

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380
402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
stlukes@stlukesomaha.org
Web Site: www.graceluth.com
www.stlukesomaha.org
Like us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha
www.facebook.com/stlukesomaha

OCTOBER SUNDAY EVENTS
9:30 am. Worship Service
St. Luke's Lutheran, 2315 "I" Street

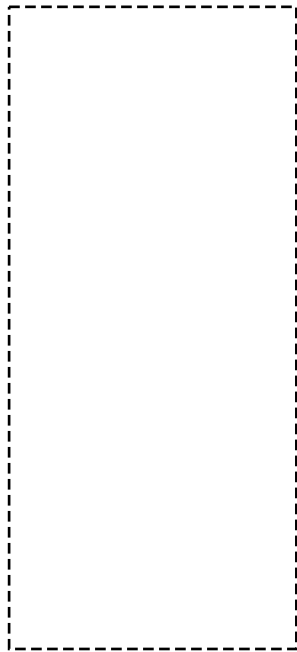
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary Grace - Brenda Spahr
Editor/Church Secretary St. Luke's - Nancy Klusaw
Sexton - Alma Lopez

Delivered to the Post Office September 29



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE
Permit No. 39

Return Service Requested
Dated Material



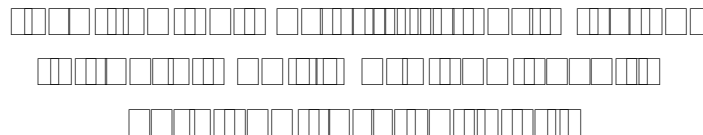
THE GRACE
MESSENGER
1889 - 2023

St. Luke's
Echo
1905 - 2023

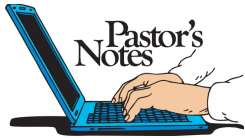


 October 

October Worship Services
will be held at St. Luke's
Lutheran, 2315 I Street



Connect with us on the web: graceluth.com
stlukesomaha.org



I have to be honest and say the month of September provided me with some experiences that I would just as soon have chosen not to be troubled by them. At the same time, I have to admit that I am blessed with people who care and provide for me in ways that are truly a blessing.

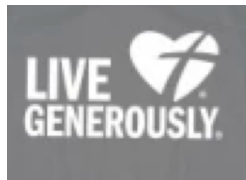
My car was broken into and many things were stolen. All of those things are replaceable and within reason have been replaced. My car is being repaired at the body shop. A friend has loaned me one of his cars while mine is out of commission. People's empathy for the discomfort and worry is a real blessing. Thank You!

All of this causes me to reflect on the amazing goodness of God and how lucky I am to not only have good friends and acquaintances but also the resources that enable me to quickly recover. The same is not true for many who do not have those same resources. This has become even more clear these past weeks. The number of persons that I see pushing a shopping cart loaded high with all of their belongings seems to be on the rise.

In years past, I would be soon seeking sponsors for the Omaha CROP Walk. This effort was to raise needed funds for those who find themselves in need of food. I am grateful that we have a weekly food pantry that receives food from Trader Joes and Whole Foods so that we can provide those in need with good food for several days. I was astonished to hear a report recently that said, here in America, poverty among children has risen from 7% to 14%. There is much that needs to be reshaped in our communities.

As we enter the fall months, I am hopeful that the slogan on our Thrivent Shirts motivates us toward greater generosity. Yes, somethings are more expensive, but God continues to provide. How might we be willing to provide for neighbors near and far?

Pastor Laaker



Fall Stewardship

We have had several inspiring stories that motivate us to think a bit differently about stewardship shared during worship this past month. So often, we associate stewardship only with money.

In our Scripture readings during the month of September, we were reminded that loving one another includes relationship. How do we steward, care and nurture our relationships with our neighbors? How do we show up for our neighbors?

This past Sunday, we heard the parable of the vineyard workers. In this parable we experienced God's economy as different than our own. God chooses to "give to this last the same as I give to you." Do we grumble over the normal or do we express gratitude for the normal and the Giver?

During the month of October, we will continue this theme: GO AND...

