2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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June 2017

Our calendar year is organized around the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and our Lord's Second Coming. If we were Jewish and had lived three thousand years ago, then our lives would have been organized around Jewish festivals. Passover would kick off the New Year followed immediately by the Feasts of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. Pentecost. Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles would take us through the rest of our year. Life without these celebrations would seem as hollow as a household that never celebrated Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthdays, the 4th of July, or the Superbowl. If one were to rob a family of these markers, then life would be stripped of so much joy, social anchoring, and all that attached us to the important elements of our Jewish heritage.

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, the Christian church began to grow subsequent to the Day of Pentecost. The early Christian church included both Jewish people and non-Jewish folks. It was a paradoxical blend of those who looked the part and those who did not. Pretend for a moment that you were a Jewish Christian from that first generation of believers. You had grown up with circumcision, Passover, the Day of Atonement, the Nazarite vows, and the whole nine yards of all things Jewish. Your Messiah has come and now His church is growing, but there is a nagging, writhing problem. In the back of your mind you can't shake this uncomfortable feeling that many in the community calling themselves Christians just don't understand anything Jewish. They eat the wrong kind of food. They are too

active on the Sabbath, and they sing the wrong kind of songs. Not a one of them knows a single word to any of the great Hallel! This is completely unacceptable. It is analogous to an "American" not knowing who George Washington was or what the Statue of Liberty looks like or who Babe Ruth played for. That kind of person is an American in name only. Similarly, these Gentile-Christians must be believers in name only because they don't know anything about Moses, the greatest and most famous of men from our divine past. Moses led us out of slavery from Egypt by means of a blood sacrifice that killed off our enemies and delivered us from Pharaoh. How can Gentiles understand the significance of blood and deliverance unless they are taught Passover? This is certainly the biggest problem but not the only one.

Right after Passover we Jews observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The removal of leaven from the home has for thousands of years reminded us of God's removal of the iniquity of our sins from the life of His people. These ethnic Christians, completely ignorant of this important aspect of our Messiah's deliverance, have no other method of learning about how God removes sin from the society of believers and how that removal directly connected with the bloody deliverance from enslavement. My frustration only grows as I think about the many wonderful years our families celebrated the Feast of First Fruits. Right on the heels of remembering the great deliverance and the "un-leavened" separation of sin, we always dedicated First Fruits. All of us observed this

"resurrection" as a finally freed people, by returning to God the first products of a new crop. There is simple no way for a pagan Christian to learn about the new, slavery-free existence, unless he is taught this wonderful Feast of First Fruits. Harvest time was more than an education in regeneration. It was a living apprenticeship, connected with the soil, from which emerged a wonderful gift offered back to God with praise and thanksgiving. For the first time (reenacted each year) we could offer to God something coming out of the ground made acceptable to Him through no merit of our own (our first good thing our first fruit).

Our Jewish calendar is so full of theological truths like deliverance from slavery, separation from sin, and the gift of a new life capable of pleasing God, that to call these non-Jewish Christians who simply believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ equal to us is more than insulting. It is dangerous, watered down, and flat out wrong.

If these three holy days were the sum total of our precious past, then I might not be so spun up because we could quickly get our indigenous brothers up to speed. But our church year isn't even half over. The Feast of First Fruits is followed by Pentecost! That's right. They call themselves Christians and don't know a thing about arguably the second most important event in the history of the world. Moses is most famous for the parting of the Red Sea, but that's just because of Hollywood. The real magic happened at the base of Mt. Sinai. The church was first born at the foot of that mountain. God called Moses up into the mountain and there gave him His law in a miraculous fashion. The people of God were constituted around this crucial event, the giving of the Ten Commandments.

That decisive moment is burned into the hearts and minds of every good Jew as the central event of salvation history (until, of course, the events of these last days). How can anyone in good conscience call themselves a Christian and not know about Moses and the Ten Commandments? The only way to inculcate the theology of God's laws, descending as if from heaven in the arms of God's greatest prophet, is to teach Moses.

