this grace. "We are baptized into a new way of living" one pastor said a long time ago. Grace opens up for us the possibility to live out our love for Jesus as we love one another without the fear of failing. We can take risks because God's grace helps us to honestly examine ourselves without making that one act as the thing that defines who we are. Grace is all about whose we are not who we are. We are God's children.

So ,Martin Luther supposedly said, "Because of God's grace you can do whatever you want". After a long pause, and his students very much confused, Luther continued, "but what do you WANT to do as a child of God?"

That is the difference. God's grace in Jesus helps me see that it is not what I SHOULD do but what I WANT to do.

In one small way this is what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. It means standing up for something alright. It means standing up for a love that is beyond my understanding, a love that has taken risks for me and has even sacrificed his life for me, it means a love that will never go away. (Romans 8)

Thank be to God!

Interim Pastor Chris Becker

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Annual FEAST & FESTIVAL

Sunday  
**AUGUST**  
**05**  
2018

### FEAST

11am - 1:30pm

**BBQ ROAST PORK**  
**FRESH SWEET CORN**  
**BAKED BEANS**  
**SALADS**  
**HOME BAKED PIES**  
**ROOT BEER FLOATS**

28595 Randolph Blvd  
Randolph, MN 55065  
507-263-9182

### FESTIVITIES

--- Church Service - 10am ---

--- Live Music ---

featuring the Roe Family from 10am - 2:30pm

--- Silent Auction ---

check out a wide variety of great items  
bidding wraps up at 1:30pm

--- Live Auction ---

bidding begins at 2:30pm

--- Cash Raffle ---

\$20 tickets\*, cash payouts totalling \$3,000  
winners announced at event

--- Kids Activities ---

bouncy houses, petting zoo,  
pony rides and much more!

--- Craft & Bake Sale ---

handmade crafts & homemade goods

### Meal Ticket Prices

	Presale	Day of Event
Adults (ages 12+)	\$10*	\$13
Children (ages 3-11)	\$5*	\$7

\*To purchase meal or raffle tickets in advance,  
email us at [stmarkschurchfestival@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkschurchfestival@gmail.com)

## ST MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 206, 28595 Randolph Blvd., Randolph, MN 55065

507-263-9182

**Email:** stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com

**Website:** stmarksrandolphweb.wix.com/stmarks

**Church School E-mail:** stmarkschurchschoolkids@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** Typically, Mon and Thurs 5-7pm, Saturday 9-11am

**Facebook:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**August 2018**

### Prayer Requests

Joyce Nuehring (Lucinda's Aunt), Dan Deike (Kathy Motz' Father), Bob Fleskes, Gloria Dubbels, Kay Molstrom (Tony Price's Mom), Craig Kolstad, Regan Nordling and the Nordling family, Paul Hunsaid, Luke Nassif, Glen Holz, and please keep all our Seniors in your prayers. **Some** are in Care Centers: Arnie Felton, Rosella Davisson, Maxine Sunde, Eleanor Ohmann, Norma Taylor, Ray Ohmann, Leatrice Taylor, Robert and Margaret Hayes, Marie Norstad

### FOOD SHELF NEEDS

Food Shelf needs: Pudding, Mandarin Oranges, Jell-O, Toothpaste, Hand Soap, Ramen Noodles. We use all cash donations to buy perishable items. Thank you for your help.

Church school families will still be meeting on Wednesday August 1st from 6-7:30 to make pies for the Feast and Festival, if you are able to join us we'd love to have some help. Please bring a rolling pin if you have one and also a can of pie filling that corresponds with the first letter of your last name. The Feast and Festival depends on these pies from the Church School kids and we don't want to let them down.

If your last name begins with the following letter please bring 1 can of this pie filling flavor:

A-H - apple

I-M - cherry

N-R - blueberry

S-Z - peach

We are also in need of pre-made pie crusts.

### FEAST & FESTIVAL BAKE

#### & CRAFT SALE

WELCA will once again be having a bake & craft sale during the Feast & Festival on August 5<sup>th</sup>. To make it as successful as possible, we need ALL of St. Mark's bakers (men & women!) to pitch in. How about baking up some loaves of your favorite quick breads? Or whip up your favorite cookies or bars, or pies, etc. If you don't like to bake, how about "on the go" snack bags of your favorite treats? Another option might be homemade jams or jellies – or fresh produce out of your garden? Also, any craft items. Please consider bringing something to help make this part of the Feast and Festival a huge success. All proceeds will be given to the St. Mark's General Fund. Items may be dropped off at church that Saturday between 10:00 & 1:00 or Sunday morning before the church service.