Pastor Laaker



The realm of God that Jesus preached and died for was one that was known for its kindness and generosity, its compassion and healing. There was no one deemed outside the love of the Holy One whom Jesus called "Father." No one was excluded from fellowship, not the rich or poor, male or female, slave or free. Jesus went beyond superficial divisions and called for a culture of compassion.

~ Judy Cannato



Grace 2023 Council Members

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Ron Adrian | Sarah Emery | Arlone Farber |
| Ralph Fitle | Greg Hula | Eva Martin |
| Brenda Spahr | Pastor Laaker | |
| ***** | | |
| Officers Serving the Congregation: | | |
| Financial Secretary: Janet Hula | | Treasurer: Ralph Fitle |

Council Notes ~ September 12, 2023

Call to Order Sarah called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Gathering of Prayers We ask for prayers for the health needs of individuals. We also pray for victims of floods, wildfires and earthquakes.

Devotions Devotions were led by Pastor Laaker, reading the selected verses in the “Daily Texts” from Exodus 19:4 and Hebrews 10:35. The first verse reminds us of God’s deliverance from our struggles as we lean on God. The second reminds us to stay strong in our faith, do not give up in our struggles.

Visions for Ministry Do I Stay Christian? by Brian McLaren
Council discussed Chapters 15 & 16. In early Biblical times stories were shared verbally before they were written down; therefore, many stories could be embellished as they were retold but to remember that the stories were retold by faithful people. Christianity is considered a cult by some. One definition of cult is a group of people following a leader without question. The innocence of Christians because ‘Christian white people are afforded the luxury of individuality that is denied for religious and ethnic minorities makes the lack of knowledge of the history of crimes done in the name of Christ and the lack of action seeking justice and effort of “innocence.” Council looks forward to reading and discussing chapters 17 and 18 for next month.

Minutes The minutes of the regular August 2023 meeting of the council were accepted as printed.

Financial Secretary’s Report The report of the Financial Secretary, Janet Hula, was presented and accepted by motion.

Treasurer’s Report The report of the Treasurer, Ralph Fitle, was presented and accepted by motion.

Mission Share The monthly Mission Share contribution and the San Andres contribution were both made in August – ending with 100% of our pledge for both.

Continued...

Committee Reports

Christian Education None.

Evangelism/Outreach Barnabas Dyedi has officially been approved to enter into the Nebraska Synod Candidacy Program.

It will soon be one year since David Nange’s passing, therefore, there will be a special service on Saturday, September 16th releasing the family from mourning. Service will begin at 11:00 am.

Finance Pastor talked with Liberty Elementary School to find items needed in support of teachers and staff. These will be the basis for submitting a grant request through the Immanuel Vision Foundation, due September 30th this year.

Property The 4 phones from Ooma Phone Services are working great as we continue to learn new systems.

Service/Social Ministry A group of 11 walkers participated in this year’s “We Walk” on September 10th in unity with Tri-Faith Initiative. All enjoyed the cool temps, choirs, speakers, informational booths, food trucks and walking with other participants.

A service opportunity be held Sunday, Sept. 17, at Grace following worship; to clean areas around the church, in the alley and along Poppleton Street. We will be cleaning areas around St. Luke’s following worship on October 1st.

Support/Stewardship Fall Emphasis is “Go and....Serve, Ask, Be Honest”. Serve will be highlighted in September, Ask in October and Be Honest in November. How can we be engaged and how might we respond with one another in relationship through Christ? Greg will share a story during Worship, Sunday Sept. 17.

Worship The quest for a permanent organist continues. We are grateful for the regular substitutes.

Unfinished Business Sarah sent an email and is waiting for a response from Pastor Heidi Wallace and Deacon Timothy Siburg regarding direction in our ongoing talks with St. Luke’s.

New Business None.

Announcements Brenda will prepare a prayer for next month.

