



September 2024 Grace Notes



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tallahassee, Florida

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We look forward to seeing at you to worship, at the service of your choice.

The 9:00 a.m. service is our Contemporary Worship service. The 11:00 a.m. service is the traditional service.

If you're not sure about the Contemporary Service, we encourage you to give it at least one try. You never know how it may touch your heart.

If you are unable to attend our worship service in person, there is a link for online viewing, located in the boxed area of our website at www.gracelutheran.faith.

The Grace Lutheran Church Executive Committee consists of the Officers and the Pastor:

President: Randi Buehner (randibuehner59@gmail.com)

Vice President: Teresa Wooten (woot34@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Janet McPherson (tmcpherson35@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Peggy Stevens (peggysfl64@gmail.com)

Financial Secretary: Dave Grant (grant.805@hotmail.com)

Pastor: Jennifer Kopacz (pastorjenn@rocketmail.com)

Our Committee Chairs are lay volunteers:

Community Ministry & Outreach: Nick Gandy

(ngandyman@yahoo.com) & Lori Ann Firehammer
(lafirehammer@gmail.com)
Fellowship: Mary Grant (grantmlcic@hotmail.com)
Property: Elisa Casey (ehcasey70@gmail.com)
Worship & Music: Karen Bradley (kcbradley16@aol.com)

Stewardship: Vacant
Marketing & Advertising: Vacant
Christian Ed: Vacant
Youth: Vacant

These folks are dedicated to making sure that we make time to join together in fellowship; that we have hopeful, inspiring worship; and that our property is not only safe, but beautiful and well-kept. We give thanks for them, and for all those not mentioned above, who give, or serve, or provide help at Grace and/or in our community.



Pastor's Message

Beloved People of God ~

Greetings to you!

I was trying to come up with something to say for this month's newsletter article, when I came across a piece from our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, regarding the new law in Louisiana regarding the posting of the Ten Commandments in all state-funded schools and universities. The piece was printed in the periodical Living Lutheran, and was included in the most recent E-Spirit email from our Florida-Bahamas Synod.

As this law is being considered by other states, and as it is a somewhat controversial issue, I thought I'd let you hear from her about our ELCA take – not on the law, but on the role of the Ten Commandments themselves. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions about her piece.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jenn*

A Note from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Recently, the Louisiana Legislature passed a law mandating that all state-funded schools and universities prominently display the Ten Commandments in classrooms and cafeterias. Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah are considering similar legislation. This initially seems benign, even beneficial. After all, in our baptismal liturgy we ask parents and sponsors to promise that they will teach the newly baptized the “Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 228). Martin Luther even placed the Ten Commandments first in his Small and Large Catechisms. Clearly the Ten Commandments are an important part of our corporate and personal life.

Let's take a closer look at a Lutheran understanding of the Ten

Commandments. The first use of the law is to compel civility through legal restraint and the threat of punishment. In short, it restrains the basic urge to look out for oneself at the expense of others. Without this, life would be violent and chaotic. The second use of the law is theological. The law accuses those who disobey it and makes offenders aware of their sin and the need for forgiveness. In this sense the law exposes our absolute inability to save ourselves and our complete dependence on God's free gift of grace. With this, sinners are put to death and believers are raised to new life.

There is a third use of the law spoken little about by Luther that sees the commandments as a guide for justified sinners. The reformers did not want the commandments turned into a vehicle for "works righteousness"—or worse, self-righteousness. The Lutheran understanding is that keeping the Ten Commandments doesn't make a person holy or justified—the death and resurrection of our Lord does.

One must ask to what end the Ten Commandments are being posted. The argument being made is that the Ten Commandments are a historical document. Others might argue that posting the commandments is for the moral and ethical edification of students. For Lutherans, the Ten Commandments are not a mere historical document but a holy text. The first three commandments are explicitly about God. Arguments by those who claim that the commandments serve as a foundation of law in this country, and therefore posting them doesn't counter the First Amendment of the Constitution, ignore the inherently religious content and context of these words from God.

Lutherans have a long tradition of catechetical training. Luther wrote the Small Catechism because of the woeful ignorance he found among pastors and people during his Saxon Visitation. The Small Catechism was originally intended for parents to instruct their children. Nowadays, pastors, deacons or trained lay leaders carry out this instruction for youth and adults in congregations and faith communities. The point is not a rote memorization or the posting of an ancient text to be displayed along with other historical documents, but a theological and spiritual encounter that draws us closer to God.

Besides, Lutherans (and Roman Catholics) don't number the Ten Commandments the same way that other Christian traditions do. Heaven forbid we come up with Ten Commandments merch. There would be mugs and T-shirts for the majority and a separate section for us.

The promise fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Christ—that we are a new creation—turns the Ten Commandments into promises: from something we *shall* do to something God *is* certainly going to do and that *will* be true for us.

