

# Amazing Grace!

NOVEMBER 2017

*“Seek, Welcome, And Serve All in Christ ”*

## Stewardship

“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s,” (Matt 22:21) the punchline of our Gospel reading on October 22nd, has been the starting point for many stewardship/giving sermons in the modern history of the church.

The fact that Jesus is speaking with a Roman coin in his hand is all the license preachers need to start talking about money.

The goal, the “gold standard,” for giving to the church (or to charities in general) is usually held up as 10%. The practice of giving this fraction in thankful response to God’s gracious care goes back as far as Abram. I find it interesting that secular financial advisors seem to also have latched on to 10% as a good amount for charitable giving.

Giving it some thought, however, if we really were to give “to God the things that are God’s,” wouldn’t it end up way more than 10%? When we are honest with ourselves (and God), we acknowledge that everything we have comes from God. If everything really is God’s to begin with, then what we do with the 90% we keep is just as important as what we do with the 10% we give to the church for God’s mission in the world.

How we spend our money also came up in our Adult Sunday School class on faith practices. In September, we read a chapter titled “Household Economics.” The main idea of that chapter is that how we spend the money that we keep says as much about our faith as the money that we give to the church. Does the money we spend honor God and God’s creation? Do the products we buy make wise use of the world’s resources? Do the companies we frequent pay their workers fairly and engage in business ethically? Is what we do for a living contributing to the common good? Does our relationship with money reflect an attitude of abundance or scarcity? If we have money to invest, do those investments reflect our values?

The Society of Friends (Quakers) lift up the values of simplicity and mutual aid. Simplicity, however, is not simple to carry out. It is not served by merely budget cutting, living without, or turning back the clock to a supposedly simpler time. It is more about recognizing the difference between what is useful or even beautiful and what is just stuff. Mutual aid, of course, urges us to look out for the needs of others, and to take care of them both in terms of meeting emergency needs and to work for social and economic systems that function to sustain everyone.

“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” The emperor has a surprise coming, because really, everything is God’s. We give generously to the church and its ministries in gratitude for all that God has given us. But God cares about how we spend the rest of our money, and our time, and our talent as well. We pray that all that we have and all that we are is used to glorify God.

God’s peace be with you,  
Pr. Chris

**The Green Corner**

Sponsored by the Green Team

Farmers are critical managers of our nation's wildlife and landscapes

Farms comprise almost 60% of the continental US and 40% of the Earth's landscape. This large footprint can be the solution to our biodiversity crisis. Agriculture's footprint can support native plants and wildlife, and at the same time, farms can take advantage of nature's ecosystem services that are vital to farm health.

When biodiversity is supported on the farm, it can provide pollination, pest and weed control, water retention, soil tilth, nutrient cycling, erosion control, carbon storage, and many other ecosystem services, helping farmers build resiliency and protecting the integrity of our agricultural lands for generations to come. These same natural functions give native plants room to exist and help to support wildlife with adequate food, clean water and safe cover, including those rare species declining in part because of agriculture. Natural functions also provide a buffer against natural disasters and climate change that jointly affect human and wild communities. Farmers are installing native plants that support nature's food web, from pollinators to beneficial predators. They are creating and restoring wildlife corridors so wide ranging mammals can co-exist on the land. And they are storing carbon in their soils and in woody vegetation which builds biodiversity below and above ground.

While some current, misguided food-safety practices required by auditors and buyers have encouraged the destruction of wildlife habitat and conservation plantings on farms, the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Produce Rule requires nothing of the kind. In fact, FDA "encourages" the application of practices that can enhance food safety and that are also consistent with sustainable conservation."

Appropriately designed grass filter strips can help prevent pathogens in run-off water from entering a produce field. Hedgerows can help reduce the movement of pathogen-laden dust from blowing onto the crops in the neighboring field. Promoting healthy soil through the use of compost and cover crops can help maintain a diverse community of soil microorganisms that leave little room for human pathogens to establish themselves and flourish.




*Happy Thanksgiving*

*thankful & blessed*

We will once again be supporting families for Thanksgiving through ISS by providing gift certificates for families to use for their holiday meal. Please consider putting a generous offering in the plate designated specifically for the Thanksgiving Family. Collections will be taken through Sunday, November 12th.



**Confirmation**  
**Sunday, November 5th**

Join the confirmation students as they affirm the promises made at their baptism and celebrate their confirmation in the church. Reception and potluck lunch will follow services during the fellowship hour.



161 Granville Street, Gahanna  
Saturday, November 11th @ 11am

Come and join us for a fun evening of Putt Putt Golf in the dark!

Cost is \$7.50/adult; \$5.50/ youth 8 & under

Lunch will follow somewhere in Gahanna.

Please sign up on the bulletin board or let someone from the fellowship team know you are coming.