Adjournment The Council meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Spahr, Secretary



And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

2 Corinthians 9:14

Please keep in your prayers the individuals listed below who have health issues and concerns:

Vicki Cox
Richard Krambeck
Carolyn Matson
Marilyn Van Ormer
The family of Barbara Nelson



June Hilmer
Samuel Mantzaris
Pam Reents



Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran.

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.
Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church
Bishop Scott Johnson, Nebraska Synod
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Charles Tuw and Moses Loda are the elders for the Sudanese Worshipping Community.

Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers.

Pray for our Shut-ins and Nursing Home residents:

Richard Burney - Omaha Nursing
Vicki Cox - Home
Dee Nielsen - Peyton, CO
Rev. Terry Nielsen - Echo Hills
Jeri Swanson - Hillcrest Estates
Marilyn Van Ormer - Home
Doris Westman - Hillcrest Estates

Dolores Castro - Home
Arline Henni - Heritage at Legacy



All of our homebound enjoy receiving mail, if you would like to brighten their day, please call the church office for any addresses you need.
Blessings!



**Pastor Appreciation
Card Reception and Brunch
Sunday, October 8th
following worship**

All are invited to join in the celebration of acknowledging Pastor Laaker! We truly appreciate the leadership, guidance and the dedication shown through all the work Pastor Laaker continues to do both at Grace and St. Luke's. Pastor Laaker, you are a blessing to our congregations.

Come for worship, stay for the celebration and enjoy great fellowship and refreshments.

October is
Be-Kind-To-Your Pastor Month.
During this month, you can:

Thank your pastor. Pray for your pastor.
Encourage your pastor. Honor your pastor.
Humor your pastor. Invite your pastor to dinner flavored with good jokes and laughter.
Tithe.

*Preprinted with permission from
JoyfulNoiseletter.com.*



Dear Lord,

Thank you for sending Pastor Laaker to lead and guide Grace and St. Luke's. We are grateful for the love you put in his heart for You, God and Your people. We appreciate the unique set of gifts and talents that enrich Pastor Laaker's ministry and blessings for our churches. Would You, God, in turn, bless Pastor Laaker today? Fill Pastor Laaker up, Lord and use him for God's glory today. And show us how we can support and encourage Pastor Laaker. We Thank You Lord for this great leader, we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



St. Luke's 2023 Council Members

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Steve Braun | Annette Chipman | Frank Durham |
| Cindy Fleming | John Kolb | Dave Ruffner |
| Molly Sedlacek | Connie Tefft | Pastor Laaker |

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Treasurer: Nancy Klusaw

Financial Secretary & Memorial/Special Gifts: Rose Marie Lad

Council Notes ~ September 14, 2023

Devotions: Pastor Laaker led devotions from Daily Texts – Psalms 103:13 and Matthew 7:11.

Agenda: Agenda was adopted by motion.

Minutes of August 10, 2023, meeting: Minutes were corrected and adopted by motion.

Book Study: Chapter 12 and 13 of **Clear, Calm, and Connected** were discussed. Chapter 14 and 15 will be discussed next month.

Unfinished Business:

1. Roof Repair update – There has been no updates from McKinnis Roofing. They continue to work with the adjuster.
2. Canopy South update – A purchase agreement by Canopy South for the lot has been received and signed by the President.
3. Fire Safe Cabinet – A motion was made and adopted to purchase one FireKing Patriot Fireproof Vertical Filing Cabinet with funds coming from the Memorial Fund.

Reports:

Pastor's Report – A written report was provided. Pastor has spoken to Principal Katy at Spring Lake School to explore the possibility of applying to the Immanuel Vision Foundation for funds to support teacher and students at the school. Combining the monthly newsletter with Grace is saving about \$30.00 each month it is printed by St. Luke's.

President's Report – A written report was provided.

Treasurer/Finance Report – A written report was provided.

Financial Secretary's Report – A written report was provided.

Memorial Fund Report – A written report was provided.

Building and Grounds Report – An oral report was given. The mailbox has been installed. The neighbor, to the north of our parking lot, feels frustrated with the students gathering in our parking lot before/after school and has asked if there was anything we could do to help with the situation.

Evangelism – An oral report was given.

Fellowship – An oral report was given.

