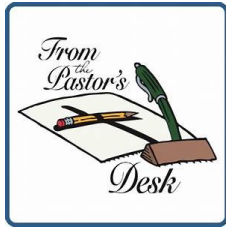

November
2022

GRACE NOTES
YOUR ACCESS
TO GRACE
CHURCH NEWS
& EVENTS



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for
November*

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November*

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Council
Minutes*

GRACE NOTES

Luther's Reformation City 2- Erfurt

As I moved from Eisenach to Erfurt, a Medieval city, we should turn our time back from 1517 to 1501.

In the summer of 1501, Luther enrolled at Erfurt University. Erfurt was one of the largest German cities and its university at that time was the most important educational institute in Germany. At the University of Erfurt (1501-1505), young Martin gained a liberal art education and graduated with a Master degree in Philosophy.

On July 2, 1505, when a fateful thunderstorm struck Luther's friend right next to him and his friend died, Luther shouted: "Help, St. Anne, I will become a monk!" The holy Anna was the patron saint of the miners and such a vow carried heavy weight. Two weeks later, Luther was knocking on the doors of the Erfurt Monastery of the Augustinian Hermits.

The monastery's strict order and rules affected Luther's life. As he entered the door of the monastery, he entered a long, dark tunnel of theological struggles. The monastery was, of course, heavily influenced by the Augustinian theology, in which Satan, devils, sins, hell, condemnation were its major topics. Heaven was the best place of all - the abode of God, the good angels, and the saints. Only those whose souls were pure could get there: that is, only those whose souls were free of the stain of sin.

Heaven required not only the avoidance of sin - especially the seven deadly sins: pride, envy, greed, anger, lust, gluttony, sloth - but also the best behavior and a full possession of the seven virtues: faith, hope, charity, fortitude, justice, temperance, and prudence.

According to Augustinian theology, God's justice demanded punishment. Ultimately, salvation hinged on one's behavior and one's attitude toward one's behavior.

In Luther's day, therefore, hardly anyone entered heaven upon dying, since the entrance requirements called for a degree of virtuous living unattainable by most men and women. The surest way to heaven was the monastic life and so Luther chose it.

The path followed by monastics was one of self-denial, of constant warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil. The aim of the monastic life was to grow in holiness, to train oneself in making right choices, and to ready one's soul for heaven.

The path to holiness was, however, narrow, steep, and filled with innumerable pitfalls. The closer one drew to God and the holier one became, the more one would be assailed by soul-wracking temptations and torments at the hands of demons.

Luther's demons reminded him of his shortcomings, filling with doubt, despair, and anger. Satan spoke to him directly, "God does not want to forgive you." Luther feared to meet God in judgement.

His understanding of God was his ultimate torment, damning him, making him feel the Divine wrath deserved. It created unbearable, unending dark night of soul.

A wise confessor scolded him: "You are a fool. . . God is not angry with you, but you are angry with God." Johann von Stupid, who was like Luther's personal mentor, exploded one day: "Look here," he said to Luther, "if you expect Christ to forgive you, come in with something to forgive - parricide, blasphemy, adultery - instead of all these small faults." But this advice was useless to Luther. His anxiety was not over the heavy guilt of sin. Years later in 1533, Luther wrote, "I was sad because I thought God was not gracious to me."

* * * *

Sitting in the chapel of the Augustinian monastery, I closed my eyes and imagined. What kind of message would Luther have preached here? On sin, God's wrath, or eternal hell? My thought further developed: how many pastor are still preaching the Bad News rather than the Good News today, deluding the souls of naive Christians?

An understanding of God matters. A distorted image of God blinds our eyes, blocks maturity and makes our soul sick. Luther's long years of suffering teaches us this lesson. We need to question our current faith and belief in order to re-form our understanding of God.

Pastor Kyu

*References: Carlos M. N. Eire, Reformations: The Early Modern World, 1450-1650,
Yale University Press, 2016.
Richard Marius, Martin Luther: The Christian between God and Death.
Harvard University Press, 1999.