Here are my complaints so far: 1) no knowledge of the connection between a lamb being sacrificed and escape from prison, 2) no understanding of how this deliverance is immediately connected with the removal of sin from the home, 3) no discerning and appreciation for the blessed concept of resurrection, and 4) no method of grasping the consuming fire that is God's holiness summarized in the Ten Commandments.

The church is growing so rapidly, and many people are hearing the message of Christ crucified for the sins of the world, but does this message contain all that is necessary? Is it not a bit watered down? You be the judge as I continue with another great moment in our calendar. The Feast of Trumpets.

The Feast of Trumpets is a highly underrated gem of a celebration. When the trumpet shall sound, we have all been taught, is the moment of God's final judgment. All nations will be summoned before His thrown, and the verdict will be read out loud. And what is that verdict? We win and our enemies lose! Who doesn't want to hear that year after year after year? The Passover lamb and the eight-day circumcision have been deeply pounded into our hearts and minds for centuries and so has this rehearsing of the sweet sounding proclamation, yes, a clarion shouting of

victory. The Gentiles know nothing of it. We win while Satan and his forces lose. There is simply no other way to drill this message home. We must bring our Gentile brothers into the Jewish world. How can the standalone message of Jesus, resurrected from the grave and ascended into heaven, capture the excitement and holy pride of hearing that your nation is unique and a people for God's own possession? We are the people He wants to trumpet. Just like a proud father saying, "Look at my kids." The Apostle Paul is leaving all this out. He is telling the Gentiles about Christ and Him crucified, but they have got to be given more! So, more is coming...

The Day of Atonement remains a favorite for many of us. As the calendar year winds down our most important representative, the High Priest, goes to a special place that none of us is allowed to see, eliciting faith, and there, blood is shed and the sense of collective forgiveness is nowhere more demonstrated. Even though unseen by our eyes, a different kind of vision is called upon to trust that God is true to His Word and promises to forgive us because of the sacrifice behind the veil. How are the souls of these poor Gentiles ever going to be anchored in certainty if they don't know about God's great Day of Atonement? Is the content of a great, mysteriously hidden sacrifice, taking place in the abode of God's holiest, captured by the message of Jesus dying on the cross? For the Apostle Paul's sake I hope so, but I would feel better about incorporating some Jewish festivals into their Christianity. Even if we just started with this last one, Tabernacles, it would be a step in the right direction. The Feast of Tabernacles is the last big celebration of the year. For forty years God demonstrated His special attachment to our ancestors by being visibly present in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Every year our families would spend a week hanging out together in a tent remembering the wilderness wandering and God's special presence in His Tabernacle. In America today many people do something similar when they go camping in the Sierra Mountains. It was during that week of Tabernacles that our folks would strengthen our understanding of the uniqueness of our nation as well as emphasis the arrival, not of a flame in our midst, but the person of the Messiah. How much is lost to those who only know of Jesus but have no other way of connecting who He is to the intimate, exclusive, and confidence-building presence that recalling Tabernacles imparts?

In summation, we are living in a time period when the message of God's salvation is spreading rapidly in the whole world and yet at the same time so many people are missing out on the theology of the following: 1) a vicarious sacrifice connected to blood, 2) an offering that removes sin, 3) a return to life, 4) the creation of a separated people under the umbrella of divine laws, 5) a victorious nation confident in the coming announcement of acquittal, 6) a forgiveness that is not only personal and individual but collective, and 7) God is with us, among us, yes, even in us. How can this wonderful comfort and theological abundance be found in connection with one man? How can Jesus be everything?