Stewardship – We are underway with our "Go and..." Stewardship theme.

Parish Education – Sara Pahl-Ramirez will continue to prepare articles for the newsletter.

Social Ministry – Cindy Fleming gave an oral report. "God's Work, Our Hands" will continue to collect chips and goldfish crackers through the month of September.

Worship and Music – No report.

A motion to accept all reports was adopted.

New Business:

1. Worship plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas – Christmas service will be at St. Luke's.
2. Nebraska Brass will be performing at St. Luke's on December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The next Council Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with prayer at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Tefft, Secretary

TABLE GRACE
CAFE
Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

1611 1/2 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Hours for Breakfast and Lunch
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri & Sat. from 7 - 2
Closed: Wed and Sun

Specialty Coffee, Pastries, Bagels, Pizza, Soup, Salad, Daily Specials!
No set prices. Community Cafe - donate instead of pay.
Eat here - feed the Community.

Visit their website at: tablegracecafe.com for additional information and to learn the many different ways you can donate.

Continued...



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Thank you Mary for your weekly dedication running the recording equipment every Sunday during worship service.

Thank you Ron & Donna Adrian, and Brenda Spahr for taking care of the altar, and preparing communion.

Thanks to everyone that helped with worship services during the month of September. It is much appreciated.

Thank you Bob and Connie Malik for taking the July Echo to the Post Office and for setting up tables for the South Omaha Community Care Council.

Thank you Janet Hula, Bob & Connie Malik, Rose Marie Lad, and Ron & Donna Adrian for your faithful dedication in helping assemble the monthly newsletter!

Thank you to all those that help keep both church grounds neat by picking up trash around the churches.

Thank you Alma for keeping both Grace and St. Luke's clean and so welcoming to everyone who enters.

Thank you to all Loaves and Fishes Pantry Volunteers; for delivering food items on Sunday mornings, unloading and putting foods items away until Monday mornings, getting everything ready for Mondays and in greeting and serving all with smiles, care and love!

Path Assist, now available in your area, connects you to the resources you need to be healthy and improve the quality of your life. The Path Assist program is designed to help you confidently navigate local health and social service resources and advocate for your needs. The goal of Path Assist is to help you address issues like housing, food, transportation, access to medicine, isolation, and more before they become serious problems. Path Assist is a free program, you can sign up on their website at: www.path-assist.com/gethelp or call 402-265-6551.

**PATH
ASSIST**



1 – Kym Bauer

7 – June Hilmer

10 – Jordan Vazquez

11 – Jonah Laaker

16 – Tom Emery

18 – Jericho Vazquez

24 – Donovan Halfhill

26 – Rosemary Gaunt
Chadney Everitt

27 – Lori Vasquez

Jadyn Vazquez

29 – Andrea Spahr

Grace's



6 - Dustin & Rachel Moyer 16

18 - Micah & Carrie Laaker 20

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office and let us know!

Happy Birthday in faith! May blessings be upon you! On your birthday, remember that you were wonderfully made by God and rejoice in God's love. You are so blessed to be you and to share the amazing love of Jesus on your birthday! May God bless this day with more love than your heart can hold.

Lutheran Women of Omaha
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
12:00 Noon



Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2725 N. 60th Avenue

Cost: \$7.00

Guest speaker is Dr. Ted Burk, Entomologist, topic is "Prairie Restoration." Free will offering will be directed to Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation..

Call Mardelle Gocek at 402-292-1328 by Sunday, October 8, to reserve your seat.



ELCA

The United Nations World Food Programme recently warned that acute food insecurity has reached an unprecedented high, affecting a record 349 million people — up from 135 million in 2019. That is a shocking statistic. ELCA World Hunger partners here in the United States and around the world are telling us about the financial strain caused by the rising hunger crisis, and we come to you humbly, **asking for a donation.**

Through ELCA World Hunger you support families as they address root causes of hunger and poverty through such multifaceted solutions as education, agricultural training and microloans for women. Our faith calls us to be in relationship with our neighbors, and that is what makes your partnership so important.

