

# Grace Notes

2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403

Grace Lutheran Church & School

Vol. 65 No.2

March 2020

## MARTIN LUTHER ON GOOD WORKS

Lutherans around the world are still celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The first big celebration was in October 2017, when we celebrated the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Each year since that time has offered some events in Luther's life that are worth remembering: 2018 – the April 1518 disputation at Heidelberg; 2019 – the July 1519 debate between Luther and Eck at Leipzig. This year, 2020, brings a number of key events worth recounting: June 1520, issuing of the papal bull against Luther; August 1520, Luther's treatise *Address to the German Nobility*; October 1520, Luther's treatise *The Babylonian Captivity of the Christian Church*; November 1520, Luther's treatise *On the Freedom of the Christian Man*; and December 1520, Luther's burning of copies of the papal bull and the canon law.

A lesser known event was the publication in May 1520 of Luther's *Treatise on Good Works*, which he began work on five hundred years ago, in March 1520. Luther had been accused by his enemies of antinomianism, i.e., that his stress on justification by faith alone would lead to a neglect of good works and virtue, and a parallel rise of lawlessness, license, and immorality. Princes, theologians, pastors, and laymen who were sympathetic to Luther's criticism of the papal church were concerned that Luther's doctrine of justification would be misunderstood and distorted by his followers or others less under his influence. Thus this treatise was his first attempt at a full development and explanation of the Lutheran doctrine of justification, and it succeeded in that attempt in many ways.

The May 1520 treatise can be found today in translation in volume 44 of *Luther's Works: American Edition*, pages 15-114, which we have in our church library. Here are some excerpts from the beginning of this treatise, still as relevant as ever for the Christian faith and life:

"The first thing to know is that there are no good works except those works God has commanded, just as there is no sin except that which God has forbidden. Therefore, whoever wants to know what good works are, as well as doing them, needs to know nothing more than God's commandments. . . . When the young man in Matthew 19 [:16-22] asks what he should do to inherit eternal life, Christ sets before him nothing else but the Ten Commandments. Accordingly, we have to learn to recognize good works from the commandments of God, and not from the appearance, size, or number of the works themselves, nor from the opinion of men, or of human law or custom, as we see has happened and still happens because of our blindness and disregard of the divine commandments."

"The first, highest, and most precious of all good works is faith in Christ. As it says in John 6[:28-29], when the Jews asked him, "What must we do, to be doing the good work of God?" Jesus answered,

“This is the good work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” Now when we hear that or even preach it, we pass over it; we think nothing of it and think it is easy to do, but actually we ought to pause a long time and think it over properly. For in this work all good works exist, and from faith these works receive a borrowed goodness.”

“We find many who pray, fast, establish endowments [for monasteries, schools, and churches], do this and that, lead a good life in the sight of their fellowmen, and yet, were you to ask them if they were quite certain that what they were doing was well pleasing to God, they would say no. They do not know, or at least are uncertain. And there are some very learned men who lead them astray and tell them it is not necessary to be certain of this, and yet these learned men do nothing else but teach good works. . . . Now take careful note. All these works go on apart from faith; therefore they amount to nothing and are absolutely dead, . . . therefore their works are pointless and their life and goodness all amount to nothing. This is the reason that when I exalt faith and reject such works done without faith they accuse me of forbidding good works. The fact of the matter is that I want very much to teach the real good works which spring from faith.”

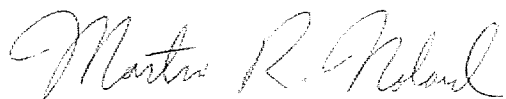
“If you ask further whether they consider it a good work when a man works at his trade, walks, stands, eats, drinks, sleeps, and does all kinds of works for the nourishment of his body or for the common welfare, and whether they believe that God is well pleased with them, you will find that they say no, and that they define good works so narrowly that they are made to consist only of praying in church, fasting, and almsgiving. The other things they consider as worth nothing and think that God attaches no importance to them.”

