



# The BEACON

*Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News*

September, 2017

## From the Pastor's Desk: Fed & Nourished

Give a smile,  
Get one back,  
Give a hug  
And see the smile...  
  
It's Happening at Grace  
Lutheran!

Growing up a few minutes away from the countryside in Upstate New York, one of my fondest church memories was the excitement I would feel when I realized that it was almost time for Sunday School to begin again. I wish I could say that it was because the Holy Spirit was moving and shaking in my life and I was inspired by God so much that I was compelled to embrace my theological formation--but it was the donuts.



of these cross+gen events will happen on Sunday, September 17, during our regular Sunday School time and will be based on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24).

The process of learning about Scripture, discovering how God is active in our world, wrestling with how we are being called to respond as followers of Christ, and being formed to live as a holy people is one that begins with

Every year on the first day of Sunday School, there would be basket upon baskets of dreamy apple cider donuts neatly cut into sixths and piled in a napkin-lined, woven basket. As if this wasn't enough, next to this bounty would be small dixie cups filled to the brim with freshly pressed apple cider. Needless to say, I was in heaven.

our very first breath and continues until our very last. Our growth as disciples is not something we graduate from, as if there is one day when we finally understand the beautiful mysteries of faith in their totality. Faith formation, Sunday School, theological education--call it what you will, it is something we are called to embrace and grow in throughout our entire lives.

I haven't yet found my York County apple cider donuts, but even without them I am pretty excited for the start of the Sunday School year here at Grace Lutheran! There is so much for us to look forward to: from new Sunday School teachers, to a thoughtful revamp of the Confirmation program, to new cross+generational faith formation events, and of course our regularly anticipated Fall Bible Study.

With the start of the new school year, I encourage you to think about how God might be calling you to embrace a new or tried-and-true way of growing as a disciple. Whether it's Sunday mornings or an opportunity during the week, you are sure to not only be blessed but be a blessing as we learn and grow together.

What is a cross+generational faith formation event? Why, I am so glad you asked! During one of my opportunities for continuing education in Atlanta, Georgia, I learned more about the cross+generational approach: basically, that children have wonder and imagination that we can all learn from, and that older folks have wisdom and perspective that we can all learn from...so why not get all these ages together to help teach one another and learn together?

Your partner in God's mission,  
Pastor Courtney

Right now we have planned four cross+gen events that will take place on the third Sunday of each month during the regularly scheduled Sunday School time between now and the end of the year. Each event will have a Bible story that people of all ages will be able to engage in learning through reading, reflecting, and responding physically and artistically. The first

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The council meeting for August was short. Pastor Courtney was out of town speaking at the Lutheran minister conference and many committees do not meet in July due to vacations. This means there were not a lot of committee updates to review. Cora Sue Herbst did lay out a plan to get the names and addresses for all of our homebound members so that they may receive a card each month letting them know we are thinking of them. She will put the list together and the TOGS will write notes and sign the cards to be sent. This is a great opportunity for the youth to bring a smile to the folks of our congregation that we don't get to see on a weekly basis. Thank you Cora Sue for a great idea!

We are also moving forward with a Website update plan. Dylan Rexroth has done a great job of assessing the website needs and will partner with Joe Turek and Scott Hildebrand and other HS members of TOGS to update and invigorate the site.

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE HURRICANE HARVEY



Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast in the United States on August 25, threatening millions of people in coastal Texas and Louisiana with multiple days of heavy rain, winds and rising tides. While many have evacuated, significant damage is expected, and thousands of people may be housed in shelters for an extended period of time.

Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. Together, we have a strong history of working with disasters in the Gulf Coast area.

We invite you to stand by our neighbors on the Gulf Coast during this time. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise effected by this disaster for years to come.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "Hurricane Response - United States" will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support the needs in this response and others like it.

Give through your congregation or make your check out to 'Lutheran Disaster Response' and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.



### CAN YOU HELP THE NUMBERS ADD UP?

As we approach our September 11 food distribution, there are some facts that you need to read. We have collected 172 bottles of laundry detergent, 65 bottles of shampoo, 100 bottles of dish detergent, and 13 bottles of body wash. With products left over from our Easter distribution, we have enough to provide for everyone except for the body wash. There is little time but a giant influx of body wash would certainly help us to complete our health care boxes for our clients. Due to the unexpected financial crisis in the spring, we will be having our distributions once every three months as a way to reduce stress on the budget and on our workers. Therefore, our next distribution will be on December 11. Packing will be held on November 4 and 11 at 8:30 a.m. By changing the winter distribution, we will still be able to have our "yard sale" ministry just before Christmas when many of our clients "shop" for gifts for their families, especially their grandchildren. The summer has been long for some of our clients and Jack has given emergency food to about 30 families a month. Once we get onto our new schedule, clients will receive their food quarterly, with emergency food available anytime.

