

August 2017
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known



Standing Your Ground

Emma Harris teaches Natural History at Kensington Grade School. One Tuesday morning she asked the third grade class, “Where is the elephant found? She waited for the answer, but there was only silence. So, she asked again, “Can anyone tell me where the elephant is found?” More silence. So she asked, “Stephanie, can you tell me?”. No response. Finally, Stephanie answered, “Well, to tell the truth, the elephant is such a big animal, I don’t think it’s ever lost.”

We can be so smart and educated, so self-sufficient or self-reliant that we are hardly ever lost. We have our lives under control and we can stand on our own two feet. As parents we teach our children and even our grandchildren to “stand on their own two feet”. But, rarely are they taught what ground to stand on.

So, when your world comes crashing down around you and you are lost, you simply smile and act as if everything is under control. When someone asks how you are, you answer, “Fine! Everything is fine!”.

What you may not realize is the “fine” is an acronym for:

F—frustrated
I—irritated
N—nervous
E—exhausted

Yes, you’re “fine”. Everything is “fine”.

I wondered how the disciples felt as they followed Jesus. “We’ve been chosen by the one sent from God; the one who is God, to be His disciples. Everything is great. We’ve seen His healings and miracles. We’ve heard Him speak such wonderful words. Can you imagine that He asked us to follow Him and have connections to such power?”.

But then, come the storm on the lake and a sinking boat. There was no Jesus, no God present. Panic and fear took over as they bailed out their boat. Then Jesus came to them walking on the water, and after rescuing Peter from drowning, they (Peter and Jesus) got into the boat. That’s when the storm calmed down.

Is that the main point of the story as Matthew tells it? That, when you have Jesus in your boat, or your life, and your home, the sudden unexpected storms are not so overwhelming.

So, if Emma Harris’ question to Stephanie had been, “Where is Jesus found?”, her answer might have been, “He’s not lost. He’s in my boat. He’s in my daily life.”

Now! That’s solid ground to stand on!

Peace,

Pastor David



In Our Prayers

Members: Mary Smith, Marie Christian, Irving DeWald, Rev. Guy Warke, Norma Siebring & Theresa Klager, Amanda Elsner & Francois Peltier

Bereaved: Family and friends of Clarence Schilling

Friends and Family of Grace:

Jan Stage (sister to Jackie Danalewich)

Margaret Bungo (sister to Susan Trimby)

Mike Stewart (friend of Jackie Danalewich Gayle (cousin of Jackie Danalewich))

Doug McKeown (friend of the Bells)

Terry Wilder (Marie Christian's son-in-law)

Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Dolly Hoover (*Sunny Hill, Joliet (mother of Karen Nielsen)*), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*), Louise O'Connor (*Sunrise of Wilmette (Aunt of Bonnie Hill)*)

Serving in Armed Forces: Captain Erik Gundersen (Grandson of the Warkes)

All Families: who are suffering and in grief due to violence, abuse and/or anger

Pastor's Report for July 1—27, 2017

Rev. Vidler made: 3 Hospital Calls
10 Meetings*

11 Pastoral Calls
5 Worship Services

1 Evangelism Call
8 Private Communion

*Meetings include Wilmington Chamber of Commerce on July 13



Birthdays for September 2017

09/02 Jim Bell

09/05 Marie Christian

09/10 Clarence Schilling

09/14 Felicia Wills

09/15 Paula Webb

09/19 Carolann Stewart

09/28 Phil Keller

09/30 Katelin Mrjenovich

09/30 Kim Schad



Missionary for a Day ~ September 2017

08/06 Christy Ziller

In Memory of Winker and Bormet Grandparents

08/10 Jackie Danalewich

In Honor of Andy & Stacia's Anniversary

08/11 Gary Gruhn

In Honor of Patriot Day

08/15 Gary Gruhn

For POW/MIA Recognition Day

08/20 Joann House

In Memory of Minnie Wagner's Birthday

08/30 Charlie Schad

In Honor of Kim's Birthday

Call Committee News

We have officially begun the process of preparing to call a pastor to Grace Lutheran. The call committee, which consists of ten members, met with Synod representative Rev. Gary Erickson in August. The first task is to fill out a lengthy Ministry Site Profile. The call committee divided up the profile into sections and is seeking input from the congregation. Beginning August 20 and ending on September 10, three different questions will be presented for discussion each week. September 10 is a "make-up" Sunday for anyone who missed filling out any of the questionnaires. The committee will then compile all answers and fill out the profile.

Women of the ELCA News

The Women of the ELCA will be holding a very important meeting on Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. They will discuss officers, vote and then plan activities for the year. Please plan on attending this meeting to voice your opinion.

Growing in Trust

The Biblical word for faith actually means "to have trust in" or "to have confidence in". To really trust someone you have to know them and to know they care about you. It's a lot like a young child growing to trust the parents who provide and hold them. Through the daily routines of feeding, clothing, holding and overall nurturing your children learn to trust the bigger, stronger adults. The opposite is also true—abuse leads to mistrust.

The family of Grace also builds trust. We are in the nurturing business for each other and especially for the children and young people who belong to our family. That is the number one purpose of Christian Education—to build and strengthen trust. We are called to enable children and young adults to grow in trust in the one who loves them, for they are His children too.

If you have read this far, then please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 10, from 10:00—10:30 a.m. there will be registration for Sunday School. This is for all preschool and grade school young people. We are planning to make each Sunday into a mini V. B. S. with exciting stories and crafts.

Don't forget—Sunday September 10 from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. What a way to start the week! What a way to grow!

Choir begins...

For all our faithful choir members, choir practice will start on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 7:00. Hope to see all of you there. We are always looking for more voices to join us. We practice each Wednesday for about 1 hour and sing once or twice a month. It is a great way to serve the Lord and beautify our services; besides, ask any of our choir members; we really have a good time! If you have any questions, please see Helen Warke.

Anniversaries ~ September 2017

09/03 *Nicole & Doug Stewart*

09/07 *Jodi & William Dzak*

09/24 *Bonnie & Roy Hill*

09/27 *Regina & Greg Bauer*

09/30 *Lynn & Scott Christian*



50 Dollars is 50 Dollars

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter".

Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is 50 dollars -- and 50 dollars is 50 dollars".

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair, and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

Esther replied, "Morris, that helicopter is 50 dollars -- and 50 dollars is 50 dollars".

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word I won't charge you! But if you say one word, it's 50 dollars."

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Morris replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know -- 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

LOST KEYS

After a meeting several days ago, I couldn't find my keys. I quickly gave myself a personal "TSA Pat Down."

They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then I made the most difficult call of all to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."

There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!"

Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, can you come and get me?"

He retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your car!"

Welcome to the golden years...