**Bible Study**

**Adult Sunday School:**  
Pastor Chris will be finishing up the adult study on the book "Practicing Our Faith" at 9:00am on Sunday mornings, November 5, 12, and 19.

**Habitat for Humanity Hoedown**

Saturday, November 11th, 5pm-8pm  
at The Barn, 8480 Columbus Rd (Rt 3)  
Mt Vernon

Square Dancing - Silent Auction - Pie Auction - Photo Booth

Food and Fun for everyone!

Theme is western - Come in your best western attire!

Music by Chestnut Ridge Gospel/Bluegrass

Cost: Donation



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Come and celebrate on November 12th...

- 18th - Monica Dunlap
- 21st - Kate Lutz
- 22nd - Gage Smith
- 26th - Keith McBride
- 30th - Sandy Bell
- 30th - Christine Widrig
  
- 27th - Andy & Becky Fichtelman

**Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 12th**

We will be discussing the possibility of selling the land we own that runs along the bike trail next to Centerburg Place. Please come with your thoughts and opinions. See Don Grube if you have any specific questions before the meeting.



**Heartland Nursing Home Service & Centerburg Pointe Song Service**

Join us on Sunday, November 12th as we worship with the residents at Heartland Nursing Home at 1:30pm followed by a Song Service at Centerburg Pointe at 2:30pm.



Centerburg United Methodist Church is having their annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19th beginning with music at 7:00pm with the service following at 7:30pm.

**Advent Activities**



- Hanging of the Greens - Sunday, November 19th following fellowship time
- Mid-Week Advent Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30pm
- Mid-Week Advent Services begin on Wednesday, November 29th at 7:30pm
- Craft Making - Sunday, December 3rd following services
- Caroling - Sunday, December 10th at 1:30pm - Heartland and Centerburg Pointe
- Gift Exchange - Sunday, December 11th following services - Pizza Lunch
- Caroling - Sunday, December 17th at 1:15pm - Centerburg Place
- Christmas Eve Service - Sunday, December 24th at 6:30pm

**Picnic with the Pets photo gallery.....**



The Barnosky Clan with Niki



The Wingert Clan with a variety of animals



Marty & Marifrances Bartels with Tina



Sophie and Paloma



Rachel Wingert and one of her goats



Amy & Julia with Snowflake and Marshmallow



One of the Wingert Clan with Heidi the duck



Indy the Therapy Dog



Mark Shepherd with Hallie



Rosemary with Dottie



Dean Chooljian enjoying the crafts



Face Painter Averie sharing her talents with Debbie Chooljian



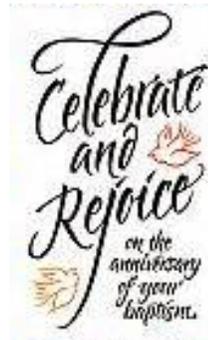
Beth  
Betsy  
Bill  
Christelie  
Elfan  
Ginny  
Hilarie  
Howard  
Jamie  
Joel  
Leslie  
Family & Friends of Lynette  
Marissa  
Meral  
Mikey  
Monica R

Paula  
Ron  
Skylar  
Stephanie  
Tracey  
Catherine Baker  
Sandy Bell  
Kelly Calvin  
Laura Clevenger & Baby Paul  
Bob Conaway  
Ed Dial  
Jeanette Dial  
Ann Gall  
Carol Gall  
Kathleen Gallen  
Jordan Grube

Karl Grube  
Family of Mary Hutson  
Family of Mike Jarvis  
Teresa Kramer  
Tracy Lantz  
Family of Brad Litzenberg  
Family of Ray Moore  
Justin Pettit  
Richard Pitzer  
Stan Popp  
Dennis Pyle Jr  
Dennis Pyle Sr  
Connie Reynolds  
Nicole & Dwayne Smith  
Laura Webb  
Marie West

*Praise the Lord*  
and give thanks to

For my blessed life  
For everyone's safety at the Pet Blessing & Picnic  
For peace  
For generosity for all those who walk, run, roll for a cause  
For love in my life  
The 175th anniversary of Crouse Memorial Lutheran Church



We will be celebrating the following baptisms in our weekly prayers this month:

1st - Becky Fichtelman  
4th - Amy Chooljian

**Church Council Openings**

Church Council is looking for members interested in serving a 2-year term for one of the following positions:

- Vice President
- Deacon
- Trustee
- Treasurer

If you are interested in any of these positions, please talk to Panna Flower, Sandy Bell, Monica Dunlap, or Julie Barnosky.