“It is from faith as the chief work and from no other work that we are called believers in Christ; but to trust firmly that he pleases God is possible only for a Christian who is enlightened and strengthened by grace. That these words seem strange, and that some people call me a heretic because of them, is due to the fact that they have followed blind reason and heathen ways of thinking.”

“Thus a Christian man who lives in this confidence [of faith] toward God knows all things, can do all things, venture everything that needs to be done, and does everything gladly and willingly, not that he may gather merits and good works, but because it is a pleasure for him to please God in doing these things. He simply serves God with no thought of reward; content that his service pleases God.”

[*Luther's Works: American Edition*, volume 44, pp. 23-27]

Yours in Christ, Pastor Noland

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin R. Noland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Pastor Noland".



Zone 8  
California-Nevada-Hawaii  
District

LWML

CALIFORNIA~NEVADA~HAWAII ZONE 8 ~ SPRING GATHERING

March 21, 2020 ~ 9:30am

Grace Lutheran Church 2825 Alameda de Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA

## **Serving the Lord in Gladness**

Our Guest Speaker will be from:

The **Bethesda Auxiliary** is a network of people brought together to provide spiritual and financial support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Auxiliary's mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities in partnership with Bethesda Lutheran Communities. The talents of more than 3,400 men, women and youth create connections—in the church and in the community—that help the people Bethesda supports pursue their faith.

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Martin Noland Grace Lutheran Church ~ San Mateo

Registration: \$15.00 ~ BYOB Lunch ~ Dessert Provided

# Prayer Page

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

Egon Adam	Charlotte Custino	Donald Iocco	Doug O'Donnell	Hans Tuft
Bella Archer	Robert Doody	Heather Iocco	Patty O'Donnell	Gina Tuft
Marilyn Baillie	Natalie Dubbel	John Iocco	Elizabeth O'Donnell	Mark Tuft
Patricia Bailey	Bob Egan	Judy Iocco	Gil Ramirez	Sue Tuft
Richard Bailey	Maria Eggert	Ko Ishikawa	Kathleen Ramirez	Martin Udishes
Rev. Frank Balgeman	Doris Emery	Mariko Ishikawa	Fred Robinson	Leann Udishes
Valerie Balgeman	Bill Eng	Yuzo Ishikawa	Roberta Robinson	Christine Ullrich
Chandler Balgeman	Sara Eppler	Lance Johnson	Akram Saber	Zachary Ullrich
Mike Bannister	Carly Eppler	Doreen Johnson	Ghada Saber	Octavian Vasilescu
Tami Bannister	Larry Franquez	Katarina Johnson	Daniel Saber	Diana Vasilescu
Nathanael Bannister	Shelly Franquez	John Kilcullen	Michael Saber	Flora Lisa Vasilescu
Mike Beebe	Nick Franquez	Stefanie Kilcullen	Maria Schaefer	Joan Weckerle
Jolene Beebe	Chad Franquez	Katie Kilcullen	Martin Semmler	Randy Wimmer
Kay Bell, III	Pam Frisella	James Kilcullen	Michelle Semmler	Caden Young
Kay Bell, Jr.	Shirley Gangelhoff	Michael Kilcullen	Scott Semmler	Rebecca Young
Nathanael Bell	Rev. Glenndon Genthner	Barbara Kilpatrick	Daniel Semmler	Chandler Young
Adele Bergstrom	Brooke Genthner	Bill Koester	Julia Semmler	Logan Young
William Bethke	Alex Gomez	Faye Koester	Sandy Shanks	Rowan Young
Susan Bethke	Anjanette Gomez	Ryan Koester	Jessica Shanks	Eugene Zahnow
Alice Boerschinger	Angelique Gomez	Amanda Koester	Detlef Siarkowski	Judy Zahnow
John Bordy	James Graziano	Glenn McEnroe	Hannelore Siarkowski	Charles Zimbelman
Ellen Bordy	Roger Guse	Alison McEnroe	Ethan Smith	Mamie Zimbelman
Judy Boyd	Dan Hahn	Alexis McEnroe	Dave Smoot	
Fred Brauer	Lori Hahn	Fred McKenna	Barb Smoot	
Karla Brauer	Abby Hahn	Marilyn McKenna	Paul Soals	
Jordyn Brauer	Arthur Hayame	Steve McLaughlin	Stacey Soals	
Justin Brauer	Barbara Hayame	Heather McLaughlin	Jacquelin Soals	
Klayton Brauer	Tim Hayame	Sandra Means	Dimitry Spencer	
Paul Brownlee	Darren Hayame	George Melke	Tamaray Starling	
Lois Brownlee	Joy Hayame	Molly Munson	Darryl Sterner	
Marcus Brownlee	Hannah Hayame	Caroline Nagy	Sandra Sterner	
Scott Brownlee	Miriam Hitzeman	Pamela Nelson	Michelle Sterner	
Katherine Brownlee	Richard Hoffmeister	Rev. Martin Noland	Chris Strom	
Robert Crews	Theresa Mui	Karla Noland	Brett Toensing	
Veronica Crews	Robert Innes	Renee Noland	Anne-Marie Toensing	
Clara Crews	Shirley Innes	Heidi Noland	Brooke Toensing	
Celeste Crews	Michael Innes	Floyd Oatman	Ryan Toensing	


