

Trusting in God's grace,
An accepting, joyful community,
Calling and growing followers of Jesus
Who live in the Spirit,
serving God and neighbor.

August 2015

Pastor's Message

Recognizing Grace

The view from my office is awesome and I find myself staring out the window frequently. While staring out the window my mind wanders thinking of my family, the opportunity to be a Pastor in this time and in this place, serving congregations in transitions, my health and realizing that I am blessed. I do not deserve any of this because it is a gift from God. Very humbling. When think of Grace I am reminded of the Old Testament story of Job.

When Job's life is about to be taken away from him, he can say one of two things. He can curse God, as he does in the moment, and say, God why not fifty-one years? Or he can surrender to love and grace and say, God, why fifty years? Why did I deserve anything? When we take on that attitude, we have made a decision see God's grace.

Naked I came into the world, and naked I will leave" (Job 1:21). What do I have brothers and sisters that has not been given to me? All is grace. All is given to me. Who gave me this hand? Who wiggles these fingers I? Who created this eye that I am not explain or understand? I can't even make this hair grow. it is all gifts. From beginning to end, everything is grace, everything is given. There is nothing that we deserve.

The bottom line, we have no real rights. There is nothing we have to have to have (yes even those adorable black suede pumps). When you lose your friend, your lover, your live giver, you can curse God and say "Why was he taken? Why was she taken?" Or you can say, why was she given at all? You can say, why is that love gone? Or you can say, Why did I deserve a moment of love, experience etc.? Why did I even deserve a second of this life? God is creator and I creature. God created me out of nothing and some years back I didn't exist at all and some time (hopefully not for a very long time) I will only be a memory. When we live our lives centered in God's grace we experience freedom peace and joy. Enjoy this day and see God's Grace.

Pastor Michelene Verlautz

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**Meals on Wheels needs
volunteers to sign up for
the month of September.
If you are interested,
please contact Garnet
Novotny (763) 441-7353**

President's Message

Summer has been so wonderful this year and we are now in the month of getting in the last activities and preparing for another school year. We continue to change and adapt at Elk River Lutheran Church too. We are adding to our staff with a bookkeeper and will be searching for Music Leader for Praise Band and Sound Board tech and looking at CYF structure and of course our first called pastor. We started a new format for council meetings to be able to do more in less time. We will have our first Umbrella meeting in August (see separate info) and plan out our September to December calendar at one meeting. It is a busy but EXCITING time. Check out the finished deck and new seating. Think about Sunday School or confirmation teaching. We are having a Quilting Marathon coming soon. Pam Black has volunteer openings. So as you sit watching the setting or rising sun start to ponder how you might want to get involved here or suggest some new activity. We welcome the suggestions.

Take the time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings we have been blessed with.

Umbrella workshop for council and teams.

On August 17 @ 6:30 p.m. we will be have the Fall Planning Workshop. We will meet as a large group and then break out to your teams to finish with your planning. Dinner will be provided.

Items to be covered so far:

- the Calendar for September to December
- volunteer recruitment update
- Rally Sunday
- quilting marathon
- Sunday School start up & teacher recruitment
- Fall clean up day
- Fall New Member Class
- Confirmation start up
- Confirmation retreat
- Confirmation
- any fellowship events
- Thanksgiving service
- Christmas events
- Christmas services
- any other items that you bring to the calendar
- Installation Service of new Pastor

ERLC Council President
Kim Haugen



Welcome Patti

We are pleased to announce that our staff has increased. We welcome Patty Howard as our new bookkeeper. Patty comes to us from the Vision Temp Agency and is becoming our staff member. She will be working in August on Wednesday & Thursday's. As of September she will work on Wednesday only and attend Finance Meetings. Please stop and introduce yourself to her and welcome her to our family.

Treasurer's Report

Our 2015 short year has begun and we encourage everyone to continue there giving. Our current pledge period has expired on June 30 and we will not be doing a new campaign until fall for pledging. By the time you read this we will have completed the year end for 2014 - 2015 budget. You can look for a copy on the bulletin board in the fellowship area or at the top of the elevator. Our giving received thru July 23 is \$24,669.97 with one Sunday to go.

ERLC Council Treasurer
Diane Harding

Children, Youth & Family

Want to help our children and young people
learn about Jesus?
No doctorate in Biblical studies required;
all it takes is a loving heart.
Sunday morning and Wednesday evening
opportunities available.
See Kari if you're interested.

Quad Cities

&

*Detroit Youth Gathering
Summer Trips*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:15am - Traditional Worship 10:30am - Praise Band Worship	7 pm - Men's Bible Study @ 9am - Children's VBS 6 pm - Family VBS 6:30pm - Facilities Meeting -	7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	7:30am - Opportunity Plus	7:30pm - The Way Out (AA) @		Yearly Invite to Sunday School
8:15am - Traditional Worship 10:30am - Praise Band Worship	9am - LOLCB Camp 9am - Children's VBS 6 pm - Family VBS	7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	7:30am - Opportunity Plus 8pm - Adult Faith Formation	7:30pm - The Way Out (AA) @		Nguyen/Lyden Wedding
8:15am - Traditional Worship 10:30am - Praise Band Worship	5:30pm - Hospitality Meeting 7 pm - Men's Bible Study @	7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 10am - Jane Willson Memorial 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 7 pm - Finance meeting @ 7 pm - Women's Bible Study	7:30am - Opportunity Plus	7:30pm - The Way Out (AA) @		
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