Worship Assistants				
	11/5/2017	11/12/2017	11/19/2017	11/26/2017
<b>Greeters</b>	Don & Rosemary Grube	Deb Stewart	Debbie Chooljian	Sandy Bell
<b>Acolyte</b>	Dean Chooljian	Don Grube	Rosemary Grube	Panna Flower
<b>Crucifer</b>	Sophie Dunlap	Sophie Dunlap	Deb Stewart	Panna Flower
<b>Lector</b>	Deb Stewart	Don Grube	Julie Barnosky	Kevin Bell
<b>Media</b>	Sandy Bell	Angie Martin	Becky Fichtelman	Julie Barnosky
<b>Ushers</b>	Debbie Chooljian	Deb Stewart	Debbie Chooljian	Rosemary Grube
	Don Grube	Julie Barnosky	Sandy Bell	Sandy Bell
<b>Cup Bearers</b>	Angie Martin	Julie Barnosky	Angie Martin	Don Grube
	Deb Stewart	Becky Fichtelman	Sandy Bell	Deb Stewart
<b>Counters</b>	Rosemary Grube	Don Grube	Monica Dunlap	Rosemary Grube
	Monica Dunlap	Becky Fichtelman	Don Grube	Becky Fichtelman

## Oct 32 and Beyond

By Bishop Eaton

This is the [500th anniversary of the Reformation](#). For the past year it has been “All Reformation All the Time!” Everything Martin Luther. The really observant have branched out to Philipp Melanchthon and Johannes Bugenhagen. True believers will dress their children up as Martin and Katie for Halloween, or if they tend toward the fear factor, Johann Tetzel.

Bring in the extra brass. Fire up the choir. Sing the fight song (“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”). Dress in red. Binge-watch every Luther film and documentary. (I particularly liked Joseph Fiennes as the young, hot Luther.) This is our year!

Oct. 32.

Now what?

When I am out and about the church, I like to ask people what it means to be Lutheran - what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. Grace is almost always mentioned, along with justification. Some will say we are *ecclesia semper reformanda* - the church always being reformed. Others point to our work for [disaster relief](#), [ELCA World Hunger](#), [advocacy](#) and other work for justice. Most of this is part of the Lutheran experience, but not unique to us. What then, did Luther uncover, and what relevance does it have now?

Interestingly, Luther did not give his greatest emphasis to reform or to reforming the church. *Semper Reformanda* - always reforming - was actually coined in 1947 by Karl Barth, a Reformed theologian. Liberation in Christ through faith was the freedom that transformed Luther. This freedom is what he wrote about most frequently and most passionately. The Freedom of a Christian, a short and accessible treatise, is probably most familiar. I commend it to you. In this brief work and in others, Luther makes the case that liberation in Christ is both a freedom **from** and a freedom **for**.

Freedom **from** is liberation from all spiritual bondage. We are set free from being trapped in ourselves, consumed by ourselves, from the belief or terror that we can and must save ourselves, that our **self** is the center of the universe. Life in Christ is not an inward-dwelling experience. We are free to get over ourselves. Freedom **from** is liberation from the law's accusation and judgment. We are liberated from terror and despair, which are soul-crushing. We are liberated from the incessant and impossible task of measuring up. Freedom **from** liberates us from estrangement from God and God's creatures. Caught in sin and standing before a God who demands righteousness, when we believe we are responsible for our salvation, breeds resentment toward God and the objectification of others.

Freedom **for** means that in Christ we are set free for loving and serving others. Freedom is a relationship, not a new set of activities or the demands of a new law.

Luther put it this way: “Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. ... And this is the work which the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God who has shown them this grace” (*Luther's Works*, 35:370-1).

No longer is God transactional and others a means to an end. This freedom is scandalous because it is based on unconditional grace. It is a gift. Think about it - do we feel the burden being lifted? Think about it - do we feel the complete love of God? Think about it - do we now see others through God's eyes, free and beloved children?

On Reformation Sunday we will hear Jesus' promise: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” ([John 8:32](#)).

On Oct. 32 and beyond let us live in that freedom.



Grace Lutheran Church  
 182 W. Houck St.  
 P.O. Box 876  
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 (740) 625-6341  
 www.gracecenterburg.com

Worship with Holy Communion  
 & Children's Church for all ages  
 10:30am every Sunday

			1	2	3	4 Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour
5 Adult Study 9am  Confirmation Celebration  <b>ALL SAINTS</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11 Glow Putt Mini Golf 11am  Habitat Hoedown 5pm  
12 Adult Study 9am  Birthday Celebration  Congregational Meeting 11:30am  Ministry Team Meeting 12pm  Heartland Nursing Home Service 1:30pm  Centerburg Pointe Song Service 2:30pm	13	14	15 Fellowship/ Outreach Mtg 6:30pm	16	17	18
19 <b>Newsletter Info Due</b>  Adult Study 9am  Hanging of the Greens  Community Thanksgiving Service 7pm  <b>CHRIST THE KING</b>	20	21	22	23  	24	25
26 <b>Poinsettia Orders Due</b>  Adult Study 9am  Council Meeting 12pm  <b>ADVENT BEGINS</b>	27	28	29 Advent Soup Supper 6:30pm  Advent Service 7:30pm	30		