



Grace Notes

Springs of Grace Lutheran Church
www.springsofgrace.com



Go forward with the Grace of God and the motivation of the Holy Spirit

"If Only"

How many times have you heard or said the words, "If Only?" Here are a few that I have heard at Springs of Grace. If only we had a church building. If only we had a full time minister. If only we had more children/teenagers. If only we had a more contemporary worship. If only everyone was like me. The "if only" becomes a convenient excuse that helps us justify where we are today. So how do we cure the "if only" in our congregation?

When we say God's grace is sufficient for all things we have to believe it in our hearts. There is nothing that we cannot accomplish when we rely on God's grace. But, before we will truly rely on God's grace we need to have these five things.

First, hope needs to be present. When we have lost hope it blinds us to God's help and opportunities. When we lose hope we become focused inward and tend to turn our backs on the outside world. Hope is also the motivator that keeps us moving forward. That is the reason it is key to defeating the "If Only" in the congregation. And remember that hope is the foundation of Faith.

Faith is what brought us here and faith will continue to grow with the help of the Holy Spirit. Faith is the belief in things yet unseen. Faith is knowing that there is a future for Springs of Grace and walking together into that future knowing God has a plan for us. This is the second thing and the third is trust.

Do we trust God to tell us what we are to do or do we feel that we know best? It is when we have decided what is best and it does not work out that we take the "if only" escape clause. We need to learn to trust God and also trust one another. Only through this type of trust can we find unity. This is what God intends as it is written in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)" Paul points out that we are called to love one another.

Fourth, love must be present. Paul's famous love chapter 1 Corinthians 13 is a description of how members of a congregation should love one another. When love is not present then only hate and dissension will exist. When we are not loving we begin to blame one another with the "if only." So love will defeat the "if only" in the congregation.

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October, 2013

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In our Prayers

See current bulletin

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The fifth and final thing is to move from the passive to the active. Nothing will happen if we do not live active lives of discipleship. Fellowship and love are community building and trust, hope and faith are necessary for personal growth, they will not contribute to the mission of the congregation. It takes active lives of discipleship by every member to fulfill Christ's mission for us. So don't let the "if only" get in the way and remember with God's grace God's mission for Springs of Grace will be accomplished.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Jim

A STORY OF TRUSTING THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US EVEN IF WE GET WET!

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in Target. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the store. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the World. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

The little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in "Mom, let's run through the rain," she said. "What?" Mom asked. "Let's run through the rain!" She repeated. "No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom replied. This young child waited about another minute and repeated: "Mom, let's run through the rain," "We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said. "No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm. "This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?" "Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'"

Now the entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

"Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD let's us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing," Mom said. Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing. Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday.

Special Events for October

October 13 — 4pm

Vespers at the Lake

Come worship God in his creation. Vespers service conducted by Pastor Jim and a pitch in picnic supper to share. Don't forget to sign up on the board and indicate what you are going to bring. If it rains we have a choice to move to the church or get wet. (see story on page 2)

October 27 — 10:30am

Reformation Sunday

Be with us as we celebrate our beginnings with a Reformation Sunday service. We will be singing two hymns written by Luther. Let us keep in mind that Luther was not trying to leave the church or form a new one. He was seeking to make his church better. Katie and Martin Luther will be joining us with a special message about their life together.



Luther Posting His Ninety-Five Theses

Pastor's Class on Denominations

Come, join the study of the various denominations each Sunday at 9:30am. Each week we study a different denomination. This class is open to everyone.

It will continue all of October.

This Sunday — Orthodox Church

10/6 — Community and New Paradigm Churches

10/13 — Methodist, Presbyterian and Reform Churches

10/20 — Pentecostal Churches

10/27 — Jehovah Witness and Morman Churches

Lessons for October

6 — Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 || Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14 || Luke 17:5-10

13 — 2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15c || Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15 || Luke 17:11-19

20 — Genesis 32:22-31 || Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 || Luke 18:1-8

27 — Jeremiah 31:31-34 || Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28 || John 8:31-36

As a part of your regular Bible study incorporate the texts that we will use on Sunday mornings.

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship with Communion: Sundays — 10:30am Education Hour Sundays— 9:30am	1	2	3 Office Hours 10am to Noon	4	5	
6 Increase our Faith	7	8	9	10 Office Hours 10am to Noon	11	12
13 Faith has made you well Council Mtg after Worship 4pm Vespers at the Lake	14	15	16	17 Office Hours 10am to Noon	18	19
20 Pray without stopping	21	22	23	24 Office Hours 10am to Noon	25	26
27 Reformation Sunday Martin & Katie Luther	28 Pastor on Vacation	29	30 Until 11/13	31		

Those Who Serve

Date	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27	November 3
Refreshments	Lewis's	Need for am	Faulks	Wendy Gowan Evelyn Swain	Donaldson's
Ushers	Marion Varner	Norm & Jane Lewis	Rich Donaldson Larry Cantrell	Ron Crawley	Ray Cromer Melton Roof
Greeter	Christine and Abigail Donaldson	Susan Rinkema	Sandy Fancher	Mary Schaeffer	Jane Lewis
Communion Assistant	Kay Otten	Melton Roof		Bob Faulks	Norm Lewis
Counters	Jane Lewis Diane Ablett	Kris Loburk Rich Donaldson	Ron Crawley Norm Lewis	Jim Voris John Fancher	Rich Donaldson
Altar Guild	Jane Lewis Nellie Varner	Rich & Maryanne VanWagoner	Betty DeBerry Pat Morton	Diane Ablett Mary Lou Saville	Jane Lewis Nellie Varner
Lector	Rich Donaldson	Diane Ablett	Evelyn Swain	Hunter Crawley	
	If there is a change or error in this list, please update the copy of this schedule on the Notice Board.				

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And by appointment

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864-580-9800 (C)—864-703-1101(H)
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Church Council:

Melton Roof, President

Rich Donaldson, VP

Gail Hackett, Treasurer

Ron Crawley, Secretary

Diane Ablett, Worship Chair

Kris Loburk, Property Chair

Jim Voris, Evangelism Chair

Education Chair — vacant

Stewardship Chair — vacant

Ron Crawley, Social Ministry Chair

October Birthdays

Ronald Crawley—1

Marion Varner—19

Hazel Petitt—22

Gail Brown—26

Isaiah Adderholdt— 27

Back Page Notes

Special Notice

I apologize to all who stayed for the meeting on 9/22. In the midst of everything I forgot it. Anyone who is willing to complete the survey, please see me and I will give you a copy and instructions so that you can complete it at home and return it to me. Again I am sorry if I have inconvenienced anyone.

Pastor Jim