Does preaching Jesus and his life, death, and resurrection encompass everything contained in these seven feasts (not to mention the contents of the whole Old Testament)? It is as if these Apostles think that Jesus is every word from God the Father. Their preaching says that if one properly understands the life of this man from Nazareth, then everything God has ever said to us would also be comprehended. It is as if we are being told

that Jesus is every piece of the puzzle. Apportioned out over these many years (what we call Old Testament history), our heavenly Father has been construction a single image. Jesus is somehow the icon of God, His one divine event mediated through human diversity. God spoke in the Bible through a variety of prophets in many portions and in many ways. In each of these disclosures a different perspective of the person from Bethlehem has been revealed. Every time period in history has disclosed another facet of the work of Jesus. From the details of the first creation in Genesis to the life of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Jonah, and Daniel, a slowness of heart and dullness of mind is at work to not see the story of redemption in every detail. Every word of God has been tested by Him and has met the criteria of proclaiming the one message heaven has always been shouting.

Iesus is our Passover. He is also our separation from sin, our un-leavening, our rebirth, our first acceptable self. He is our divine law, not just thunderously given but perfectly kept. He is our resounding victory on the last day. The Day of Atonement has always been the moment Jesus cried, "It is finished." It is no longer us who live but Christ who lives in us. That proclamation is the consummated Feast of Tabernacles. Christ is the whole ball of wax. He is the beginning and the end. He is the first and last letter of everything God has spoken. If you try to take Jesus out of the Bible you will have nothing left. If you try to find anything other than Christ in the Bible you have fabricated something from your own imagination. Paul and the other Apostles got it right. Jesus, in all his fullness, encompasses every last feast, regulation, ritual, wisdom, poem, promise, from the Old Testament. Finding something other than Christ in God's Word is an inherent contradiction because Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is the whole shebang, the whole kit and caboodle, the complete shooting match. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, all things have been created through Him and for Him. For by Him and through Him and to Him are all things. This is Paul's way of saying there is nothing else. Jesus is all things Jewish.

Next month Pastor Martin Noland will be arriving to serve us here in San Mateo. When I was three years old, he was my older brother's best friend. I tagged along as they played hide and go seek in the church parking lot. Years later the Reverend Noland was the first person to introduce me to Greek, and he was the first teacher to show me the Scriptures from a Christ-centered perspective. If you don't like this kind of cover letter for *Grace Notes* and the idea of encompassing everything inside of the person and work of Christ, then blame him when he arrives.

God's continued richest blessings as we await the arrival of a truly wonderful shepherd who will keep before our minds eye the comfort and blessing of our greatest Shepherd.

In Jesus' name.

Pastor Frank J. Balgeman

# Lutheran Women's Missionary League



### **Grace LWML Mission Statement**

"Our mission is to encourage the women Word and Sacraments that they may serve our Triune God with their time, talents and treasures."



"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Upcoming Dates:

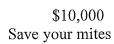
2016-2018

**Mission Grants** 

9. Hmong Joy of Harvest Ministry

> St. Paul's Lutheran, Merced, CA







No quilting in June



## **LWML National Convention Ingathering**

Any items you can provide, please put in marked box in Parish Hall.

Twin-sized Sheet Sets (new and in package)

Quilts (60" x 80" preferred, but all sizes welcome)

Children's Underwear (Items should be new and in sizes for pre-school to middle-school aged kids.)

Gift Cards (\$10 or \$25 amounts recommended to Walmart, K-Mart, Kohl's, or JC Penney)

### Items for babies:

8-12 disposable diapers (Newborn or Size 1)

Wet wipes

2 sleepers (Size 0-3 or 3-6 months)

2 daytime outfits (Size 0-3 or 3-6 months)

2-3 pair of socks

1 fleece blanket

Baby wash

Baby lotion

1 baby washcloth

1 baby toy

1 gift for Mom (toiletry or personal)

Christian book or tract

Items for Health Kit:

Washcloth

Full-sized bar of soap

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Comb

Christian book or tract

Shampoo

Items for school kit:

Spiral notebook or lined paper

6 pencils

3 pens (blue or black)

Ruler

Blunt scissors

Washable Markers or Crayons

Glue sticks

2 folders

Eraser

Children's Bible



It is an honor and a privilege to introduce to you the '16-'17 GLS Graduates!

### "ANTHONY"

It has been 10 long will cherish each and experienced.