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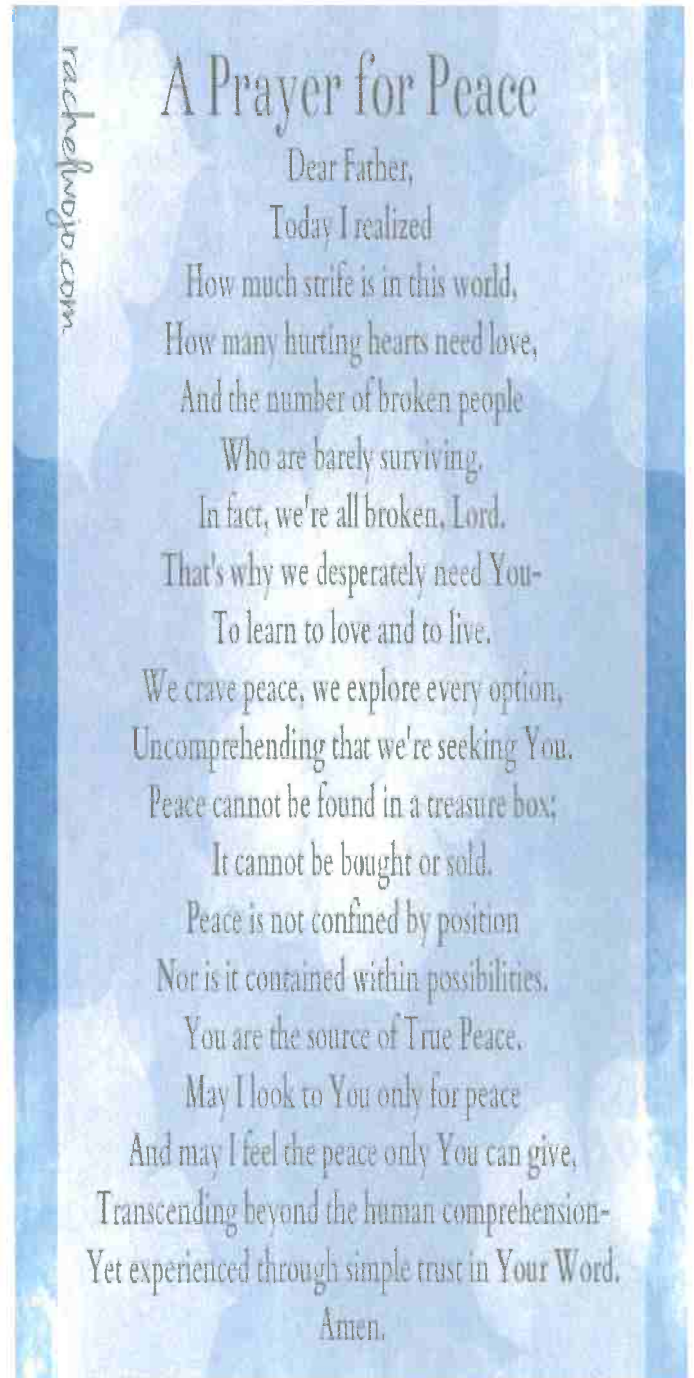
Office Hours: Typically, Mon and Thurs 5-7pm, Saturday 9-11am

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August 2018

**SERVICE GROUP B**

Arnie & Anne	Berquam
Rodney & Stacy	Braatz
Sue	Bresnahan
Dawn	Burlage
Mark & Kelli	Dibble
Ann & Mark	Elliott
Bob & Sheryl	Fischer
Donald & Katie	Freidig
Benjamin & Megan	Friedrich
JJ & Shannon	Grant
Shane & Karen	Hare
Todd & Mary	Haro
Julie	Jensen
Alma	Johnston
Ryan & Crystal	Kranz
Dan & Karrie	Kuhn
Randy & Tami	Lee
Lisa	Loken
Steve & Marge	Louis
Durene	Mies
William & Jody	Mies
Bruce & Bria	Ohmann
Stan & Mary	Ohmann
Bob & Shannon	Olson
Karen & Jerry	Otte
Tom & Pat	Otte
Mike	Ozman
Matthew & Samantha	Peterson
Dave & Lucinda	Preston
Dixie & Marv	Schaffer
Randi & Jeff	Schmicking
Tim & Renee	Schultz
Katie	Overby
Chuck & Brenda	Taylor
Dean & Sara	Taylor
Steve & Colleen	Thompson
Kurt & Katie	Weidner