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

Your gifts will support hurricane survivors. Gifts to "Hurricane Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes until the response is complete. Or make a general donation to Lutheran Disaster Response so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.

Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023

In remembrance of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517 and the beginning of the Reformation, wear red or orange.



St. Luke's



11 – Karen Chapman

12 – Mary Helwig

19 – Robert Klusaw

23 – Barbara Kolb

28 – Annette Chipman



11 - Steve & Karen Braun 49

15 - Greg & Jayne Nevins 40

19 - Jerry & Cynthia Creasy 21

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office and let us know!

St. Luke's Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 9:30 am in the Educational Unit for fellowship and Bible Study. Teri Durham will have devotions, Deb Ludwig the lesson and Karen Chapman will serve as hostess. Everyone is welcome.



Omaha Lutheran Young Adults (OLYA)
Table Theology



Sunday, October 15, 6:00 pm., Charred Burger & Bar,
1150 Sterling Ridge Dr. #107

Join us for Table Theology, a gathering of young people from across Omaha, for dinner and conversation.

Trivia

Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 pm., LOCAL Beer, Patio, and Kitchen,
17305 Davenport Street at Village Point.
Come be a part of an OLYA trivia team in this social outing!

RSVP or learn more by contacting us:
phone: 361-571-7636 (Greta)
facebook @omahalutheranyoungadults
email: OmahaLutheranYoungAdults@nelcm.com



We are grateful to have had the opportunity to share the boundless love of God with 1,287 campers at Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills Camps this past summer. We all know how faith comes alive when we step outside of our day-to-day routines and explore faith conversations with our peers at camp. Check out some of the upcoming opportunities for the youth of your congregation to get back to camp this fall:

October 7, 2023 - 9:00am - 3:30pm. Our Explore! Day Retreat is an awesome opportunity for those who aren't sure if an overnight at camp is right for them, as well as those who loved camp this summer and want to come back for the day.

November 10-12, 2023 - Middle School Retreat! Come back to camp for the weekend. Come and enjoy classic camp activities such as high ropes, creative arts, and campfires!

November 18-19, 2023 - Mother & Tween Daughter Retreat! Fall is a time where life seems like a giant to-do list. Join us for a weekend to be present, try new things, grow together, and have fun!

To learn more about these retreats and to register, visit: CJHCenter.org/upcoming-retreats.



Grace Lutheran and St. Luke's have additional ways that you could contribute without spending any out of pocket funds.

Take a few moments of your time to download the app for **TAGG - Together A Greater Good**; they partner with several community businesses. Take a snapshot of your receipt and some businesses will donate 5% to a charity of your choice ~ either St. Luke's or Grace.

Register your **Bakers Plus card** with Kroger and choose Grace or St. Luke's as your charitable choice!

Ronald McDonald House: Save your pop tabs. They use the proceeds to pay the utilities. A box is provided in the back of the sanctuary for the tabs. Our most recent contribution of pop tabs brings our total to 129,000.

Eye Glasses. Do you have old eye glasses that you no longer use? A box is located in the back of the sanctuary to place them. They will be given to the Lion's Club to be used for individuals in need.

BIBLE STUDY

In the next few months, these bible studies will each focus on one of the Psalms.

Today, we look at Psalm 15, which speaks of "the guest of the Lord". (The text of my translation reads "...of Yahweh". However, some of our Jewish friends find it rude that anyone would dare to say aloud, or write, the actual name of God. In order to avoid giving offense, I will write "God" or "the Lord".) Now, back to our Psalm:

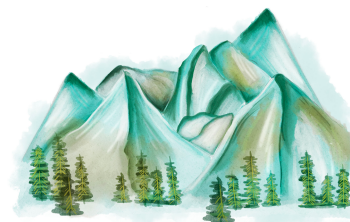
The very first verse of Psalm 15 raises an important question. Who has the right to enter God's place, "...to dwell on your holy mountain"? We act like we do, since we gather every Sunday in a building that we call God's house. But do we deserve to be here? The Psalm goes on to answer "the one whose way of life is blameless...", then lists the behaviors which demonstrate this perfect life. What behaviors are these? Hmm... looks a lot like the ten commandments!

