



Vol. 62, No. 9

November 2017

## *Sanctorum Communionem* – The Communion of Saints

The month of November begins with the festival we call “All Saints Day.” The Apostles’ Creed refers to the saints with the phrase *sanctorum communionem*, usually translated as “the communion of saints.” What does this word “saint” mean? “Saint” simply means someone who is holy. Those in heaven we know to be holy simply by their presence there, but what about those on earth? Who on earth is holy enough to be considered part of the communion of saints?

To answer that question we need to ask “What makes someone holy?” Is it some lifelong dedication to a way of life or pious personal devotion? No, **it is Christ who makes us holy**. In his commentary on First Peter, Martin Luther explains that we must accept that we are holy by the blood of the Christ.

For it would be the greatest slander and blasphemy of the name of Christ if we refused to honor Christ’s blood for washing away our sin or refused to believe that this blood makes us holy. Hence you must believe and confess that you are holy, but by this blood and not by virtue of your own piety (*Luther’s Works* 30:7).

We also find the following passage from Luther’s 1531 Galatians commentary in which he reflects on his view of saints:

When I was a monk, I often had a heartfelt wish to see the life and conduct of at least one saintly man. But meanwhile I was imagining the sort of saint who lived in the desert and abstained from food and drink, subsisting on nothing but roots and cold water. . . . But now that the light of truth is shining, we see with utter clarity that Christ and the apostles designate as saints, not those who lead a celibate life, are abstemious, or who perform other works that give the appearance of brilliance or grandeur, but those who, being called by the Gospel and baptized, believe that they have been sanctified and cleansed by the blood of Christ. Thus whenever Paul writes to Christians, he calls them saints, sons and heirs of God, etc. (*Luther’s Works* 27:81-82).

As you look about the congregation you belong to, do you see a “holy” Christian church or do you see a congregation riddled with all sorts of sin and all types of sinners? If you live on this earth you see the latter. We look around in our congregations and see people who gossip, lie, steal, who are unfaithful, misuse the name of God, etc. Does that mean you belong to the wrong congregation and should think about changing churches for one that is **really** holy? If there ever were such a holy congregation free from such sins, it would be polluted by **your** presence and then cease to be holy. Luther states:

Therefore we correctly confess in the Apostles’ Creed that we **believe** in a holy church. For it is invisible, dwelling in the Spirit . . . therefore its holiness cannot be seen. God conceals and covers it with weaknesses, sins, errors, and various offenses and forms of the cross, in such a way that it is not evident to the senses anywhere. Those who are ignorant of this are immediately offended when they see the weaknesses and sins of those who are baptized, have the Word, and believe; and they conclude that such people do not belong to the church (*Luther’s Works* 27:84-85).

How then do we know if we are in a congregation which is part of the “holy Christian church, the communion of saints” if we cannot see it but can only believe it? The Augsburg Confession Article VII clearly answers this question: “The Church is the congregation of saints (Psalm 149:1) in which the Gospel is purely taught and preached and the Sacraments are correctly administered.” If you seek the “communion of saints” here on earth, go to the place where the Gospel and Sacraments are rightly taught and administered. You may not be able to see it but **you may be certain it is there**.

Yours in Christ,

(this article is based on a similar article by my college and seminary classmate, and long-time friend, the Rev. Roger Gallup of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, River Grove, Illinois).

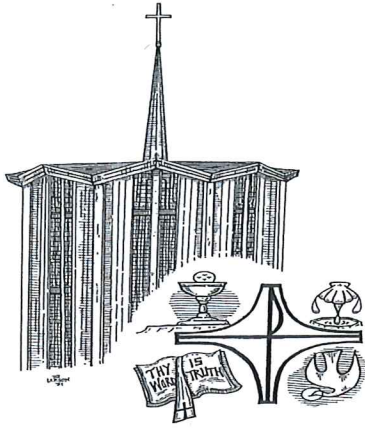


Dear Members of Grace,

10-15-17

Thank you very much for all the wonderful gifts we received through the Welcome Basket, for the reception at my installation, and your warm welcome to me and my family. I look forward to seeing you all with the Word + Sacraments in Jesus' name!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Monte R. Nohel



# A Dedication Celebration

Sanctuary: 50 Years

Pipe Organ: 25 Years

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Grace Lutheran Church

2825 Alameda de las Pulgas

San Mateo, CA 94403

9:00 a.m. Divine Service

10:30 a.m. Bible Class

12:00 Noon

Potluck Luncheon

Church Office 650-345-9068



## MESSAGES FROM MATONGO FROH'S NEWSLETTER September 2017

**"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers into His harvest field." Luke 10:2**



Arriving back in Kenya on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August we tended to some necessary business at the Government office in Nairobi; we finished the process of getting the Alien Resident Card for Charles and the Dependent Status document for Janet.