Sermon in November

November 6 : “Who are the Saints?”
November 13 : “Justice & Judgement”
November 20 : “Giving Thanks is Action”
November 27 : “Wake up, Slumbers!”

Ministry Schedule in November

*** 2022 Church Conference: Saturday, November 19th**

Where - Danville UMC

Presider - Rev. DS. Jill Collen Robinson

10:00 AM - Joint Staff-Parish-Relations-Committee

11:00 AM - All Members

*** November 20:** Thanksgiving Service with Stewardship Moment

*** November 27:** First Advent

*** Lay Leader Report ***

We have just had the most fun evening! A great group of Grace people set up our Halloween display on the corner of Main Street and Central Street! Balloons, a banner, gummy bears, Bit o Honey bites, water bottles, glow sticks and invitations to check out Grace Church were handed out to kids and families by the Winnie the Pooh gang. We lost count but we know we handed out over 200 invitations and at least 300 handfuls of candy! We ran out by 6:30! There were so many cute happy faces and we felt God's hand in our efforts. Special thanks to Nicquelle and Shawn Timson for creativity, heavy lifting and joyful faces! Many many thanks as well to our "characters" and helpers, Pam Smith, Curt, Jill, Athena Geiger, Sue Timson, Nancy Bailey, Pete Bedard and Pastor Kyu! I think we had as much fun as the kids. Pray that one of those little cards will touch some hearts and bring new faces to Grace this year. Thanks also to our generous and loving congregation. Your donations of money, water bottles and candy were amazing. Your support means so very much.

Speaking of thanks, can you believe it's now November? As I'm thankful for all the help last night I'm reminded to look for ways to be thankful every day. There's no better time than now. Start a "I'm Thankful " journal perhaps and on Thanksgiving Day revisit your thanksgiving thoughts from the whole month. Sometimes I let my thoughts get ahead of me. I start to make Christmas lists of "to-dos" but I don't want to skip over the beauty of this month of November and its reminders to give thanks. Im thankful today for my Grace Church family!

Blessings, Laurie

Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Creator, In this season of gratitude and abundance, we give You thanks for our many blessing as we pray for all who struggle with hunger and want. Be with them in the dark of night, when all hope seems lost. Keep their faith strong as they await relief. And let Your goodness flow through our hearts and hands as we reach out to one another in the full, true joy of Thanksgiving in Christ. Amen

November 2022

- Church
- Birthdays
- US Holidays
- sfgreacechurch@gmail.com
- Found In Mail
- Untitled
- Pastor's Schedule
- Anniversaries

October 2022							November 2022							December 2022								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3							
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8					6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15					13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22					20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29					27	28	29	30						
		30	31																			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>Tracy Carlson</p> <p>Reformation Sunday</p> <p>Denelle Noyes</p> <p>10:30 AM 21th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Reformation Day</p> <p>Halloween</p> <p>11:00 AM Community Luncheon</p>	<p>1</p> <p>All Saints Day</p> <p>5:00 PM Joint SPRC meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 AM Prayer & Share</p> <p>6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>World Community Day</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Lois Ward</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>All Saints Sunday</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> <p>10:30 AM 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 AM Community Luncheon</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Election Day</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 AM Prayer & Share</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Veterans Day</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Organ and Drums... on Sunday</p> <p>10:30 AM 23rd Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 AM Community Luncheon</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 AM Prayer & Share</p> <p>6:00 PM Ad Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Church Conference diva Zoom</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM International Bible Week</p> <p>10:30 AM Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Cathy Conte</p> <p>International Bible Week</p> <p>11:00 AM Community Luncheon</p>	<p>22</p> <p>International Bible Week</p>	<p>23</p> <p>International Bible Week</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p> <p>International Bible Week</p> <p>7:00 AM Prayer & Share</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Peter & Laurie Bedard</p> <p>International Bible Week</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Beginning of Reflectionary Year A</p> <p>United Methodist Student Day</p> <p>10:30 AM 1st Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00 AM Community Luncheon</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Brooklyn Gigue</p>	<p>30</p> <p>World AIDS Day</p> <p>7:00 AM Prayer & Share</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Alexis Perikins</p>	<p>3</p>