I'm so grateful to have friends. I also am have pushed me and best.



years here at Grace and I every moment that I have

such great teachers and thankful for my parents who supported me to be my

It's sad to know that we 8th graders are heading off to high school to start a new chapter in our lives. At the same time, it's exciting to start a new journey in our lives for each and every one of us.

I want to thank all my teachers for being patient with me and for teaching me to the best of my abilities. I still remember to this day, the award ceremony that took place on the last day of the 6th grade. I was waiting to be called but was not. Then soon after, Miss Schultz went up to the podium and did announce my name. That was a great feeling to not be forgotten and to have been acknowledged.

I will miss all the sports I have played here at Grace and also all the track meets each year. To all my friends and to all my teachers here at Grace, I hope to run into you all in the near future.

Good luck to everyone in whatever you all decide to do. Thank you again for everything you all have done for me.

God bless you, Anthony Landaverde

### "JOSHUA"

Thank you, Grace Lutheran School,

I would like to thank the congregation members for supporting this great school.

I want to thank the current and past teachers of this great school: Mrs. Kilcullen, Mrs. Stanley, Ms. Schultz, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Meier, Mr. Meier, Ms. Holthaus, Mr. Sandoval, Mrs. Bethke, Mr. Bethke, Teacher Barbara, and Vicar Maggard. I would like to thank my current teacher, Mr. Doody, for easing my transition into Grace, and being a great all-around teacher. I also would like to thank Mr. Brauer for becoming a fantastic new principal at our school. I want to thank the other classmates in the class of 2017 for welcoming me into this school, despite my having joined late.

May God bless the future graduating classes of Grace Lutheran School.

Go Eagles, Joshua Frojelin



### "ELI"

Wow! Eighth grade year already!

I remember coming here nine years ago thinking, "Why am I here? I don't know anyone!" There are a lot of people to thank.

First of all, God for giving me the chance to go to this school and learn. Next, would be my parents for pushing me to be my best and always being there for me no matter what.

It all started with Miss Solum for being my kindergarten teacher and making my first year fun.

Next would be Miss Shultze who was my 1st grade and 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Meier was my 3rd and 4th grade teacher (and thanks for putting up with me). She made it an amazing year. Thanks to Mr. Brauer for coming out of nowhere and becoming our principal and being our Religion teacher. A huge thanks for Mr. Doody for being my 7th and 8th grade teacher, my varsity Basketball and Volleyball Coach, and making all of my classes fun (especially for taking me to Out Door ED and making my last years here amazing). Next, to Mr. Rico for taking the time to coach my Basketball team and making it a fun time. Thanks to Ms. Holthaus for coming in mid-year and becoming our PE teacher. And finally, to Vicar Maggard, for teaching Latin for my final year at Grace.

Blessings, Eli Angelich

### "MATHEUS"

Time sure flies, doesn't it?

I still remember the first day of Kindergarten. I remember Kindergarten graduation, then 1st grade, and then 2nd, and then 3rd, and now I'm here celebrating the next chapter of my life.

Grace has been a rollercoaster. These 9 years went by so slowly and yet so fast at the same time. All the way from my Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Solum, to my 1st and 2nd grade teacher, Ms. Schultze, to Mrs. Meier, to Mr. Meier, to Mr. Doody, to my guru, Mrs. Killcullen, to the one I've known the least, Mrs. Stanley. Thank you all for helping me and this school.

It's hard to believe that I'll have the title of, "Freshman, 9th grader, noobie."

Also, a big thanks to those I call the "original four."

Eli, Alex, Anthony, and myself.

Thank you all. Ciao!

-Matheus Ribeiro Souza





### "ALEX"

Hello,

I cannot believe that I am writing my 8th grade letter already. My journey through Grace Lutheran, all nine years of it, has been amazing. It has been a great ride through all of my years here at Grace. I have met so many great and genuine people here and have made so many great friendships.