Classes began for us on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This semester Jan is teaching 4 Classes plus sewing and Charles is teaching 5 classes and directing choir.



Above is the current student body and faculty of Neema Lutheran Theological College. The faculty is seen in the first and second rows; one notable addition is the Rev. Jonathan Clausing. Missing are the pastoral and deaconess students on internship and Georgia Witt our Librarian.

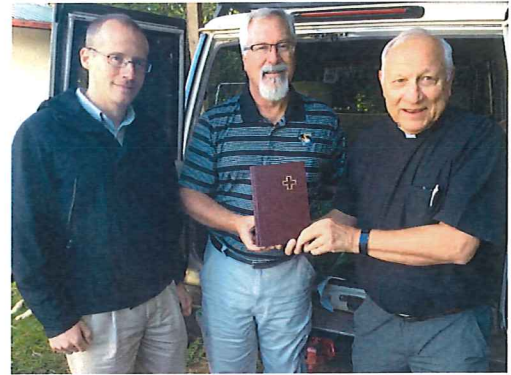
A wonderful tradition of confession, repentance, and faith is seen in the pictures below. After the Divine Service, moving in a circular manner, every participant greets every other attendee with a handshake and the blessing of Christ's peace. This semester we have students from many different tribes in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Ethiopia; what a blessing to learn to confess and "same-say" as one in the Lord's church. (And quite a challenge to teach.)





Continued thanks to all those who have contributed to the "Sewing Project"; it continues "onwards and upwards" with the deaconesses making curtains for both their own and the men's dormitories. Our new Principal, Dr. Tom Omolo, was excited to have them put their new skills to work for the benefit of the college! We continually need more material, thread, zippers, buttons etc., new machine belts, oil, and needles (as we do break a few every week!) Please remember us in your giving and know we are very grateful for your support.

In July, Pastor and Karina Von Hindenburg invited us to speak at Good Shepherd, Inglewood and not only donated banners for our chapel but sent copies of the LSB for use in Kenya. The books arrived this week through the efforts of Rev. Jon Clausing, and Rev. Jeff Kuddes LCMS missionaries who brought the books from Nairobi. Next month you will follow the journey into some of the English speaking Services of a few of the congregations in the Lake Diocese of the ELCK.



Thank you Trinity Congregation, Sacramento! Your gift of \$1,000 for books and materials are in the hands of students, being used, treasured and appreciated! Asante Sana; Mungu akubariki (Many thanks; God bless!)

Saturdays can be busy too; speaking to a group of women at a church near Sondu in Magar Parish.



If you desire to financially support our work in Kenya you may send a tax-deductible contribution/gift to: The Lutheran Church-Mo Synod, PO Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Make checks payable to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and memo: "Support of Charles Froh." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page @ [lcms.org/froh](http://lcms.org/froh).

**Prayer requests:** ELCK leadership and church body; NLTC faculty and staff; LCMS International Board of Missions another round of peaceful elections in Kenya; for daughter Rebecca Armstrong continuing her treatment for MS; for God's continual grace as we serve Him in our Calling in this place.

**Thanksgiving:** All of our partners & prayer partners in mission; faithfulness in our vocations; faithful students; for Gospel freedom during this 500<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and  
to sing praises to your name,  
To declare your steadfast love in the  
morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Psalms 92:1-2

# November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Patty O'Donnell	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Dolores Keim
12 James Kilcullen Marty Udishes	13	14 Maria Schaefer	15 Shelly Franquez	16	17 Octavian Vasilescu	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Elizabeth O'Donnell Don Schaefer	25 Scott Semmler Nick Franquez
26	27	28	29	30		

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# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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## 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”**



Mission Project Work Day

Tuesday, November 28, 1917

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Dolores Keim's Home

Upcoming dates:

December 10, 2017 – GLC LWM:L Christmas Luncheon - see separate page

**2016-2018**

### Mission Grants

10. LINC Bay Area  
Theological Training  
Zone 2

LINC Bay Area  
Hayward, CA

\$20,000  
Save your mites





GLC LWML Christmas Luncheon  
Sunday, December 10, 2017  
12:00 Noon – Grace Parish Hall

Everyone Welcome!  
Men, Women, Children  
Grace Members  
Grace School Families – Friends

Save the date, watch for more  
information





LIBRARY CORNER

220.9 Reader's Digest -- ATLAS OF THE BIBLE

Grand and glorious events placed in their proper geographical and historical context. Accompanying maps put the beloved and well-known Bible stories within a framework. This book should be a companion to the Bible.