Did you realize there are two lists of the ten commandments in the first five books of the Bible? OK, maybe every Lutheran kid was told so, years ago in Sunday School. I wouldn't know, as I wasn't raised Lutheran. If it catches you, also, by surprise, check it out - Exodus 20:3-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. They are similar, but not identical. Now, back to our Psalm!

Who, pray tell, is the reprobate mentioned in verse four? Yes, I can think of a few names from current political news, but I won't. In fact, if anyone compared my life to the wonderful behaviors cited above, I wouldn't look so good, either. "Who casts no discredit on a neighbor"...yikes! ..."who always does what is right"? Well... So who is the Psalm's paragon of virtue? The truth is that none of us will ever measure up to the Gospel standard. We can't. It's Jesus, of course! And the best any of us can do, when it comes to entering God's Presence, is to point to Jesus and say, "I'm with Him. He's my big brother - ain't he great?" That's a thought that might give anyone reason to smile - and to pass it on!

Next month-Psalm 8

Sara welcomes ideas and questions at 402-686-1693.





Loaves and Fishes Pantry

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
402-341-7730

Pantry is Open 10:00 - 11:00 am
Every Monday ~ Even Holidays!

Variety of fresh foods donated by
Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

The Pantry continues to reach out to those in need on a weekly basis. Clients of the Loaves and Fishes Pantry are asked to park along Poppleton Street. Participants are then directed through the alley to pick up prepared sacks and bags of much needed food items. **The Pantry is in need of clean plastic grocery bags and paper grocery sacks!** Please continue to keep the Pantry and all the work that is done in your prayers. *All are served with love and care.*

Do you know of a family or individual in need of food assistance?
Please share the Pantry information with them.

Do you have the heart and compassion of a pantry volunteer? If so, stop by after service on Sunday mornings and visit with Mary Thompson and discover the variety of ways you might be able to help within the pantry work that is in full swing both Sundays and Mondays. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Lutheran South Pantry
4401 South 23rd Street ~ 402-502-7070



Items that clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are always appreciated: Dish Soap, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Diaper wipes, and Diapers, especially sizes 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.

The Holy Ghostwriter ~ Pastor discovers he has turned into his father

(JN Associate Editor Rev. Paul Lintern, a pastor of Oakland Lutheran and Southside Christian Churches in Mansfield, OH, follows the ongoing adventures of mythical Pastor Jeff Mutton of Good Lord Community Church.) ~ by Rev. Paul Lintern

"I'm old, and proud of it," Jeff announced as he walked into his weekly luncheon with local pastor friends at Pam's Pizza Place.

"Pride goeth before a fall," replied Father Tony, eyebrows raised.

Jeff paused, still smiling.

"Then I am old, and pleased to be able to embrace it," he said.

"I don't deny that first part, but wonder about the last part," Rev. Bill piped in.

Pastor Jeff nodded.

"You know that insurance commercial where the speaker is trying to help people not to turn into their parents?"

"Yes, very funny, even when I see myself in that," Rev. Bill said.

"So do I, and I realized, I am not turning into my father, I am already there. What a relief," Jeff smiled. "I am old enough to just be all those stereotypes. I can tell stupid jokes to total strangers, or offer suggestions in a hardware store, or tell perfectly obvious facts to groups in an elevator. I can tell all the Dad jokes that come to mind, and people have to just smile quietly, have to pretend it's funny."

"Even if they are laughing at you instead of with you?" Father Tony asked.

"Especially that," Jeff laughed. "I'm old; it doesn't matter anymore. I can tell random people about things that happened 50 years ago - the way cars were, or how much I used to make at my first job, or how long my hair was in the '70s. And I always follow it up with, 'I mean the Nineteen-seventies.' They have to laugh at that, each time."

Father Tony agreed. "I see, it's like you can wear a wristwatch that is not smart, and people just accept that."

"Or you write things down on paper or mail postcards," Rev. Bill added.