On Saturday, August 20, we packed boxes with help from church members of Grace and St. Luke's, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Red Lion Senior High and volunteers from Weis Markets of Red Lion. It was exciting for us and for the new helpers involved with our out-reach ministry to pack boxes and fellowship together. We are constantly in need of volunteers, so if your place of work is looking for volunteer opportunities for its employees, please direct them to Jack Warntz.

### Pastoral Acts

#### Funeral

We commended our sister in Christ, LaDawn Anderson, to God's eternal care through a service of Christian burial on August 10, 2017. Because Pastor Courtney was presenting at an ELCA conference in Atlanta, GA, Rev. Doug DeStephano, dean of the Southern York Conference, presided and Grace member and seminarian, Wicky Barnes III, preached. Please continue to keep the Anderson, Rexroth, and Stauffer families in your prayers.

#### Baptism

Jena and Page Shingler were baptized into the body of Christ on August 6, 2017 at our 9:00am worship service, thanks be to God! Jena and Page are now beginning their first semester at college.



# 'STRANGERS IN KENYA: Praying for Peace. Kenya's Presidential Elections

2007:

We were in Kenya for 2 years. The presidential elections were coming four days before the new year. Our Kenyan friends felt sure things would go well. The elections happened. Things didn't go well. As the new year dawned, our beautiful adopted country of Kenya was gripped in the fiery fist of post-election violence that left 1,300 people dead and 600,000 people displaced, refugees in their own country. In our own community, election-generated tribal unrest caused many Kenyan doctors and nurses to flee to their home districts, leaving patients in Kijabe Hospital without adequate care. The country-wide violence led to two delays in the resumption of our school, emergency evacuation bags packed in our homes and contingency plans reviewed daily. In the weeks following the elections, the Rift Valley below our station filled with tent cities peopled by shocked, homeless Kenyans: refugees torn from their communities forever by tribal-related violence. In the decade since, these communities remain, a daily reminder of what we never want to experience again.

2017:

We have been in Kenya 12 years. The Kenyan presidential elections happen once again, tomorrow. For weeks our Kenyan friends have felt that things will go well. However, with two days to go I see concern in their eyes. The murder of an election official last week and an exodus of citizens from the country have caused memories from a decade ago to resurface with force as the country holds its collective breath and prepares to wait and see what will happen. So much rides on this election: Kenya's economy, though growing, is struggling because of massive drought, leaving high food prices and increased unemployment in its dusty wake. 80% of Kenya's population is younger than 35, but unemployment among Kenya's younger citizens runs at 22%. So, people want a president who will provide jobs and food for their families. Yet the ever-present issue of tribalism will guide many Kenyans as they vote. The sitting president, Uhuru Kenyatta, is a Kikuyu, Kenya's largest tribe. His opponent, Raila Odinga is of the Luo tribe, Kenya's second largest tribe. The friction between these two tribes, their candidates and supporting tribes was the catalyst for violence a decade ago. We ask you to join us and thousands of Kenyan Christians as we pray for this dear country in the following ways: 1. That the election process will be handled with openness and integrity. Most of the violence of 2007/08 was fueled by accusations of election rigging. 2. For safety for the citizens of Kenya as they vote. 3. For the elected leadership and (especially) those who are not elected to put the people first by peacefully accepting the results of the election 4. Most importantly, that God will be glorified throughout this process. Scripture tells us that the government rests on Christ's shoulders (Isiah 9:6). We rest in His sovereignty and we pray that we will see Him glorified by violence-free elections this year. Thank you, as always, for your faithful support, both prayerful and financial, that allows us to continue to serve our Lord in this wonderful country.

Sincerely,  
The Murphys

## AN UPDATE ON KENYA'S ELECTIONS FROM NPR:

Kenyan Opposition Leader Vows To Take Election Challenge To Supreme Court by Colin Dwyer.

August 16, 2017 4:41 PM ET.