232.9 Paul Maier -- IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME

A historian looks at Christmas, Easter, and the Early Church. This narrative sheds a new light on the life of Jesus and the adventures of the courageous men and women who carried HIS message throughout a hostile empire.

248.4 Eugenia Price -- LEAVE YOUR SELF ALONE

The Author shows how self-centered believers have become and how this daily life can distract them from God. If we are wringing our hands in despair and self-attention, we don't have a free hand to reach for God's grace.

362.6 Louise Brindley -- THEY MUST HAVE SEEN ME COMING

Equipped only with courage, laughter, and down-to-earth common sense, Lou sets out to find a job. She works at a home where old folk are easily ignored. The main character comes through as a compassionate woman with a core of steel and an unquenchable sense of humor.

783.9 Kenneth Osbeck -- 101 HYMN STORIES

Inspiring, factual backgrounds and experiences that prompted people to write hymns. The first hymn in the book is A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD.

973.09 Paul Boller -- PRESIDENTIAL WIVES

Many of the First Ladies played crucial roles as their husbands' helpmates. Some brought wealth and social status, others added learning and culture to their husbands' interest in politics. The women managed the household finances, supervised the children's education, kept everyone fed, etc. Lots of tidbits regarding the First Ladies.

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## School News

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**LOOKING BACK...**On October 5-8<sup>th</sup> the PTL joined with Scholastic Books to present the annual **Scholastic Book Faire**. This vast display of books offers school and church attendees the opportunity to support the Grace school reading programs right in your child's classroom! When you buy a book, a classroom benefits by earning credits to purchase books for the classroom! Teachers are able to select from the variety of titles to fill their shelves with 'fresh reads' for young minds. This partnership encourages reading for our entire Grace community (and makes for great Christmas gifts too!) What could be better than the gift of books or the gift of reading together with your child? As the saying goes, "thank a teacher if you are able to read this"...Grace thanks YOU, the volunteers and donors for supporting our reading programs at Grace!

**The Fall Festival and Silent Auction**, scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>, provides a fun-filled evening for all! With donations from our Grace and local community, and events such as the Donut-Eating contest, Chili-Cook-off and Cakewalk, how could you have anything but a fun time? Games of Football Toss and a giggle in the Bounce-House always promise to bring smiles all-around. Thank you to all who took time to solicit for donations, provided donations, and planned, participated, or attended the annual event! Sweet memories are in the making at times like these at Grace Lutheran School!

**EXTENDED CARE PLAYS GAMES** ~ Have you ever wondered why games and puzzles are played so much in the Extended Care Program? At all ages, games and puzzles are considered a fun pastime, but for younger ages, they serve to develop skills which relate to math, ordering, sequencing, as well as processing and motor skills. They help to build skills relating to object identification and short-term memory as well. Ask your Extended Care student if they can "Go Fish!"

**ALUMS GIVE BACK.** From time to time, Grace alum return to share their time and talent with us. Our thanks to Tyler Pauly (*Class of 2016*), Alex Sandoval and Joshua Frojelin (*Class of 2017*), for helping in the classrooms in October! These contributions are a 'double win' as they earn high school credits and Grace is blessed by their contributions. It is always great to see 'one of our own' 'grace us' with their presence.

### WHEN DOES MATH BECOME HISTORY?

On November 3rd, the first quarter of the school year comes to an end and with it comes First Quarter Report Cards! For you 'math wizards', that means that 25% of our school year is 'history'! Make your minutes count and your memories last! Keep up the great effort!

### NOVEMBER

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3 First Quarter ends
- 5 Partners in Worship – School Choir sings  
Meet in the Parish Hall at 8:45 a.m.
- 10 Veterans' Day  
No School & No Extended Care
- 14 P.T.L. Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 20-22 District Teachers' Conference
- 23-24 Thanksgiving break  
No School & No Extended Care

**DID YOU KNOW...?** In Western Civilization, **All Saints' Day** (also known by some as All Hallow's Day or Hallowmas) is celebrated on November 1. All Saints' Day is a Christian festival which is celebrated in honor of all the saints, known and unknown; living and deceased.

The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church Triumphant") and the living (the "Church Militant"). This is ultimately a celebration of Christ's victory over death.

At Grace, we often sing a hymn entitled "For All the Saints" which speaks to those unnamed saints who, as Church Triumphant, reap the benefit of residing with our Lord in heaven, singing glorious songs of praise!

**JOIN US** for our Chapel services normally held each Wednesday at 8:35 a.m. in the Sanctuary. On the last Wednesday of each month, the Chapel service is called 'Kids of the Kingdom' and is held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend school chapel at either location!

