



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD...

Brad considers the topic of seeking the Kingdom of God. What are we willing to pay, give, lose, or even surrender, in order to gain all He has to offer us?

"ASK-A-PASTOR" PASTOR CHAT

Special Edition: Wednesdays at 6:00pm on Facebook. Brad & Beth Rutherford continue their 6 week series on "You & Me Forever" Oct. 14 - Nov. 18th.

ADOPT-A-SOLDIER & GIVING TREE

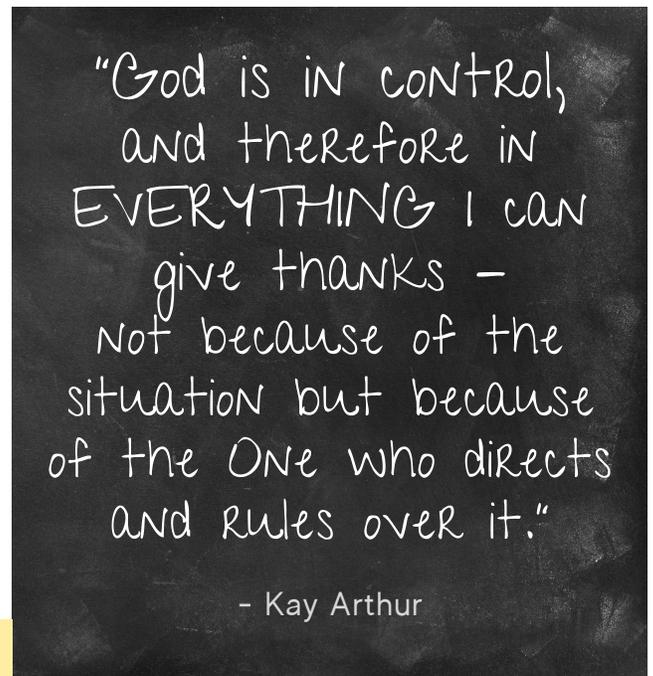
November is when we focus on reaching beyond our walls to bless our Military Personnel and others in our community with Christmas gifts, and other blessings,

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS...

- November 1 Worship with Communion
- November 2 Elders Meeting 6:30pm
- November 9 Peter Halper begins last leg of Thunder Run
- November 12 Missions Team Meeting 6:30pm
- November 16 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm
- November 22 Elder & Deacon Ordination/Installation
- November 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30pm
- November 26-27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 28 "No Regrets" @ Rolling Meadows Rest.
- November 29 No Sunday School or AWANA



Staff Vacation Schedule for November
November 21-29: Brad Rutherford



A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD



Dear Grace Family,

On Monday evening **I COULD NOT FIND** my wallet. I searched for it **TIRELESSLY**. I searched in my car, in my trunk, under my seats, in my glove box, **EVERYWHERE** that a sensible person might place their wallet. I searched my son's car. I searched both computer bags I carry, I searched Abby's backpack. Yes, really I did! I looked in the church kitchen, along the halls, in the elevator, in the downstairs rooms. I even searched in places where I knew I had not been. I asked my sons, all 3 of them whom I saw yesterday if they hadn't per chance picked it up. I asked a friend who I visited with briefly at their house. I asked people who had been in my office and people who hadn't been in my office. I searched my office. Each drawer that I never put my wallet in, just in case I thought I had put it there. I looked under chair cushions. I looked on top of my desk, reshuffling every piece of paper on it, between files that were obviously too thin to be hiding it. Under my desk. In my trash can. I retraced my steps to my office.

I think you get the point that I wanted to find my wallet more than anything else in the world at that time. It was my sole focus. So much so that it consumed my thoughts. I prayed and asked God to show me where I could find my wallet. I wanted it that badly.