Just over a week after Kenyans went to polls to decide their president, opposition leader Raila Odinga has vowed a legal challenge to the official results that re-elected his rival, incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta. At a news conference Wednesday, Odinga announced that he plans to take allegations of "computer-generated fraud" to the country's Supreme Court. "This is just the beginning," he said. "We will not accept and move on."

Odinga and his campaign have vehemently disputed the outcome of the election since provisional results began to dribble out to the public last week. By Friday night, when Kenya's electoral commission released official tallies that showed Kenyatta winning by more than 1.4 million votes, Odinga had already made clear he believes those results were doctored by a "logarithm" introduced in the country's electronic voting system.

He has not publicly provided evidence to support his claim or clarified where he obtained alternative tallies showing him leading by several hundred thousand votes. Still, he kept up his objections in the days that followed, rejecting the assessments of international

observers who initially largely approved the election and calling on his supporters to boycott the results. At least 24 people have been killed in the ensuing clashes between his supporters and Kenyan security forces.

Odinga declared Wednesday as he remains undeterred: "No one should believe — and especially not those behind this election fraud — that Kenyans are sheep who will willingly go along with the democracy's slaughter," he told reporters. "This country is now divided between those prepared to live under autocracy and the forces of freedom and democracy."

Taken from: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/08/16/543915906/kenya-s-opposition-leader-vows-to-take-election-challenge-to-supreme-court>. August 20, 2017.

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## WHAT'S IN THE DISPLAY CASE?



The display case for September features optical illusions. Here is an article about why they work:

Optical Illusions: When Your Brain Can't Believe Your Eyes  
By CARI NIERENBERG ABC NEWS MEDICAL UNIT Oct. 13, 2009.

Look at an optical illusion and you may think you're seeing things -- such as a curved line that's actually straight, or a moving object that's standing still. You wonder if your eyes are playing tricks on you.

It's not your eyes. An illusion is proof that you don't always see what you think you do -- because of the way your brain and your entire visual system perceive and interpret an image.

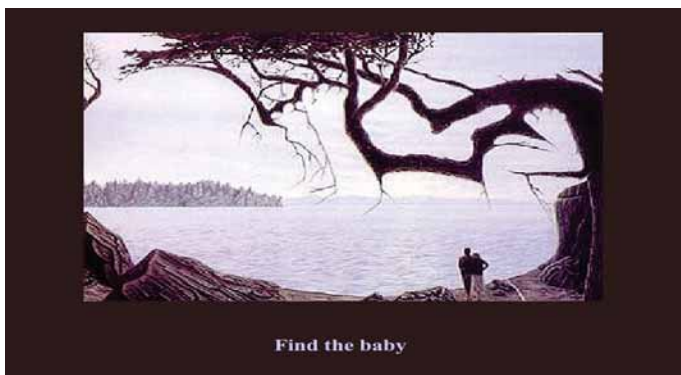
Visual illusions occur due to properties of the visual areas of the brain as they receive and process information. In other words, your perception of an illusion has more to do with how your brain works -- and less to do with the optics of your eye.

An illusion is "a mismatch between the immediate visual impression and the actual properties of the object," said Michael Bach, a vision scientist and professor of neurobiophysics at the University of Freiburg Eye Hospital in Freiburg, Germany, who studies illusions and has a large collection of them on a website.

Everything that enters the senses needs to be interpreted through the brain -- and these interpretations occasionally go wrong, Bach told ABCNews.com. Illusions, he said, may serve as a test bed to determine whether scientists understand vision correctly.

Susana Martinez-Conde, director of the laboratory of visual neuroscience at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Ariz. offered a similar definition. "An illusion is a phenomenon in which our subjective perception doesn't match the physical reality of the world."

Taken from: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/EyeHealth/optical-illusions-eye-brain-agree/story?id=8455573>. On August 20, 2017.

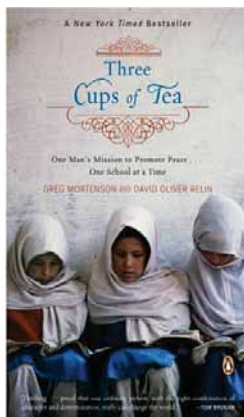


## BOOK CLUB

This month the book club is endeavoring to read *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.



