

Grace Upon Grace

from WELS Teen Devotions

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

(John 1:16-18)

I've been wondering about something for a while. What's the downside to following Jesus? What's the downside to holding on to the faith and walking in it?

It is pretty easy to figure out a downside to just about everything else. For every medicine that helps me get better, there is often a nasty side-effect. Just read the warning label sometime. Exercise is good for me; but at the same time, it breaks my body down so that some body parts may wear out more quickly. I think you get the idea.

Everything else in my life has an upside and a downside. But not Jesus. Jesus came to live with us, and there is no downside to that. There is an upside. John explains it the verses in front of us today.

First, Jesus is full of grace and truth. We don't always like to hear the truth, especially when the truth is painful and uncovers sin. (I know that I don't!) But it is good. What if your doctor never told you that you had terminal cancer? Would that be good for you? Of course, not! It would hurt when he told you, but how else would you know about your sickness and need for treatment? It's the same when Jesus comes with truth!

We also see that Jesus isn't stingy with grace. In fact, he gives grace in place of grace already given. It's like he gives us grace; and then he gives us grace again. And again. And again! He loves you and longs to forgive you over and over again. He deeply desires for you to know how good and gracious he really is.

Finally, he shows us God! If you really want to know who God is, get to know Jesus as he comes and walks on this earth. To know what God is like, get to know Jesus! He is the one who makes the Father known. He is the one came to reveal God to us.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you are the one thing I really need. Tell me the truth about my sin so that I can come to you for forgiveness and healing. Give me grace upon grace. I need your grace more and more every day. Keep showing me God. Thank you for coming to be that one thing I really need.*

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Farewell Reception for the Burk's

June 2 will be Pastor Burk's last service with us at Immanuel. After the service we will have a potluck luncheon. If you plan on coming, no need to sign up, just bring a side dish or dessert with you that day. Drinks and sandwiches will be provided. Starting April 28, there will be a box out to collect contributions for a gift from our congregation, cards, or other gifts. Any amount collected over the cost of the present will be used to purchase gift cards to help the Burk's get settled in their new home.

May Ladies' Aid Meeting

The Ladies' Aid of Immanuel will be hosting a luncheon for the Ladies' Aid of St. Peter Helenville on **May 1** at 12 pm. All members and prospective members are invited to attend.

Mother's Day & Father's Day

One way to make Mother's and Father's Days extra special— along with eating out, chocolate and fishing lures—can be giving beyond ourselves. Won't you join in giving a gift to Alpha Center in tribute to or in memory of memorable mother and father figures in your life? The gospel-centered Alpha family ministry honors the Christian family ideals we look to preserve and protect. Alpha will send a special card to your special honoree the week leading up to each holiday, and your gift will be also be listed in our seasonal newsletter, if you'd like. Any donation amount is appreciated! Forms can be found on the shelf in the main hallway.

WELS Lutherans for Life

Save lives one step at a time with the Life-A-Thon! Hosted by WELS Lutherans for Life, this walk/run event will be held on **May 11** at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Participants can choose between a 5K run or a two-mile walk and there will be a ¼ mile run for kids! Proceeds from this event will directly benefit the pregnancy clinic operated by WELS Lutherans for Life and help provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds,

parenting classes, and material support for clients. To register for this event, please visit life-a-thon.org. Questions can be directed to Megan Landvatter at meganl@alife2.com. See you there!

LLHS Drama presents *Murder in the House of Horrors*

It begins with a renowned Egyptologist telling of his discovery of the Pharaoh Menkaura's tomb. Suddenly, while watching a slide of the ruler's sarcophagus, the projector goes off, plunging the auditorium into darkness. When the lights come on, the professor is dead and the priceless jewel he was holding has vanished! When Lt. Dan Morrow arrives, he narrows the suspects to seven. The lieutenant enlists audience aid in solving the crime. Shows are **April 26 & 27** at 7 pm. Advance tickets available online (start at llhs.org/drama) or 800-838-3006.

LPS Children's Theater

Luther Preparatory School presents their Children's Theater performance of *The Enchanted Bookshop*, directed by Professor Timothy Wrobel. Performances are **May 4** at 7 pm and **May 5** at 4 pm. All



seats are General Admission in the Luther Prep Auditorium. Ticket prices for adults and high school students are \$5, K-8th grade are \$4, and pre-school and under are FREE. A family rate of \$10 is also available.

Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee Spring Concert

Join the Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee for a concert of sacred music on **May 5** at 2 or 4:30 pm at St. John, Wauwatosa. The theme is *Jesus, Our Refuge*; it will feature choral favorites, audience participation, and instruments. A freewill offering will be collected. The organ prelude will begin 20 minutes before the concert. More information at lutheranchorale.org.

Organization of WELS Seniors

The May meeting of our OWLS chapter will be held at 1:30 PM on **May 21** at St. John Lutheran Church at Newville. Our guest speaker, Dr. Paul Luther, conducts a unique ministry to those like him who have fled religious persecution in Southeast Asian countries. His presentation is Gospel Outreach among SE Asians in the United States. There will be refreshments. Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (including ELS) is for those who may be retired and/or 50 years and older. We gather for fun, fellowship, service and spiritual growth. Come and bring a friend!

WELS Night at Miller Park

Join fellow WELS members for the Milwaukee Brewers' game against the San Francisco Giants on **July 12** at 7 pm. The Brewers are again offering WELS members up to 50 percent off the price of tickets. Seating will be along the third base line this year and in a block for WELS members. The pricing is Field Outfield Box sections 128–131 for \$21/ticket, Loge Outfield Box sections 229–232 for \$17/ticket, or Terrace Reserved sections 436–437 for \$9/ticket. The ticket service fee will be waived for groups of 20-plus if you contact Greg Souza at 414-902-4492 or greg.souza@brewers.com. Tickets can be purchased at brewers.com/wels. T-shirts can be ordered at welsnight2019.orderpromos.com.



Grace-Hmong Outreach in Vietnam

Our synod has an amazing opportunity! We have been asked by a large Christian group in Vietnam to teach and train pastors. We have been invited by the government to build a theological training facility in the city of Hanoi. Our goal is to raise \$2 million by the end of June to build the facility and cover operating expenses for the first two years. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this enormous outreach opportunity! There is a designated giving envelope in the informational booklet about the Grace-Hmong Outreach which is available in the main hallway.

Cookie Committee

Are you good at making cookies? Are you able to deliver cookies? Could you do both? A new exciting way to serve is developing. Please see the signup sheet in the entryway.

Worship Service DVDs

Do you know someone who'd be interested in regularly receiving DVDs of our worship services? Please let Pastor know. We'll mail them out to them. Extra DVDs are next to past bulletins in the entryway and available for anyone now.

Adopted Seminary Family

Our family at Immanuel has once again adopted a family from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We are supporting seminary student Dominick Olson, his wife Bethany, and their new arrival, Ella Mae. Please see the display in the hallway for more information about this family, what their needs are, and an envelope to give gifts to help support them and send words of encouragement. Thank you!

Register for Holy Communion

Please remember to fill out a registration card for the Lord's Supper. These cards are used by our Inreach Team to encourage faithfulness in worship. Thank you!

Germany Trip

Retired WELS pastor, James Humann, invites you to join him in 2020 as he hosts his sixth tour to the world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play depicts the life of Christ from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This afternoon and evening long performance is presented only once every ten years, in keeping with a promise the people of Oberammergau made in 1634 AD during the Black Plague. Two different opportunities to see the Oberammergau Passion Play will be offered. The first tour is an eleven day tour, June 12 - 22, 2020. It includes the Rhine Valley, Heidelberg, Rothenburg, Oberammergau and Munich in Germany, plus Lucerne in Switzerland and Paris in France. The second tour is an eleven day tour, September 23 - October 3, 2020. It includes Athens and Corinth in Greece, a three day Greek Isles cruise visiting Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete and Sontorini, plus Oberammergau and Munich in Germany and Salzburg in Austria. The Passion Play in Oberammergau is very popular and sells out quickly. For the price and daily itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com. If you would prefer a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

Note from the Chairman

We'd like to leave the first four pews in front of the care room open for families with small children and visitors. We don't want a mom or a dad carrying a baby, a diaper bag, and a car seat to have to go up and down the balcony stairs to get to the care room. We don't want them to have to sit in the front of church either. And we certainly don't want to make our visitors uncomfortable this way. Please consider choosing a pew besides the four in front of the care room. Thank you!