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# School News

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## MARCH 2020- DATES TO REMEMBER

10	PTL Meeting (6:30pm)
12	3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Drama 'Sherlock Holmes' (10am & 6pm)
13	JK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Drama 'Show Me the Honey' (10am & 6pm) Pizza & Movie Night (6:45pm)
16-20	Achievement Tests (Grades 1-8)
20	PTL Movie Night (6-8p.m.)
27	Quarter 3 Ends (No School-In Service)

Great things are happening at  
 **Grace Lutheran School**  
A Junior Kindergarten – 8th Grade Christian School since 1958



[www.gracelutheransanmateo.org](http://www.gracelutheransanmateo.org)

2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 345-9082

## Grace Lutheran School is a Hidden Gem of Peninsula Private Schools

Intimate, vibrant and diverse, Grace is a special place to send your child.


Our Full-day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs prepare students for elementary school and results in earlier development of reading, social and learning skills.

Our State-of-the-Art Computer Center and Robotics Program prepares students for our high-tech world, and our Spanish Language Program builds minds.

Small Class Size is Important at Grace. All students receive the attention they deserve, no matter their educational level.

Grace Lutheran School Graduates excel in top public and private high schools and many enroll in top colleges.

Student who transfer to Grace at any grade level, find it to be a place to improve and excel.

 Grace Lutheran Church & School



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# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:30a-Anniv. Cmte.	8:35a-Chapel  7:00p-Lenten Vespers	11:00a-organ practice 2:00p-GLS Library		9:00a-Senior Choir
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:40a-Partners in Worship Choir Sings 9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:15a-School Board 10:30a-Anniv. Cmte. 6:30p-PTL Meeting	8:35a-Chapel  7:00p-Lenten Vespers	10:00a- 3-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Musical 11:00a-organ practice 2:00p-GLS Library 6:00p-3-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Musical	10:00a- JK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Musical 6:00p- JK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Musical  6:45p-PTL Movie Night	9:00a-Senior Choir
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:30a- Circuit Pastors Meeting  5:00p-Elders meeting 7:00p-Planning Council	8:35a-Chapel	11:00a-organ practice 2:00p-GLS Library		9:00a-Senior Choir
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		<b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:30a-Anniv. Cmte. 12:30-3p-Quilting	8:35a-Kids of Kingdom  7:00p-Lenten Vespers			9:00a-Senior Choir  10:30a- Genealog. Society <b>Daylight Savings Time</b>
29	30	31				
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:30a-Anniv. Cmte.				

# March 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Pam Nelson			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Scott Brownlee	Jordan Brauer					Barbara Hayame
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Mike Bannister Hannah Hayame				Darryl-Sandra Stern	Octavian-Diana Vasilescu	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				