**THANK YOU TO ALL...**who support Grace Lutheran School. Thank you for entrusting your children to us!



Grace Lutheran Church & School

## NOVEMBER 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

Egon Adam	Robert Innes	Howard Menche	Dave Smoot
Bella Archer	Shirley Innes	Donna Menche	Barb Smoot
Marilyn Baillie	Michael Innes	Daniel Menche	Paul Soals
Rev. Frank Balgeman	Donald Iocco	Lisa Mull	Stacey Soals
Valerie Balgeman	Heather Iocco	Molly Munson	Jacquelin Soals
Chandler Balgeman	John Iocco	Caroline Nagy	Dimitry Spencer
Mike Bannister	Judy Iocco	Pamela Nelson	Peter Spittler
Tami Bannister	Ko Ishikawa	Rev. Martin Noland	Tamaray Starling
Nathanael Bannister	Mariko Ishikawa	Karla Noland	Darryl Sterner
Mike Beebe	Yuzo Ishikawa	Sarah Noland	Sandra Sterner
Jolene Beebe	Lance Johnson	Renee Noland	Michelle Sterner
Kay Bell, III	Doreen Johnson	Heidi Noland	Brett Toensing
Kay Bell, Jr.	Katarina Johnson	Floyd Oatman	Anne-Marie Toensing
Nathanael Bell	Bob Keim	Doug O'Donnell	Brooke Toensing
Adele Bergstrom	Dolores Keim	Patty O'Donnell	Ryan Toensing
William Bethke	John Kilcullen	Elizabeth O'Donnell	Doris Tirschwell
Susan Bethke	Stefanie Kilcullen	Gil Ramirez	Hans Tuft
Alice Boerschinger	Katie Kilcullen	Kathleen Ramirez	Gina Tuft
John Bordy	James Kilcullen	Fred Robinson	Mark Tuft
Ellen Bordy	Michael Kilcullen	Roberta Robinson	Sue Tuft
Judy Boyd	Barbara Kilpatrick	Akram Saber	Martin Udisches
Fred Brauer	Bill Koester	Ghada Saber	Leann Udisches
Karla Brauer	Faye Koester	Daniel Saber	Christine Ullrich
Jordyn Brauer	Ryan Koester	Michael Saber	Zachary Ullrich
Justin Brauer	Amanda Koester	Charles Schaefer	Octavian Vasilescu
Klayton Brauer	Gesine Kruse	Donald Schaefer	Diana Vasilescu
Paul Brownlee	Glenn McEnroe	Maria Schaefer	Flora Lisa Vasilescu
Lois Brownlee	Alison McEnroe	Martin Semmler	Joan Weckerle
Marcus Brownlee	Alexis McEnroe	Michelle Semmler	Randy Wimmer
Scott Brownlee	Fred McKenna	Scott Semmler	Caden Young
Katherine Brownlee	Marilyn McKenna	Daniel Semmler	Rebecca Young
Robert Crews	Steve McLaughlin	Julia Semmler	Chandler Young
Veronica Crews	Heather McLaughlin	Sandy Shanks	Logan Young
Clara Crews	Sandra Means	Jessica Shanks	Rowan Young
Celeste Crews	George Melke	Detlef Siarkowski	Eugene Zahnow
Charlotte Custino		Hannelore Siarkowski	Judy Zahnow
		Ethan Smith	Mamie Zimbelman

# November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			8:35a-Chapel	4:00p-Senior Choir		9:00a-Senior Choir
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00a-Divine Service (Partners in Worship/GLS Choir sings)		6:00a-Elections Precinct  9:00a-Adult Bible Study 10:00a-Anniversary Planning meeting	8:35a-Chapel			9:00a-Senior Choir
10:15a-Sunday School			4:00p-Concordia Univ. Irvine	4:00p-Senior Choir	<b>Veteran's Day</b> No School/No X-Care Office Closed	
10:30a-Adult Bible Study	13	14	15	16	17	18
		9:00a-Adult Bible Study	8:35a-Chapel			
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		6:30p-PTL Meeting		4:00p-Senior Choir		Noon-Senior Choir 1:30p-Ruth Klingner Funeral & Reception
Noon-Dedication & Potluck Luncheon	20	21	22	23	24	25
		9:00a-Adult Bible Study		10:45a-Thanksgiving Worship Service		9:00a-Senior Choir 10:00a-Bd. of Lay Elders Meeting
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study 2:00p-Circuit Forum		District Teachers' Conference No School/No XCare	District Teachers' Conference No School/No XCare	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> No School/No X-Care Office Closed	Thanksgiving Break No School/No XCare Office Closed	
	27	28	29	30		
		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 1:00p-Mission Service Project Day	8:35a-Kids of the Kingdom			
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study	7:00p-Planning Council			4:00p-Senior Choir		