First, I would like to thank God for all the blessings He has given me, for keeping me in the Faith and guiding me to be the person I am today. To my family, thank you for the endless guidance, love, support, and for sending me to this great school. I would also like to thank the teachers and faculty for their efforts and for the countless hours they dedicate to me and all students here at Grace. A special thank you goes out to all the teachers who have taught me. Mrs. Solum, thank you for teaching me the alphabet and how to read in kindergarten; Miss Schultze, I am lucky to have had you for both 1st and 2nd grade, thank you for all the super fun classes. Mrs. Meier, 3rd and 4th grade would have never been the same without you and I am not the same because of you; whenever I hear about UNI, you are the first person I think of, and I'm glad your Cubs finally won a World Series...finally! Mr. Meier, where do I begin. Oh yes, Go Giants!! Thank you for being such a devoted teacher and principal, you truly went above and beyond for your students and inspired us to grow as children of God. Mr. Doody, there is so much to say but such little space left. Thank you for your patience in Math, and for answering my endless number of questions. I will definitely miss your stories during class. Pastor Froh, Pastor Carver, and Mr. Brauer, thank you for teaching me the word of God and helping me grow in Faith.

I would like to give a special shout-out to my brother Jose-Alberto who is my role model, my coach, and my hero. I love you brother. To my classmates, Joshua and Mikey best of luck to both of you in 8th grade next year. Now, to my fellow graduates: Ju-Won and Joshua, I haven't known you for that long, but it feels like I've known you for years. You two have been great friends, thank you for all the laughs and memories. Anthony, Eli, and Matheus, I've known you three since the beginning of time. You three helped shape my experience at Grace; you three are some of my best friends. Eli, well you're still stuck with me. I'll see you at Serra! Good luck to everyone next year, and enjoy it! **GO EAGLES!!!** 

Blessings to All, Alejandro "Alex" Sandoval



I'm thankful for many things.

I'm thankful for the open arms when I arrived to this school.

I'm thankful to the teachers who were so passionate of teaching me new things.

I'm thankful for God that He made this transition as easy as possible. I could go on forever but I won't.

In one year, I feel like my relationship with everyone has grown so much that it feels like we've known each other forever. When I came here, I was, of course, nervous. I was perplexed by the new rules we had to follow such as school uniform, extended care, one-period classes, recess, and some others.

Thanks to all the special people in the school that helped me adapt to the new things by being considerate of my questions.

The fun I had here was extremely awesome. For example, Outdoor Education was awesome. I had gone to someplace similar for Outdoor Ed in my elementary years. When it ended, I was so depressed that I had trouble thinking about it without laughing and crying at the same time. Yet when I came to this school, my dream of going to someplace like that again became true. The place elated me to the point where I couldn't get any happier. Yes, I've had some problems, but all the good things cover all that. Sometimes I regret that I didn't come to this school earlier because the experience that I had here overjoyed me. Sadly, this short year has come to an end.

My time here will always be an important part of my life.

Thank you, Ju-Won Lee



Oh, sing unto the Lord a new song! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

June 2017

Psalm 95:1

SAT	હ	10	17	24	
FRI	2	ത	16 Jerry-Sandra Means Howard-Donna Menche	23	30
THU	_	8 Robert-Veronica Crews	15 Art-Barbara Hayame	22	29 Nathaniel Bannister
WED		7	14. Miriam Hitzeman	21 Doreen Johnson	28
TUE		6 Alice Bo- erschinger	13	20	27
MON		ις	12	19 John-Stefanie Kilcullen	<b>26</b>
SUN		4 Judy Boyd	11 Glenn McEnroe	18 Joy Hayame	25

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
			8	9:00a-Welcome Amigos		1:00p-Evelyn Jones' Memorial Service
				4:00p-Senior Choir		
4	2	9	7	8	6	10
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sundav School			8:35a-Chapel/Kids of the Kingdom		10:00a-Kindergarten Graduation Noon-Closing Service 8th Grade Graduation	9:00a-PTL Workday
10:30a-Adult Bible Study				4:00p-Senior Choir	12:45p-GLS Dismissal	
3:00p-installation: ine Rev. Dr. M. Noland				6:00p-8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Dinner	GLS Last Day of School	
11	12		7	15	91	17
9:00a-Worship Service						9:00a-Planning Council
10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		4:00p-School Board		4:00p-Senior Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	15/3/4/3/ 7/3/4/3/3
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study				4:00p-Senior Choir		9:00a-Bd. of Lay Elders Meeting 10:30a-Gen. Society
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:00a-Worship Service 10:15a-Sunday School				6:30p-Senior Choir		