"Or watch your VCR or listen to cassette tapes," Father Tony said.

"Yes, and I love to pay for something by check," Jeff laughed. "It drives Millennials crazy."

"But why is all this desirable?" Father Tony asked.

"It means I don't have to try to figure out the next latest greatest thing, you know, platform, or app or update, whatever comes along," Jeff said. "If I do, it will be because I want to, not because my kids say I have to."

"In Jesus, I am already new," Jeff said. "It's like he said, 'You shall know the True Operating System, and that will set you free.'"

Father Tony and Rev. Mike just rolled their eyes. Jeff smiled.

"Think of it as a Dad joke," he said, then his eyes brightened.

"An Abba joke."

Jokes reprinted with permission from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

The Clown's Prayer

Don ("Ski") Berkoski, a long-time JN consulting editor and the founder of Smiles Unlimited, a clown troupe that visited hospitals to cheer up patients, authored this prayer:

As I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let me become so indifferent, that I will fail to see the wonders in the eyes of a child, or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy, and forget momentarily, all the unpleasantness in their lives. And in my final moment, may I hear You whisper: "When you made My people smile, you made Me smile."

Christians are like pumpkins

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then God cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. God removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then God carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." This was passed on to me by another pumpkin. Now it's your turn to pass it to other pumpkins. I liked this enough to send it to all the pumpkins in my patch."

~ via Rev. Bud Frimoth, Portland, OR



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
© Ed Sullivan
Reprinted with permission

"A small boy knocked on my door on Halloween night and said, 'I'm a werewolf. Trick or Treat.'
"But you're not wearing a costume," I said. "You've got your everyday clothes on."
"Yeah, well, it's not a full moon yet, is it?" the boy replied.

~ via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE

Jokes on this page reprinted with
permission from
JoyfulNoiseletter.com



REFORMATION

H T I A F H G U O R H T E C A R G A E S D K I K
R P R S A L C M A R T I N G R U B T R A W H W P
N O I T A C I F I T S U J C J U R P A S T O R T
H Y M N O D I S T J B X W R S O T D C Y J K Y W
S K G G Q C Z L M Y T E Z S E C N E G L U D N I
E P R O F E S S O R G S M R O W F O T E I D M T
L A W B C R M T A I J N T H E O L O G Y L E F T
C V D W Q W I T T E N B E R G A B L K Y G X T R
I V Q T M U L B N K F N W N O L U T H E R C A J
T D V N T E S R H M S I H C E T A C D G V O V F
R O Z A V H E R E F O R M A T I O N P K A M A R
A M E T G Q S S C D J N S M S I T P A B X M N C
E R V S C G E I T V U S D W T W T P N U H U F K
V V I E O J H U A R J P R X X U O N V W P N U X
L C F T M W T N S O R I I G D G U R C V O I I P
E I Y O M Q X M A N I R A H T A K X G A R C G H
W T T R U G Z O C S Q I R Y I Z L B Z D C A E D
T E E P N J N O V H D T A Q Q J M C W C S T Q O
J R N U I G E R M A N O N A R E H T U L Q I J X
S E I J O S C M O Z V F T R A N S L A T I O N X
U H N Z N J M D Q T T J Q U N H A A U V V N V V
D E R D N U H E V I F O T F A U T H O R I T Y O
U J K A K D Q D G D O Y L Z C T N K I T A O Z O
B W B O S A L V A T I O N S T Z P M E U M X S L

WITTENBERG
THESES
REFORMATION
NINETY FIVE
KATHARINA
HERETIC
EXCOMMUNICATION
BAPTISM

WARTBURG
THEOLOGY
PROTESTANT
MARTIN
JUSTIFICATION
GRACE THROUGH FAITH
DIET OF WORMS
AUTHORITY

TWELVE ARTICLES
SPIRIT OF JOY
PROFESSOR
LUTHERAN
INDULGENCES
GERMAN
COMMUNION

TRANSLATION
SALVATION
PASTOR
LUTHER
HYMNODIST
FIVE HUNDRED
CATECHISM

