



THE PROCLAIMER

LET'S DO A DIFFERENT RECYCLING

When I first arrived here, I noticed that our members—YOU—did not take the bulletins for Sunday. They were put back (rather nicely, I might add) after worship on Sunday. On Tuesday, Lisa would pick them up, take one for posterity (church records), and dump the rest in a recycling bin. The bulletins were then recycled.

I don't know if anyone has noticed or not, but Lisa is no longer here, nor is that recycling bin in her former office under her desk. If you have peeked in my office, you have seen the mountain load of bulletins in a rack on my desk. The recycling bin has done a disappearing act. To sum it up—Lisa is not doing that anymore.

At this week's church council meeting, I brought up purchasing new Children's Bulletins. Yes, I have noticed that Josephine is the only child in our church at the present time. The question is: is that all the children we want? I certainly hope not. When I was interviewed by the Call Committee here to be your pastor, I emphasized **the way to grow a church is through children (see the emphasis?)**. I meant it then. I mean it today. If anyone wants a church to grow, **the emphasis (translate as energy + money) needs to be expended on reaching children.**

At the church council meeting, I explained my rationale for getting Children's Bulletins. The ones we have are 12 years old. We need new Children's bulletins. However, we are not purchasing them for just Josephine! We live in a town of over 100,000 people. 6.61% of the population is Josephine's age, or 6,661. If, however, you include ages 5-9, that's 13,168 people, or 13.168%. Add the number of young people between 10-14, and it gets even more interesting: the total; is 19,800—or 19.8% of this city's population. Throw in 15-19 year-olds, the number swells higher: 26.8%.

Let's frame that a different way. Over one out of every four residents in Everett is under the age of 20. That is very significant.

Let's say that a farmer went to plant crops for the year. Let's say he has 100 acres, and he plants 100 acres. What would you think of that farmer if he ignored nearly 27 of his 100 acres? What a tremendous loss that would be! Imagine corn, wheat, green beans, squash—and anything else he planted in those 27 acres—rotting and going to waste.

Jesus tells us, "The harvest is plentiful" (Matt.9:35a). We simply need a new harvesting plan. So here is Grace Lutheran's new harvesting plan, as of this week: instead of recycling bulletins, we will aim to recycle this church. We will all do that by sharing love of Jesus in a practical way. TAKE your bulletin with you this Sunday. If you go out to eat, and you see a family at a table with nothing to do, give the bulletin to the family and tell them there's a Children's bulletin for that child inside to color and have fun with.

Or—perhaps your neighbors are a young family with children. Share the bulletin with them, and tell them there is a Children's bulletin in there for their child (if you know there will be more than one child, we will have extras you can pick up as you leave). This is how we can work to reach out to those around us, and target children!

As we get more children, expect our worship service to add a children's sermon just for them. Expect the children to have opportunities to sing for our church. Remember this: where children come, mom and dad come. Where mom and dad come, grandma and grandpa, aunt and uncle come. Suddenly, we are not looking at 20-25; we will be growing again. Lord willing, we will begin growing in a way this congregation has not seen in a while. As we do—new people, new opportunities for service. We can do it! Will you join me as we begin our new recycling program here at Grace? May God bless our efforts! --Pastor A.

I ♥
MY
CHURCH

Discovering Your God-Given Spiritual Gifts

Beginning around September, we will begin focusing on the topics of spiritual gifts. Deacon Mike and I have discussed this at length. We believe it is a step this congregation needs to make. Here is just a sample of what you will see come September.

People seem to be willing to follow my leadership willingly. _____

I like to communicate God's word to fellow Christians. _____

I find satisfaction in sharing God's plan of salvation with people who are not churchd _____.

It is an enjoyable challenge to have responsibility for leading other people in their spiritual life.

I'm excited by the idea of helping people to discover important truths in the scriptures. _____

I feel a sense of authority in my relationship to groups. _____

I like to use my faith to provide comfort to others. _____

I can often tell when the Spirit has prepared a person to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. _____

I find it exciting to provide spiritual leadership in the church. _____

Teaching or working with children is a joy for me. _____

Spiritual Gifts are:

- Special gifts...
- given by the Holy Spirit...
- to individual Christians for service to the body of Christ. (Every Christian has at least one and likely more than one!)

Spiritual Gifts are NOT:

- the same as natural talents or skills. Talents and skills are given to Christians and non-Christians alike. Talents and skills can also be used to God's glory.

Why is it important to know our Spiritual Gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:1

"Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant."

What are we to do with Spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you... {7} For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

COVID-19: What Has Changed

As of June 30th, Governor Inslee has lifted the restrictions that have been in place. Washington State is “fully open.”

If you’ve been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).
- If you’ve been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms. (We’d rather you err on the side of caution here, however.)
 - However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don’t have symptoms.

What Hasn’t Changed

For now, if you’ve been fully vaccinated:

- You should still take steps to [protect yourself and others](#) in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:
 - In public
 - Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
 - Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at [increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) or who lives with a person at increased risk
- You should **still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.**
- You should still delay domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you’ll still need to follow [CDC requirements and recommendations](#).
- You should still watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you’ve been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.

FOR THE UNVACCINATED: We welcome you here. While we will NOT be asking you to show proof of vaccination to not wear a mask. However, we ask that you would consider wearing one, especially if you will be sitting in a more crowded area of the sanctuary. Masks will be available in the narthex. We appreciate your consideration.

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, WE ARE BACK TO NORMAL! PRAISE GOD!

OUR OFFICERS FOR 2021

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Chairman Board of Stewardship
Local Missions \$ Focal
VACANT AT THIS TIME

Mike Ryan
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Byron Malloy
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Helen Holton
Webmaster
[Redacted]
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James Koch
Council Treasurer
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Margaret Dildine
Council Secretary
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Elaine Pearson
Financial Secretary
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



God's blessings to you both on your birthday! JULY

Lois Moa.....	6
Pastor A.....	29
Michael Gillespe.....	31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Helen Holton.....	2
Mike Konicke.....	2
Carol Dudder.....	3
Mark McNeil.....	18

If you have not notified the office about when your birthday is, please do so!
We don't want to miss you!



JULY 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2	3
4	10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	5	6	7 Women's bible Study 9:30 AM	8	9	10
11	10:00 Worship Service NEW LIFE SUNDAY	12 CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30pm	13	14 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	15	16	17
18	10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	19	20	21 Women's Bible Study TWO WEEK VACATION	22	23	24
25	10:00 Worship Service	26	27	28 Women's Bible Study TWO WEEK VACATION	29	30	31

AUGUST 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 ELDERS MEETING 6:30PM	6	7
	8 10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	9 CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30pm	10	11 Women's bible Study Summer Vacation	12	13	14
	15 10:00 Worship Service NEW LIFE SUNDAY	16 CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30pm	17	18 Women's Bible Study Summer Vacation	19	20	21
	22 10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	23	24	25 Women's Bible Study VACATION	26	27	28
	29 10:00 Worship Service	30	31	1 COMING IN SEPTEMBER: RALLY SUNDAY SEPT.12 & PICNIC	2	3	4 LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article –July 2021

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.





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MARK SEPTEMBER 12th on your calendars! On September 12th, we will—

- **HAVE RALLY SUNDAY**
- **RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR CHURCH**
- **HAVE A CHURCH “PICNIC,” GRACE STYLE**

DON'T MISS IT!