# JUNE 2017 PRAYER PAGE

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. ~Galatians 6:10

Flora Lisa Vasilescu Mamie Zimbelman Octavian Vasilescu famaray Starling Martin Udisches Christine Ullrich Chandler Young Michelle Sterner **Eugene Zahnow** Dimitry Spencer Doris Tirschwell Jeann Udisches Diana Vasilescu Randy Wimmer Zachary Ullrich Jacquelin Soals Rebecca Young Joan Weckerle Sandra Sterner Darryl Sterner Rowan Young udy Zahnow Caden Young Logan Young Peter Spittler Stacey Soals Barb Smoot Dave Smoot Paul Soals Hans Tuft Mark Tuft Gina Tuft Sue Tuft Hannelore Siarkowski Elizabeth O'Donnell Kathleen Ramirez Roberta Robinson Michelle Semmler **Detlef Siarkowski** Amanda Moreira Martin Semmler Howard Menche Michael Moreira Charles Schaefer Donald Schaefer Daniel Semmler Doug O'Donnell Patty O'Donnell Maria Schaefer Jonna Menche Daniel Menche essica Shanks Fred Robinson Scott Semmler Pamela Nelson Julia Semmler Michael Saber Sandy Shanks Molly Munson Floyd Oatman Caroline Nagy George Melke Akram Saber Ghada Saber Daniel Saber Mia Moreira Gil Ramirez Heather McLaughlin 3arbara Kilpatrick Marilyn McKenna Steve McLaughlin Miriam Hitzeman Katarina Johnson Stefanie Kilcullen Michael Kilcullen Mariko Ishikawa Amanda Koester Ooreen Johnson Alison McEnroe Glenn McEnroe Alexis McEnroe fames Kilcullen ance Johnson Fred McKenna Yuzo Ishikawa Katie Kilcullen John Kilcullen Sandra Means Ruth Klingner Michael Innes Heather Iocco Gesine Kruse **Dolores Keim** Ryan Koester Jonald Iocco Robert Innes Shirley Innes Faye Koester Ko Ishikawa 3ill Koester John Iocco udy Iocco 3ob Keim Rev. Glenndon Genthner William Gangelhoff Shirley Gangelhoff Charlotte Custino Angelique Gomez Anjanette Gomez **Brooke Genthner** Hannah Hayame Barbara Hayame Darren Hayame fames Graziano Shelly Franquez Arthur Havame arry Franquez Chad Franquez Nick Franquez Natalie Dubbel Herlin Gomez Celeste Crews Robert Emery Fim Hayame Robert Doody oy Hayame Maria Eggert Pam Frisella Carly Eppler Doris Emery Alex Gomez Clara Crews Sara Eppler Roger Guse Abby Hahn Oan Hahn ori Hahn Bob Egan Bill Eng Rev. Frank Balgeman Nathanael Bannister Katherine Brownlee Chandler Balgeman Alice Boerschinger Rev. David Carver Valerie Balgeman Marcus Brownlee Jolene Crawford Adele Bergstrom Veronica Crews William Bethke Scott Brownlee **Mike Bannister** Fami Bannister Klavton Brauer Marilyn Baillie Paul Brownlee Samuel Carver Nathanael Bell ois Brownlee Phoebe Carver Jordyn Brauer Robert Crews Susan Bethke Justin Brauer Karla Brauer Bella Archer Kay Bell, Jr. Fred Brauer Kelli Carver Ellen Bordy Kay Bell, III John Bordy Egon Adam Judy Boyd