*Three Cups of Tea* tells the story of Greg Mortenson, a mountaineer whose failed ascent of K2 leads him into the tiny village of Korphe, Pakistan. In Korphe, Mortenson is welcomed warmly, and makes the villagers a promise to return to build them a school. With the help of the mountaineering community, Mortenson raises enough money to build a school in Korphe, meeting his wife, Tara Bishop, along the way. But he does not stop here; he is appointed executive director of the Central Asia Institute to continue his mission of educating girls in Pakistan and, later, Afghanistan. (summary by [gradesaver.com](http://gradesaver.com)).



If you are interested in joining the comradery of the book club, contact Geri Jacobs or Jen Rudolf for more information. The book club meets every third Thursday of the month in the Welcome Center at 6:30 p.m.

## HOW TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome all submissions to the newsletter. The newsletter is a great place to ask for help, publicize an event you are planning in the church, tell people about something you or your family are doing, thank members, celebrate a victory. The possibilities are endless! The vision for the newsletter is to communicate between members in a clear and interesting format. If you would like to submit to the newsletter or help in any way, here is what you can do:

\*If you are comfortable with computers, you may email Chris Jacobs at: [knndsi1@yahoo.com](mailto:knndsi1@yahoo.com). Please make sure your document is either a .doc or .pdf file. If you are including digital artwork, make sure it is at least 300KB in size.

\*If you prefer paper, just drop off your submission in the mailbox marked 'newsletter' outside the office door. The mailboxes are located on a table across the hall.

Please keep in mind that the deadline for submission is the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter. If you have pictures or graphics that complement your submission, include them along with directions or suggestions on their use. Please include your contact information in every submission so the editor can get in touch to clarify or fact-check. If you are interested in a monthly submission or article, we welcome that as well.





The Den afterschool program will be starting September 26 and run Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:00 PM at Mazie Gable Elementary School. This past spring we had a pilot program that was very successful and we helped

over 30 Mazie Gable students. This fall we are offering the program once again to the students in grades 1-6 at Mazie Gable Elementary, but we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to work each Tuesday and/or Thursday helping with homework, games, snack, etc. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Rider, Coordinator of The Den at 717-244-2355 or thedenforkids@gmail.com or speak directly with your pastor.

We also need donations of the following snacks, supplies, and games:

**Game Needs:**

- Connect 4
- Monopoly
- Old Maid
- Chess
- Checkers
- Trouble
- Scrabble Jr.
- Yahtzee
- Boggle
- Candyland
- Apples and Apples
- Dominoes
- Guess Who
- Uno
- Regular deck of cards
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Jenga
- Operation
- Stratego
- Battleship

**Snack Needs:**

- Small Water bottles
- Individual chip bags
- Individual gummies
- Napkins/Paper Towels
- Easy open individual servings

**Other Needs:**

- Construction paper
- Copy paper

## THE DEN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

If you are considering the opportunity to be a volunteer with The Den Afterschool Program at Mazie Gable Elementary School, we thank you. Before you make a commitment to this outreach program, we would like to invite you to attend one of two training sessions on either Tuesday, September 12, 2017 or Thursday, September 14, 2017. Each training session will be held at St. Paul's UMC 45 First Ave. in Red Lion from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. The training sessions will be conducted by Andrea Rider, Director of The Den Afterschool Program.



During the training sessions, you will be taught strategies that you can apply to help the students complete their homework and how to be encouraging when the students encounter a task that is difficult for them to complete. At the end of the training, you will be asked to make a commitment to volunteer for this beneficial program. Police clearances must be provided in order to participate in this program. Copies of police clearances must be provided by Saturday, September 23, 2017. Clearances must be renewed every 5 years. (Special note: high school aged students are permitted to be volunteers for this program.)

If you are interested in helping us with The Den Afterschool Program, please contact Andrea Rider at thedenforkids@gmail.com or 717-449-9942 if you have any questions.

### The Food Pantry September's Donation of the Month is Body Wash



## LUTHERAN CAMPING



Contributions Enhance Campers' Experiences! Thank You!

Tremendous effort is required to accomplish highly successful summer ministries like those at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm. Your generous support touches every aspect of our ministry and helps us provide joyful, faith-building experiences. This year, your contributions renovated Kirchenwald's pool, built another hammock hideaway at Nawakwa, maintained safe and attractive facilities, helped hire a caring, mature summer ministry team, and provided the counselors training in First Aid, CPR, Lifeguarding and many other skills. Your Campership gifts provided Camperships to children who would have been unable to attend camp due to financial hardship. And this is only a partial list. We are very grateful to all those who financially support the ministry of the Lutheran Camping Corp. Thank you!