There are two parallel illustrations that God is trying to show me here that I, and by extension, we, need to give special attention to. The first is that God longs for the return of the sinner to himself immeasurably more than I could ever hope to find my wallet. Luke records in great detail (Luke 15) the parables Jesus tells the Pharisees and scribes who are complaining bitterly about "how much time Jesus spends with sinners and tax collectors". Jesus reminds us that in the "finding" by God of the sinner, through our repentance, there is great rejoicing in Heaven. The Father's heart longs for the lost to be reconciled to himself and has done everything possible to bring about the reconciliation from his side. I need to remember the "joy of salvation" once more -- My father's joy and my joy.

But the second parallel comes from Matthew 13:44-45. Here Jesus speaks about the man who finds the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price. The first incident is almost random. The man wasn't really looking for treasure, but when he happened upon it and realized the pricelessness of it, he was prepared to get rid of everything to have that treasure. What he himself had accumulated through his own efforts paled in insignificance when compared to what he found in the field. The second man, however, is actively searching for something priceless that he knows is out there but doesn't quite know where. In his diligent and life-consuming search he has come to discover many valuable pearls, but none compare to the one which he now calls "the pearl of great value".

And so the question I ask myself is this, how badly do I seek the kingdom of God in my own life? Does my desire for God and His kingdom supersede my desire to find comfort, peace, security, prosperity or pleasure? What am I prepared to spend, lose, or surrender in order that I might find God? ...Or will I just settle for finding my wallet?

FOOTNOTE: *The wallet has been located, but only after credit cards were cancelled and driver's license replaced...and providing the subject for this reflection! It took the prayer and persistence of a faithful wife and the favor of a gracious God!*

NEWS & NOTES



Thanksgiving Eve worship

Wed. November 25th | 6:30pm | at Grace



EMERY'S THUNDER RUN

Bringing The Thunder To Childhood Cancer



Peter Halper is in the **HOME STRETCH** of his run across the United States. When he finishes he will have run over **3,000 miles** in a little over **4 MONTHS. PRAISE THE LORD!** In this final stretch we'd like to give you another opportunity to make donations. You can visit their website: www.emerysmemoryfoundation.com/thunderrun OR drop off your designated gift to the Office or in the offering box on Sunday morning. Funds raised will fund Neuroblastoma research and support families in treatment.



The FDL Police Department, along with the Police Chaplains, adopts families in need at Christmastime, providing a holiday food basket, as well as gifts for the children in the family. If you know any families who might need "adopting", please contact Pastor Grant by noon, Mon. Nov. 30 to be sure they will be included. We will need names and ages of the children, and contact information for the parents. Thanks for coming alongside our public servants to provide Holiday Cheer for families in need.

JOIN US FOR ASK A PASTOR

Special edition

Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 pm.
Tune in on our Facebook Page @GraceChurchFDL

OCT. 14 - NOV. 18

Whether you are single, dating or married, this book discussion will help you discover the adventure that you were made for, and learn how to thrive in it. **ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN!**



HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS?

Please use the FB Live 'chat' feature during one of our Live Streams, email, or call the Church Office to share your ideas with us: office@gracechurchfdl.org or (920) 922-7211

The Church Office will be closed Nov. 26 & 27th!
Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

ADVENT SEASON BEGINS NOVEMBER 29TH!



We are looking for folks to light the Advent Wreath on Sunday mornings. If you would like to participate, please contact Carol: office@gracechurchfdl.org This is a great way to involve your whole family! Everything you need will be provided.

ATTENTION VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF VETS:



One of the ways we would like to honor our Veterans, as well as those who have fallen in service to our country, is by displaying Veteran Flags on Sunday, Nov. 1st. If you have a flag, please bring it and place the folded flag on the end of one of the vacant pews. (Please tuck a slip with your name and phone number inside, just in case it gets separated from you!)

RECORDING UPGRADE PROJECT!

Our new and improved system has been installed!

We are however still encouraging donations to cover this much needed upgrade. If you would like to make a financial contribution to this project, please mark your financial gift "Upgrade Recording Project" and include it with your usual tithes and gifts, get it to the church office or follow the steps below to give online.

ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

- Go to the GIVE page on the church website
- Scroll down and click on the "GIVE ONLINE" button
- Enter the amount you wish to give in the Special Offering Fund category. Be sure to put "Upgrade Recording Project" in the text box beside it.
- Fill out the rest of the information below then hit continue



THE GIVING TREE

HELP GIVE CHRIST'S LOVE THIS SEASON!

Through this ministry we provide prayer, gifts, and a reminder of the TRUE meaning of Christmas to families in need, and to share the joy of Jesus' love with them by caring for and showing God's love in a personal way. This year we are adopting children & families through the Charis Pregnancy Help Center here in Fond du Lac.

To get involved, choose a tag (or several!) from the tree, pray for that person, and purchase the gift(s) requested. We will also be putting together food boxes to give to these families. There will be various food items listed on tags as well as gifts.

Please wrap the gifts and return them to church. Keep the tag with the gift, to assure that it will get to the correct recipient. Monetary gifts or gift cards may also be donated by dropping them at the Giving Tree, or the information Center.

There may be a need for some Secret Shoppers to fulfill some of the requests. If you would like to participate in this way, please watch for more information, or speak to Jamie Trewin.

Please consider getting involved with this wonderful ministry opportunity, offered by the Global Missions and Local Outreach Team.

Many blessings from your Giving Tree Coordinator
Jamie Trewin.



Please submit information for the *December Words of Grace* to the church office by **November 15th**. You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or office@gracechurchfdl.org



NOV. SCHEDULE

- Nov. 1st - Duct Tape Night (create something from duct tape!)
- Nov. 8th - Red, White & Blue Night
- Nov. 15th - Adopt-A-Soldier Night (bring items & letters)
- Nov. 22nd - Inside-Out Night
- Nov. 29th - HAPPY THANKSGIVING (No AWANA)

A Note From

Pat Janzen

about our new Women's
Ministry opportunity:

Finding Common Ground

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN
A Ministry of Women of Grace

Welcome to our new ministry called "Finding Common Ground – Women supporting Women", with the vision of *helping women connect with women, in the midst of their experiences, and to provide one-on-one support, helping to bring healing and peace through on-going relationships.*

As coordinator of this ministry, I would like to share my brief testimony with you, for encouragement and consideration to participate in this valuable partnership.

Through my experience with lay care, I have been blessed beyond my expectations. I visited a 90-year-old woman named Ruth. Though she was not even 4 feet tall, she was a spirited little lady. We set a schedule to meet every Tuesday evening at 5:30, which we did for a year like clockwork. She would meet me at her back door smiling from ear to ear. I was the only person she saw or talked with for a week, except for her daughter. You see, with this ministry all you have to do is "**show up**". It has to do with the giving of yourself to someone who knows you could be doing something else. Ruth had more stories than anyone I know. By listening to her, I found *common ground*.

There are different types of challenges we all go through, no matter what age you are - seasonal disorder, loss of job, hurting, grief, loneliness, health - just to mention a few, and which are all included in this ministry.

We are here to support all women. All women have stories that need to be heard, they just need someone to listen to them. To let them know they are not forgotten by God or us.

When I moved back to Fond du Lac nine years ago, I had no idea that God was refining me for something special. Now, by the grace of God, I am able to help others with this new ministry, ***Finding Common Ground***.

God's timing is perfect, as we kick things off during this pandemic time. Women of Grace, if we can serve you in any way, please feel free to email ***findingcommongroundfdl@gmail.com*** or call the church office at (920) 922-7211

Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Will Provide

Missions Highlight: **LOCAL**

ADOPT-A-SOLDIER & THE GIVING TREE

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT THE GIVING TREE)

Adopt-A-Soldier

Beginning Nov. 1st there will be a tree set up in the narthex for our men and women in the service. We are collecting items again this year to bring a little holiday spirit to them as they are away from their families, and need to feel the love of Jesus and family back home.

Be sure to keep your items small (travel sizes) as they are easier to pack. Also, be sure to include a letter with your gifts. If you want to write a letter to a specific soldier we will be sure it gets in their packages. We are asking each Discipleship class if they would be interested in having their kids write a letter or draw a picture. It's also a great opportunity for small groups to work together to create their own care package for a certain soldier.

