



The BEACON

Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News

November, 2017

Give a smile,
Get one back,
Give a hug
And see the smile...

It's Happening at Grace
Lutheran!

From the Pastor's Desk: Control



Maybe it's weird, but I like watching the Weather Channel. I'm not entirely sure why, but I find it comforting to have the weather on to either see what's going on in the world or as background noise while I'm working around the house. One of the things that happens a lot on the channel, probably because not as many people watch it all the time like me, are commercials that almost verge on full-length tv programs, trying to convince you of the newest thing that *you just have to have* in order to make your life better. Today it was an ad for a new type of generator that would automatically turn on when your power went off-- whether you are home or not. With all of the natural disasters that we have experienced in the United States over the past few months, I wasn't too surprised to see folks trying to push generators, but what I always find interesting is *why* we are being told we *need* these new products. What do these commercials say about us, what makes us insecure, and how we think we can make our lives "better"?

At one point during this particular commercial, they showed testimonies from people who supposedly owned these generators and were almost in tears over how their lives had been transformed for the better by owning one. One man said that thanks be to this automatic generator, he "now had control over [his] life!" Who knew a generator was the one item that could give us control over our lives?! Where can I get one?!

We spend so much time trying to take control of the world around us...but can we really? Can we really prevent bad things from happening? Will my addiction to using a planner for every aspect of my life really keep my schedule from being turned upside down at the first sign of reality? My guess is that you have experienced a loss of control, whether it be the moment your child told you they weren't going to college like you had planned since before they were born but instead were going to jump into the workforce, or a health challenge that comes up even though you have worked to stay

healthy your whole life. And even when faced with a natural disaster, no generator is going to give you control over your life.

We put our trust in so many things, and are always crushed to find that they can't save us. But every Sunday we gather to proclaim that even when life is at its worst, even when the storms ceaselessly rage, there is One who is in control and One in whom we can trust: our amazing God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Life is going to come at you fast, some days harder than others, and the good news is that even when we feel like we've lost all control, God promises to see us through and remain with us "always, until the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20, NSRV).

So if you need to purchase a generator, go right ahead. If calendars and planners are your thing, enjoy the sales at Staples and Michaels. And if you are trying to figure out what your five year plan is, feel free to stop in and share your thoughts with me. But may we always remember that though the best laid plans will fail, our God's promises do not. We may not have control, but we worship the One who does.

Thanks be to God!
God's Peace,
Pastor Courtney

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Council met on October 12 and we had a very full evening. Andrea Stanley Eveler gave us a current update on the status of our trusts and investments. She did a great job of explaining to us the difference in the money available to be used by Grace, and the income from investments from which we are only entitled to a percentage. This update will be included in the congregational meeting as well.

We also received an update from the Property Committee regarding the Church insurance plans. Currently we have multiple plans through different companies and the costs have been steadily increasing. We have had problems with being able to host groups at the church as well as the confusion over who and what policy covers what. Property did a great deal of work and received plan quotes from 4 sources to present to council for a decision. Initially council decided to table the discussion and will meet again on October 19 to be able to focus only on the insurance decision. Council is thankful that the Property Committee has put so much time and effort into the recommendations, and want to give it proper attention.

We also received a budget proposal for income and expenses in 2018 from the Finance Committee. This was reviewed and approved and will also be presented for the congregation to review and vote upon at the annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday November 12 in the sanctuary.

WHAT'S IN THE DISPLAY CASE?

This November we will be featuring a Thanksgiving Cabinet. A beautiful pheasant will be on display on the top shelf that we are borrowing from Keith McCleary. Other special Thanksgiving items will fill out the display. Come and enjoy nostalgic symbols of this special and gracious time of year.



STRANGERS IN KENYA Lucky Year 13!

The Murphys have begun another school year (their 13th in Africa!) with similar responsibilities as last year. They both teach three classes (Ryan in English and Heather in Social Studies) and are department heads, while doing many other evening and weekend activities at their dynamic boarding school, Rift Valley Academy (RVA).