Building Improvements

Would you like to help with building improvements? Please use the envelope in your box of envelopes, one of the envelopes kept at church, or simply indicate on your check that your gift is to go towards "building improvements." Check out our fundraising progress on the poster on the north wall of the hallway. Thank you!

Family Usher Teams

The idea behind Family Usher Teams is to have ushers representing who we are—a family, to have guests welcomed by folks just like them—a mom, a grandpa. Imagine the impact when a young mother comes to our church for the first time with her baby in her arms, a little nervous as it's her first time to any church in a while, and another young mother opens the door for her and calms her nerves, tells her where things are. Or a grandpa with his granddaughter going out to open the car door of an elderly woman who needs help with her walker. Everyone in our church can help make such an impact. Please ask others to help you make a team. We'd like at least four people on each one, and you don't even have to be of the same family (we're all family in Christ). See the schedule in the main hallway and sign up for a date today!!

Wish List Update

Thanks to the generosity of our members the Sunday School now has a working television. God is good! A new item on our wish list is an office chair for the A/V desk in the balcony. Money donations or the gift of a new chair (sturdy and no arm rests) would be greatly appreciated.

Electronic Giving

Did you know you can give your offerings electronically? Whether you're able to make it to church or not, you can always make sure your offering arrives. It's a safe, convenient way to give your firstfruits every week. Ask Carla for more information.

Large Print Editions

Could you benefit from a large print edition of our weekly worship folder, the *Meditations* devotional booklet, or the *Forward in Christ* magazine? We'll gladly make these available if you'd like. Please let Pastor or Carla know. Thanks.

Offerings vs. Budget as of 3/31/2019

Offerings: \$80,876.32 Budget: \$82,976 Difference: - \$2,099.68

Sunday Usher Teams

May 5	Burk Family
May 12	Emrath/Bartsch
May 19	Kruesel/Staude
May 26	Guenterberg/Metzger/Marti





Roger Draeger, 5/1	Cannon Kerr, 5/20
Jamie Genz, 5/2	Darcy Draeger, 5/21
Betty Klausch, 5/2	Janice Dickhut, 5/22
Mary Orval, 5/3	Sara Grunewald, 5/23
Allison Brown, 5/6	Matthew Morris, 5/24
Paul Burk, 5/6	Howie Olszewski, 5/24
Annalese Gaulke, 5/6	Mikaela Gaulke, 5/25
Bow Hartwig, 5/6	Monica Latsch, 5/25
Marion Reese, 5/7	Breleigh DeBlare, 5/26
Jim Buege, 5/10	Lohnny Lotz, 5/26
Thomas Baum, 5/11	Paul Schmidt, 5/26
Barbara Bostwick, 5/11	Dennis Staude, 5/27
Ailey DeBlare, 5/13	Susie Klausch, 5/28
Richard Nachtigall, 5/14	Andrea Davis, 5/29
Alexis Maier, 5/15	Brea Keller, 5/29
Stephanie Roe, 5/15	Devan Hartwig, 5/30
Jean Thelke, 5/15	Janice DeMoe, 5/31
Kenneth Baneck, 5/16	Maria Melcher, 5/31
Christopher Sukow, 5/17	Linda Moke, 5/31
Ean Reichert, 5/19	Mike Trudell, 5/31
Shannon Jones, 5/20	Emry Zehren, 5/31



Couple	Anniversary	Years
Kenton & Karen Marti	5/14/1960	59
David & Karen Christian	5/8/1965	54
Paul & Bette Streich	5/20/1972	47
Joey & Mary Schultz	5/6/1978	41
Patrick & Diane Kleinsteiber	5/20/1978	41
James & Katherine Baum	5/19/1979	40
Jim & Cynthia Braunschweig	5/23/1981	38
Eric & Jody Shuppe	5/7/1982	37
James & Cheryl Frey	5/15/1982	37
Mark & Linda Wright	5/6/1989	30
Lee & Toni Braatz	5/24/1991	28
Fred & Rocky Lamp	5/25/1991	28
Kory & Roxanne Sukow	5/18/2012	7



WELS

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