We will supply boxes and will be taking care of shipping. We are again looking for people interested in baking cookies to go with packages. 1 Corinthians 9:7 says: **"For God loves a cheerful giver."**

If you feel like you are unable to shop but still would like to get involved, we can have someone shop for you or you can give a monetary donation to help with shipping if you prefer. Write a check out to church and mark as: Adopt a Soldier Project and we will take care of the rest. **The cost to ship one box is \$19.60 APO, In Country \$21.10.**

Please pick a tag off the tree in narthex (no need to register) and purchase items and return them (with the tag) to church by **Nov. 29th**. If you choose to bake cookies they need to be returned to church by **Nov. 29th**. Please place your items in the trunk or under the tree in the narthex.



***If you have a loved one serving,
please call the church office with
their name and address or contact
Bonnie Springborn
(coordinator) via email
bonnbonn1@charter.net
or the church office at
(920)922-7211 or
office@gracechurchfdl.org***

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kind
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could
see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more
So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping silent alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.

His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean
shaven, his weathered face tan,
I soon understood this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night
Owed their lives to these men
who were willing to fight.
Soon 'round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate
on a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my Corps."
With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I watched him for hours, so silent and still,
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket,
the one made of red,
And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,
With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered
on back.

And although it barely fit me, I began to
swell with pride,
And for a shining moment, I was United States Army
deep inside.
I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a
voice so clean and pure,
"Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!

The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

My yellow #2 soft lead pencil with an orange eraser...

Kind of a different start for an Anchor. I was thinking about my days in grade school and high school when I used the pencil I mentioned above. There wasn't anything better than to break out a brand new bright yellow pencil. Each classroom had a pencil sharpener where you could take that beautiful new pencil and sharpen it to a fine point.

If you made a mistake writing with it, there was that orange eraser on the end that allowed you to erase your mistakes. After you erased however, there always was a smudge left on the paper, so your mistake was never completely erased.

I thought about our Father in heaven and God's big eraser that He uses to erase away every sin we commit. He completely removes it, with no sign that our sins were ever committed. I John 1:9 tells us ... *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* God's forgiveness is smudge free. In Hebrews 10:17 He promises ... *"I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."*

When we live with Christ in our hearts, God is faithful to forgive and forget. And when you and I have completed our earthly journey, God brings us home. As God erased every sin, He promises never to erase our names from His "Book of Life". For Jesus promises in Revelation 3:5 ... *"Everyone who conquers will be clothed in white, and I will not erase his name from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and His angels ... THAT HE IS MINE!"*

One of God's Greatest Gifts...

God has given each of us many gifts over the years we have walked this earth. As I look over the landscape of the years he has given me, I see His hand in each day of my life. Today I want to tell you that God is about to give you one of your greatest gifts-- He is giving you ... TODAY. God is giving each of us an opportunity to live today however we see fit.

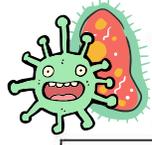
Someone once said ... "If you live each day as if it were to be your last ... someday you'll most certainly be right." If you slept 8 hours last night it means that God has given you 960 minutes, that's 57,600 seconds in this new day. This new day didn't come with instructions on what we are to do, or how we are to live. No, God gave complete control of this new day and the choice on how we are to live it to each of us. He is giving each of us an opportunity to live today however we see fit. An interesting question then is, *how will we live today?* Better yet, *how would we live today if we knew that this was our last day?* The late Steve Jobs, founder of Apple once asked this ... "If today were the last day of your life, would you want to do what you're about to do today?" God certainly has left the choice up to us, yet I believe God will present each of us opportunities to go about doing His work, sharing with others His great love and salvation story. It is for you and me to recognize these opportunities, to make this new day a day to treasure and remember. God has given us this new day, and someday each of us will be held accountable for how we lived it. The Bible gives us the answer in Psalm 31:14-15 ... *"I trust in You Lord, I say ... 'You are my God ... my times are in Your hands.'" I can assure you, that if we live this new day with this verse in mind ... this might be the very best day you and I have ever lived.*

I pray Lord, that each of us might recognize the fact that You are in control of everything that will happen today. We ask for grace, courage, and strength to do Your will, that we might experience Your presence in everything that will transpire, and that all we do will bring You glory and praise.