Camping events for September:

- Lutheran Camping Night at the York Revolution - September 16
- Lower Susquehanna Synod's ALiVE at Nawakwa - September 22-24



## T.O.G.S. NEWS

There was a very successful fundraiser at Isaac's South York on Sunday, August 20. The final tally was \$398.20 including donations from members who could not make it to Isaac's to eat.

Our Next Fundraiser is the biggest one yet! We will begin selling raffle tickets in September. The tickets will be 1 for \$10 or 2 for \$15 with the following Prizes: First Prize is 2 tickets and 1 parking pass to the Penn State vs Nebraska Game on November 18th, Second prize will be \$100 and third prize is \$50. They can be purchased from any TOGS member/family, after Spirit Cellar service or before the Traditional Service in the Welcome Center.

THIS IS A FANTASTIC PRIZE!



**Sunday School**

**Begins  
September 3!**



Each month, *The Beacon* reports who is sponsoring the flowers in the Sanctuary.

September's flowers are sponsored by:

- 03 – Richard Rhine
- 10 – Mrs. Edward Arnold
- 17 – Connie Heiss
- 24 – Barb Slavinsky

October's flowers are sponsored by:

- 01 – Robert Miller
- 08 – Carolyn Noll
- 15 – Ed Dellinger
- 22 – Doris Douglas
- 30 – Barb Slavinsky

## September Celebrations



- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 - Jeffrey Arnold   | 15 - Alec Crawford       |
| 01 - Hunter Jones     | 16 - Sharon Phillips     |
| 02 - John Hartman     | 17 - Lillian Kiehner     |
| 02 - Trevor Manahan   | 17 - Jennifer Kuhn       |
| 04 - Dee Bowles       | 19 - Bradley Mummert     |
| 05 - Diana Bailey     | 19 - Carol Vigna         |
| 05 - Brett Hammers    | 20 - Jason Krout         |
| 07 - Jessie Fishel    | 23 - Robert Miller       |
| 07 - Susan Hammers    | 23 - Wade Vigna          |
| 08 - Nancy Becker     | 24 - Adam Golden         |
| 10 - Kathleen Shaffer | 24 - Sami Peters         |
| 11 - Peggy Ericson    | 25 - Cindy Christenberry |
| 11 - Andreas Hont     | 26 - Morgan Gwinn        |
| 11 - Mason Shaffer    | 26 - Benjamin Hanzlik    |
| 11 - Matthew Shaffer  | 27 - Lesa Arnold         |
| 11 - Andrea Stanley   | 27 - James Isett         |
| 12 - Jennifer Lloyd   | 27 - Ralph Urey          |
| 12 - Robin Walker     | 28 - Michael Atkins      |
| 14 - Holly Barker     | 29 - Todd Barnes         |
| 14 - Sharon Hont      | 29 - Sharon Bucher       |
| 14 - Marion Wiemert   |                          |

## Wedding Anniversaries



- 01 - Zach & Bryel Turner
- 04 - John & Laura Hartman
- 09 - Ronald & Nancy Golden
- 11 - Richard & Geraldine Jacobs
- 11 - Germar & Jennifer Rudolf
- 13 - Dee & Carl Bowles
- 18 - Robert & Jessie Fishel
- 28 - Kurt & Tammy Golden
- 29 - Mark & Linda Ricci



***The Beacon* is brought to you by:**

- Chris Jacobs, Editor/Staff Writer**
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# September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Noisy Offering 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar- Contemporary 10:00 am: Sunday School Classes 10:45 am : Worship Service - Traditional	4	5	6 "The Book Store" arrives	7 7:00 pm: Graceful Women	8	9
10 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar- Contemporary 10:00 am: Sunday School Classes 10:45 am : Worship Service - Traditional 12:00 pm: Sanctuary Setup	11 8:30 am: Food Distribution	12 6:30 pm: Worship & Music Committee	13 7:00 pm: Finance Committee	14 6:30 pm: Church Council Meeting	15	16
17 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar- Contemporary 10:00 am: Cross- Gen Sunday School Classes 10:45 am : Worship Service - Traditional	18 6:30 pm: Parish Education Committee	19	20	21 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm: Book Club	22	23
24 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar- Contemporary 10:00 am: Sunday School Classes 10:45 am : Worship Service - Traditional	25	26	27	28	29	30