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**August 2018**

***August Ushers***

8/5 James and Sara Otto  
8/12 Lisa Loken  
8/19 Bruce and Bria Ohmann  
8/26 Patty Olson

***August Greeters***

8/5  
8/12 Steve and Marge Louis  
8/19 Stan and Mary Ohmann  
8/26 Tom and Pat Otte

***August Readers***

8/5 Paige Ford  
8/12 Sophie Engler  
8/19 Marly Monson  
8/26 Mackenzie Hegland

***August Acolytes***

8/5 Trevor and Taylor Preston  
8/12 Imogen Otte and Mason Lorenzen  
8/19 Derek Foss and Nathan Weckop  
8/26 Caden Kranz and Charles Nassif

***August Communion Servers***

8/19 Meredith Taylor and Taylor Preston

***September Ushers***

9/2 Katie Overby  
9/9 Eric and Alyssa Gehrke  
9/16 Bob and Frieda Helgerson  
9/23 Mitch and Karla Monson  
9/30 Brian and Sandy Nicolai

***September Greeters***

9/2 Deena Otto  
9/9 Dan and Carol Harris  
9/16 Dave and Sandy Kutz  
9/23  
9/30

***September Readers***

9/2 Please sign up  
9/9 Please sign up  
9/16 Please sign up  
9/23 Please sign up  
9/30 Please sign up

***September Acolytes***

9/2 Mackenzie Hegland and Corah Meier  
9/9 Meredith Taylor and Taylor Preston  
9/16 Mckenna and Imogen Otte  
9/23 Geoff Krueger and Mason Lorenzen  
9/30 Sophie Engler and Cale Staub

***September Communion Servers***

9/2 Mackenzie Hegland and Corah Meier  
9/16 Mckenna and Imogen Otte

WELCA MEETING  
JULY 3, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by President Diane Trapp.

Treasure's Report: We have \$5,923.22. Carolyn made a motion to accept, seconded by Dorry, motion passed.

Secretary's Report: Sheryl made a motion to accept, seconded by Clarice, motion past.

Food Shelf: Katie Weidner has offered to help us.

Old Business: Bake Sale is on the flyers for the Feast and Festival. Maybe it is time to change items being sold, cookies are good snacks and treats also are good. Last year the Committee for the F & F set up the tables. Time to drop items off will be 11 - 3 on Saturday, the 4th. Sheryl and Alma will be here.

Dorry reported the the Baby Bottles brought in \$413.39. This will be an annual thing. This year it was between Mother's Day and Father's Day. This will be discussed later.

The History Cabinet was discussed. More research on a 4 X 6 cabinet on the north wall of the Fellowship Hall.

WELCA Projects were discussed. It will be reworked and done by our September meeting. Future ideas: Welcome gift for visitors, bell tower, dishwasher. Birthday gift for Sue Taylor of \$200.00.

A Thank You was read from Toni Jahnz for the scholarship she received.

No New Business.

Prayer concern: Safety during summer activities.

Sheryl made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dorry, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Otte, Secretary

Service Group B Contact:

Dawn Burlage 952-500-2335

Karen Otte 507-645-8895

# August 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 FOOD SHELF 8-10 AM WELCA 10am Bible Study 11am	2	3	4
5 Service 10am FEAST AND FESTIVAL	6	7 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 5-6:30PM	8	9	10	11
12 Service 10am Welcome to Pastor Lue	13	14 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 4-5:30PM Council Meeting 7pm	15 Alzheimer's Support Group 9:30am	16	17	18
19 Service 10am	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am	22 FOOD SHELF 9-11 AM	23	24	25
26 Service 10am	27	28 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am	29	30	31	