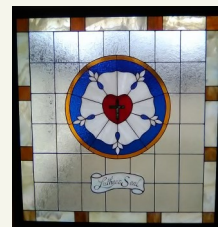




NEWSLETTER

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Grace Lutheran Church

Birthdays

10/01: Jo Hadley
10/06: Amy Garoutte
10/09: Harold Lampe
10/09: Nolan Black
10/14: Bobby Jones
10/20: James Gordon

Anniversaries

10/23: Vaughn &
Pam Bowling
10/19: Alan & Diane
Heisner
10/30: Tyler & Kacey
Wells

Comfort, Comfort



In our Wednesday evening Bible class we are studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). We are just wrapping up the "doorway" to the Sermon, the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). The Beatitudes are Gospel promises for Jesus' disciples – including you. Each one describes who you *are* because Jesus has called you. In each one, Jesus describes you as blessed and He gives incredible promises.

I want to focus on Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Disciples of Jesus mourn. We mourn over our own sin, over the brokenness and wickedness of the world, over death, and so forth. Of course, you also have moments, days, and seasons of rejoicing and goodness. But surely you can think of more than one occasion where you mourned (or are mourning) over the evil and brokenness in our world and in ourselves.

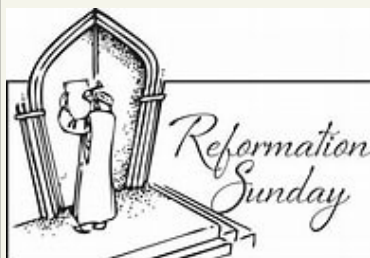
Jesus here offers a sure and certain promise for His disciples: Those who mourn (i.e., *you* who mourn), "shall be comforted." When will this happen? Well, of course, *right now* Jesus gives you comfort. St. Paul speaks of how God comforts the downcast and does so through fellow Christians (see 2 Corinthians 7:6-7). But in Matthew 5:4, Jesus speaks of a *final, full, and complete* comfort. He speaks of the comfort He will give you on the Last Day, when Jesus returns and makes all things right again. The book of Revelation gives us a beautiful image of this comfort: "They [Christians] shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17).

That picture in Revelation is a picture of that comfort: On that day, you will not hunger or thirst; God will shelter you; the Lamb (Jesus) will be your shepherd; God will wipe away all tears from your eyes – God will remove all cause for mourning! What amazing, beautiful, comfort God gives to you and to me even in the mourning of our lives!

As we go into October, November, and December, we are entering a season when we will be confronted with this comfort time and time again. In October, we will celebrate Reformation Day, which will remind us of the comfort of the Gospel. In November, we will celebrate All Saints Day, which will remind us that through Jesus *you* are a saint and you have a sure comfort.

Also in November is the Last Sunday of the Church Year, where we will reflect on the fact that Jesus will come again to bring you to Himself. And in December, we will of course celebrate Christmas, where we remember Jesus who was born to save us. Dear brother and sister in Christ, *you* are blessed, for *you* shall be comforted!

In Christ's Service, Pastor Heitshusen



HAPPENINGS AT GRACE

The 5th Sunday Potluck was held on August 30th.

There was a lot of good food and fellowship that was enjoyed by everyone who attended.



PROJECT RISE



A meal was served to the participants of Project Rise on Thursday, September 3rd.

Helping to serve the meal were Pastor Heitshusen, Teri Edigar, Kathy Holle and Edith Chambers.