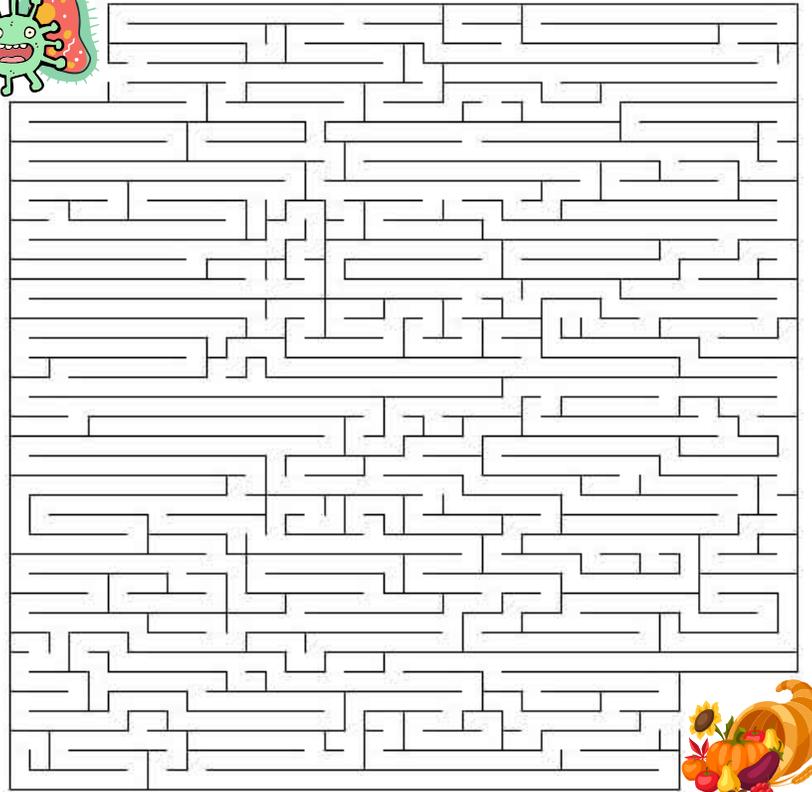
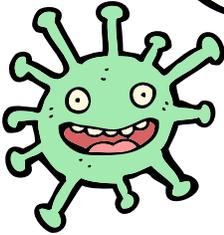
Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!

ENJOY SOME
THANKSGIVING
FUN!

Happy
THANKSGIVING



Escape the crazy
virus & make it to
Thanksgiving!



Give Thanks

WORD LIST

- BIBLE
- JESUS
- CHOCOLATE
- LIFE
- CRANBERRY
- LORD
- FOOD
- MERCY
- FRIENDS
- PETS
- GIFTS
- PRAYER
- GOD
- PUMPKIN
- GRATEFUL
- REDEMPTION
- HEALTH
- SPIRIT
- HEAVEN

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



163 18th Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 office@gracechurchfdl.org
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:
 Sunday mornings at 7:45am & 10:15am
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.
All meet at Grace Church building

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Barry Vegter*

cell: 948-5702 email: vegter@gracechurchfdl.org

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.org

Family Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.org

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.org

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.org

Office Assistant - *Beth Rutherford*

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*

Pastor on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

		8:30/10:45
9/6/2020	\$4,285	80/25
9/13/2020	\$17,201	100/40
9/20/2020	\$3,280	97/37
9/27/2020	\$17,544	98/52

September Weekly Ave: \$10,577.50 94/39

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
 \$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$121,306

Year to Date Expenses \$126,613

Totals reflect September month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
November Words of Grace
 to the church office by **October 15th.**
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
 office@gracechurchfdl.org

Office Hours are:
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4:30pm
 Friday 7:30am-11:30am