In the fullness of time, when God is all in all, through the justifying grace of Jesus, we will have no other gods. We will not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord our God. We will remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. We will honor our father and mother. We will not murder. We will not commit adultery. We will not steal. We will not bear false witness against our neighbor. We will not covet our neighbor's house. We will not covet

anything that belongs to our neighbor. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Pastor Jenn



“Meet the Musician”

Grace Lutheran Church is thrilled to announced we have two new musicians on our staff. Read the following information to find out a little more about Frank Pate, our new song leader and guitarist at the contemporary service, and Dr. Cheryl Peiskee, our new keyboardist for both the contemporary and traditional services.

Frank Pate – Contemporary Song Leader/Guitarist

When/how did you become involved in music?

"I asked for a guitar and lessons when I was 6 because my 12-year-old brother had them. I first sang in a children's choir at church not much later."

What is your favorite musical memory?

"At 13, I sang in a children's chorus performing in Pagliacci with the Florida State Opera. Surrounded by dozens of adult choristers and principals creating sounds that transported me to another world, I was in love. And it was my first onstage comic role, as the director gave me a piece of business while the chorus walked off, as a teenager who skips church to talk to the beautiful actress – until mom came back to get me."

If you could meet any musician/composer (dead or alive) who would it be?

"Maybe Antonio Vivaldi. Some music historians dismiss him as repetitive, and inferior to Bach and Handel. But unlike those two, he was a priest, and wrote some of the most virtuosic string music while he was music director for an orphanage. His lute and mandolin concertos have been transcribed for classical guitar. As a runner-up, any number of hymn writers, starting with Charles Wesley."

Who has influenced you the most musically?

"Growing up attending folk Masses in the Catholic charismatic renewal, I love the music of the St Louis Jesuits and John Michael Talbot. From the early days of contemporary Christian music, Michael Card and Rich Mullins. Favorite guitarist-singer-songwriters include Billy Crockett and Pierce Pettis. Modern worship influences include Darlene Zschech, Phil Wickham, and Matt Maher."

What is one non-musical fact you would like to share about yourself?

"Two things. I have been a professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order since 2009. And I could spend hours playing board and card games (tops are Scrabble and Texas Holdem).

My guilty pleasure is my stories (soap operas). There are only a few left that I watch - Days of our Lives and General Hospital. Once Upon a Time, I watched, or kept up with, all NBC and CBS soaps and eventually all of the ABC soaps too. However, I never got into Young and Restless. My favorite of all times was As the World Turns." :)

Dr. Cheryl Peiskee - Keyboardist

When/how did I become involved in music?

"I remember a little toy piano I had as a preschooler that I absolutely loved, and it came with a color-coded book of songs that I learned how to play (almost) all of. Silent Night really threw me! I was able to start formal piano lessons at age 6, and haven't quit since! [If you meant professionally instead of "from the very beginning," I will amend this answer!"]

What is your favorite musical memory?

"Probably playing with the Bulgaria Philharmonic Orchestra during a summer abroad. I was selected as one of the performers from a concerto competition, and it made me feel like a *real* musician."

If you could meet any musician/composer, (dead or alive) who would it be?

"Aaah, so difficult! I think I'd have to say Chopin. I've always loved ALL of

his music, not just some or most of it, and I have a special place in my heart for all things Polish. And to cheat a little bit and throw in a person still alive, I would also LOVE to meet John Williams! He started out as a pianist, but I think he slipped into the role of composer quite well, in my humble opinion."

Who has influenced you the most musically?

"My undergrad piano professor. I credit him with "setting a fire under me" (as he liked to say) about music. I would attribute my style of playing to him, and his insight into the pieces I and others in his studio played are what made me really become aware of the many different nuances one can listen for and/or find in music."

One non-musical fact I'd like to share about myself?

"I love animals, but especially reptiles!! I have 3 shelves of various snakes, geckos, and frogs at my house."

“What to Watch”

Wind Orchestra Family Weekend Concert “A Sousa Spectacular”

Presented by: FSU College of Music

Day: Friday, September 20, 2024 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Location: Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, FSU, 222 S. Copeland Street

Admission: \$10 Adult, \$7 Child or Non-FSU Student, No Cost for FSU Students with valid ID

Don't miss “A Sousa Spectacular,” featuring a thrilling Sousa-themed concert with a special solo performance by our faculty.

University Symphony Orchestra with Ryan Speedo Green and Voice Faculty

Presented by: FSU College of Music

Day: Friday, September 27, 2024

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, FSU, 222 S. Copeland Street

Admission: \$10 Adult, \$7 Child or Non-FSU Student, No Cost for FSU Students with valid ID

The University Symphony Orchestra opens its 24-25 season with alumnus and Grammy Award-winning bass baritone Ryan Speedo Green in an unforgettable evening of vocal and orchestral favorites!

Manna on Meridian Update

Grace Lutheran Church continues to serve the Tallahassee community through its monthly volunteer efforts with Manna on Meridian. Our church effort for the August distribution date included:

Filling 16 volunteer slots (eight individuals) with 38 hours of time donated for the month.

Donation of 189 cans of tuna and 14 miscellaneous items.