Claire has joined the ranks of full-time students now as a first grader; Asher and Micah are fully in the school groove as 5th and 8th graders. We want to thank you for your faithful prayers from last spring. You prayed for 1) staffing for this school year... and the RVA team is fully staffed right now. 2) favor with the Kenya Tax Authorities... and as of today, we have been designated as exempt from Kenyan taxes for this year and the foreseeable future! 3) a new superintendent... and our new leader is an RVA grad who has been an RVA staff member for over 20 years. We are enjoying his wise and understanding heart for leadership.

Please pray: 1) Another senior English teacher. They are like Spinal Tap drummers around here. Last year, we had a teacher quit in January; this year, our teacher had a health relapse during the first few weeks of school and had to step out. Our current substitute leaves in April for home assignment. 2) Speaking of home assignment substitutes, Heather and I need replacements for her three and my three classes (our home assignment is April-August of next year). Ideally, we'd have a short-term replacement from the U.S. so that the staff here in campus isn't overly burdened. 3) God has been faithful to provide tuition for Ryan's seminary degree so far, but the spring bill is coming due soon and the money has run out. 4) Spiritual Emphasis Week. This week, we have a Kenya-native who is a part of Ravi Zacharias Ministries leading our campus in the topic *Loving the Lord with Your Mind*, and we pray that God will bring some much-needed revival here.

Thanks for partnering with us in our work here!,
Ryan, Heather, Micah, Asher, and Claire

Africa Inland Mission address for financial support—
P.O. Box 3611
Peachtree City, GA 30269-7611

Checks made out to Africa Inland Mission

**The annual
Congregational Meeting
will be on Sunday
November 12 at 10:00am.
Each one of us is a
valuable and important
part of the church. Please
plan to attend.**

**Want to Receive The Beacon
Electronically?
It's Easy!
Just email your address to the publisher:
swimmerjenusa@yahoo.com.
We'll take care of the rest.**

OKTOBERFEST AND REFORMATION FUN!





OTHERS ARE IN DIRE NEED

Our food pantry needs to continue to exist, as we are helping 20-40 people every month with emergency food which includes meat but no perishables or health products. The pantry does receive state and federal foods but has to purchase extras such as the perishables and health/cleaning products. We are still looking for shampoo, body wash, dish detergent and laundry detergent.

Donations from members are once again being accepted at the church. Rather than purchasing turkeys for the Christmas distribution, please consider giving money to the pantry so that Jack can purchase turkeys that are all about the same size. If it is possible, labeling your clothing, knick-knack, or toy donations really helps us sort them before the sanctuary set-up on Sunday, December 10 which saves time and effort on the part of our volunteers.

We will be packing boxes on November 4 and 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the food pantry space. Helpers are always needed to assist with this activity as well as sanctuary set-up and food distribution. Please check your calendar, see if your "uniform" still fits and come to be one of God's helpers in this outreach ministry.

ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCES

All Saints Sunday is November 5 this year. On this day, we remember the faithful Christians witness of our loved ones who have gone on to eternal life in the past year. We will have a special remembrance during the services on November 5.

There will also be a service of remembrance of miscarriage and infant and loss. Although infertility, miscarriage and infant loss are very common, they are not often discussed and can be difficult for women and their families to grieve. On Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m., we are having a special community worship service for families who have faced miscarriage and infant loss.



All Saints Day



There were no Pastoral Acts this month.

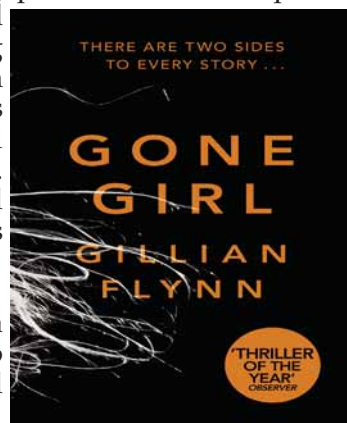
BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will be reading *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn this month. Goodreads.com overviews the story as follows: "On a warm summer morning in North

Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne's fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick's clever and beautiful wife disappears. Husband-of-the-Year Nick isn't doing himself any favors with cringe-worthy daydreams about the slope and shape of his wife's head, but passages from Amy's diary reveal the alpha-girl perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media—as well as Amy's fiercely doting parents—the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceptions, and inappropriate behavior. Nick is oddly evasive, and he's definitely bitter—but is he really a killer?"

See Geri Jacobs for a copy of the book and club meeting times if you would like to join in the read.



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. 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.



T.O.G.S. NEWS

The Raffle drawing was done on October 22. The Raffle winner of the Penn State tickets was Kellie Gauthier, an outside ticket sale. The \$100 winner was Doris Golden, who seems to be very lucky. The \$50 winner was Drew Walker. Congratulations to all the winners. The TOGs made about \$900 on ticket sales. We thank all who purchased tickets to help with the expenses to Houston.

The TOGS who are going to the National Youth Gathering will have a mandatory meeting to discuss travel on November 26 following the Spirit Cellar Worship at 9:45 a.m. There are special travel considerations to prepare prior to leaving next summer.



Pastor Courtney makes a wardrobe change in her "pig pen cleaning" outfit for the children's sermon

November Celebrations



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 01 - Daniel Davis | 17 - Brandon Ricci |
| 01 - Jake Hanzlik | 20 - Otilie Grim |
| 01 - Kern Pressel | 20 - Stephen Seitz |
| 02 - Chad Vigna | 22 - Jeanne Laucks |
| 05 - Andrew Crawford | 24 - Eleanor Gross |
| 05 - Drew Walker | 25 - Bobbi Jo Shafer |
| 06 - Elizabeth Hanzlik | 25 - Ellen Warntz |
| 07 - William Coeyman | 26 - Billy May |
| 09 - Gerald Heiss | 26 - Wesley Smith |
| 09 - William Stein | 27 - Wendy Mummert |
| 13 - Jeremy Christenberry | 28 - Samuel J. Laucks |
| 13 - Stacy Frey | 28 - Wendy Miller |
| 14 - Mark Einsig | 28 - Amy Webster |
| 14 - Alex Johnston | 29 - Roberta Ebert |
| 15 - Robert Arnold | 29 - Jackie Golden |
| 15 - Robert E. Hammers | 30 - Kelly Jo Marshall |



Wedding Anniversaries

- 05 - Gary & Barbara Krout
- 08 - Jeffrey & Lesa Arnold
- 09 - Andrew & Lisa Crawford
- 11 - Larry & Dolores Tudor
- 12 - Stephen & Lisa Germick
- 21 - Andreas & Sharon Hont
- 22 - Dick & Jean Rhine
- 29 - Jud & Kelly Staufer

LUTHERAN CAMPING



The following events are happening at our Lutheran Camps during November:

- Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa - November 5
- Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa - November 10-12

For more information, visit the Lutheran Camping Corporation website: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/>



The Beacon is brought to you by:

- Chris Jacobs, Editor/Staff Writer**
- Jennifer Rudolf, Layout/Staff Writer**
- Otilie Grim, Copy Proofreader**
- Richard Rhine, Proofreader**
- Dee Kerr, Proofreader**
- Germar Rudolf, Webmaster**

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

November's flowers are sponsored by:

- 05 - Tom Smith
- 12 - Grace Lutheran
- 19 - Jay Keener
- 26 - Richard Jacobs

December's flowers are sponsored by:

- 03 - Chris Schell
- 10 - Grace Lutheran Church
- 17 - Jud Stauffer
- 24 - Dennis Walters
- 31 - Linda Anderson

November

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|--|---|--------|--------------------------------|
| | | | 1 6:30 - 7:00 pm: Ringers by Grace (Bell Choir) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal | 2 6:00 pm: Graceful Women | 3 | 4 8:30 am: Food Box Packing |
| 5 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar Worship - Contemporary Worship 10:45 am: Worship Service - Traditional | 6 | 7 | 8 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Ringers by Grace (Bell Choir) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm- Finance Committee | 9 6:30 pm: Church Council Meeting | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar Worship - Contemporary Worship 10:00 am: ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING 10:45 am: Worship Service - Traditional | 13 | 14 | 15 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Ringers by Grace (Bell Choir) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal | 16 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm: Book Club 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Mug Club (@ Black Cap Brewery) | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar Worship - Contemporary Worship 10:45 am: Worship Service - Traditional | 20 | 21 | 22 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Ringers by Grace (Bell Choir) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Senior Choir Rehearsal | 23 Thanksgiving | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 am: Spirit Cellar Worship - Contemporary | 27 | 28 | 29 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Ringers by Grace (Bell Choir) | 30 9:00 am - 4:00 pm: Food Pantry | | |