Among the volunteers included:

Don and Judy Blancett, Randi Buehner, Damien Koijs, Gary and Penny Rusinko, Sandra Schorr, Burt Von Hoff

FUTURE NEWS

Grace is scheduled to serve as Lead Congregation for the following month (subject to change): October.

The next Distribution Day is September 21st with volunteers needed as early as 7:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. or so.

LAY READER SCHEDULE

September 1: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Karen Bradley

September 8: 9:00 Bill Pomidor; 11:00 Mary Eichin

September 15: 9:00 Nick Gandy; 11:00 Elisa Casey

September 22: 9:00 Mary Grant; 11:00 Abi Hudson

September 29: 9:00 Bill Pomidor; 11:00 Brent Kallestad

October 6: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Tina Frese

October 13: 9:00 Nick Gandy; 11:00 Marilyn Harper

October 20: 9:00 Mary Grant; 11:00 Jan Peterson

October 27: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Kathy Sanguinet

COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

September 1: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Paul Schneider, Kathy Van Loo

September 8: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Randi Buehner, Mary Eichin

September 15: 9:00 TBA; 11:00 Don & Judy Blancett

September 22: 9:00 Mary Grant; 11:00 Marilyn Harper, Abi Hudson

September 29: 9:00 Mary Grant; 11:00 Paul Schneider, Kathy Van Loo

October 6: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Randi Buehner, Mary Eichin

October 13: 9:00 Mary Grant; 11:00 Marilyn Harper, Abi Hudson

October 20: 9:00 Mary Grant; 11:00 Don & Judy Blancett

October 27: 9:00 Janet McPherson; 11:00 Paul Schneider, Kathy Van Loo

OFFERING COUNTER SCHEDULE

September 8: Janet McPherson, Jim Nelsen, George Ohlin

September 29: Randi Buehner, Dave & Mary Grant

October 13: Mark & Priscilla Heidorn, Janet McPherson

October 27: Janet Blair, Jim Nelsen, George Ohlin

CALLING THE MEN OF GRACE: The Men's Ministry Group meets the third Monday of each month, beginning at 11:45 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16.

QUILTERS & WOMEN'S GROUP ARE TAKING THE SUMMER OFF.

Quilters next gathering is Thursday, September 19 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. 13 quilts were donated to the International Rescue Committee in Tallahassee.

The Women's Group resume meeting on Tuesday, September 24.



September Birthdays

September 1 Emily Eilers,
Genevieve Jacobs

September 6
Mary Forster

September 8 Melinda Young

September 12 Rin Casey

September 14
Gregory Gandy

September 15
Oliver Jacobs, Mike Kosturko

September 16
Jennifer Farrell

September 18
Heather Ward

September 19
Frank Piepmeier, Kelly Wenum

September 20

Maria Eckard, Jackie Yong

September 23 Hayden Farrell,
Mark Heidorn

September 25 Sandra Schorr

September 26
Jarret Oeltjen

September 28
Luke Heller, Pamela Schilling

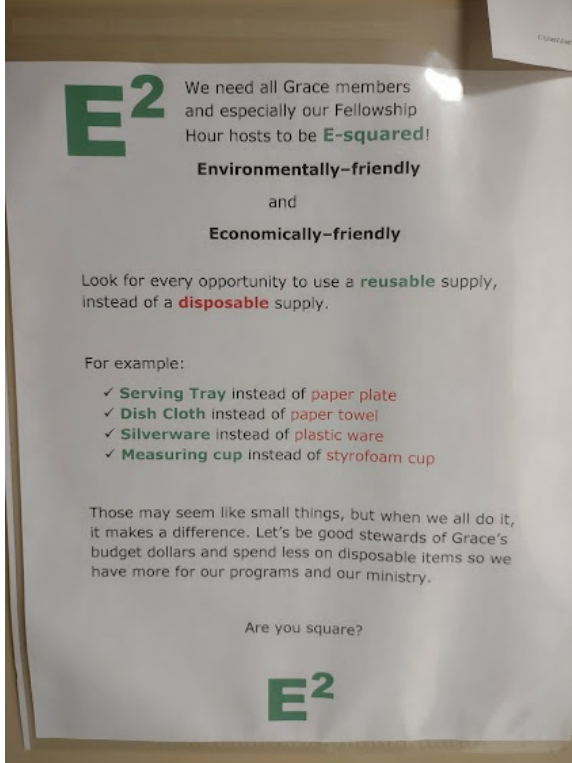
September 29
Brent Kallestad

September 30 Maxine
Ferguson, Kathy Gatzlaff, Kathy
Sanguinet, Doris Storey

A Friendly Reminder From the Fellowship Committee

Let's Be Environmentally and
Economically friendly.

Church members are bringing in



plastic dishes, silverware and serving pieces.

We need to be good stewards at church, home and elsewhere.

Bring Serving Trays instead of paper plates.

Bring Dish Cloths instead of paper towels.

Bring Silverware instead of plastic ware.

The above picture is what is on the door of the kitchen pantry.



Have a topic to share for the October, 2024 Grace Notes? Feel free to send Nick Gandy an email at ngandyman@yahoo.com. Your input is always welcome.

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