



Grace e-Notes for the Week of September 24, 2017

God of healing, we bring to you our prayers for the people and the places in this world where disasters have created pain and death. Bring hope to the people of Mexico, Puerto Rico, and all places where your children grieve. Use our gifts as signs of your presence and your care for these, our sisters and brothers in your eyes. Amen.

The designated offering for September is: Lutheran Disaster Response, our agency which brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Work is done in coordination with other relief agencies so that we all complement each other. Because our regular giving to the work of the ELCA provides for all of the administrative costs, 100% of the funds directed at LDR are put to use in relief. The work of LDR includes:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Thanks to the Grace Foundation, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2017. Please make your check to "Grace Lutheran Church" and add "LFS" to the notation line. You may place checks in the offering box or in the Church Office. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to Pr. Greg Mileski for preaching and presiding on September 24. His presence and his gifts are a gift to the community.

Rooted in Grace

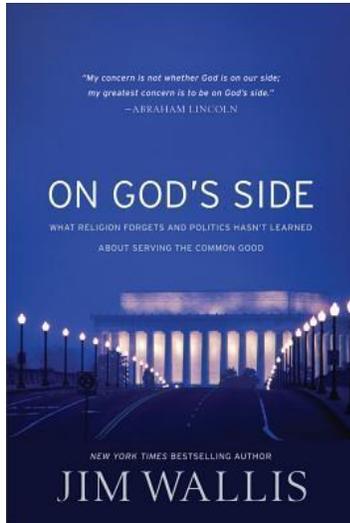


October 8

It's that time again!!! October 8th, 2017 from NOON-3pm at Grace. Brats, food, and a live oom-pah-pah band! BYOB this year, so bring your favorites and some to share. Join us in welcoming our

neighbors and visitors while we celebrate this tradition during the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. For members, we have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who would like to bring a side dish or dessert (for 10) and donations are welcome for the brats.

Adult Class Continues:— Kurt Lichtfuss leads the conversation at 8:45 am on “**Christ the Center**” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The five week class began September 17th, and it is not too late to join in! The class considers why we are Christian in a post-religious, scientific world. If you participated in Kurt’s class last spring, you know you will be gently challenged and greatly encouraged. Books are available in the narthex for \$10.



Grace Book Group: Grace's book discussion group continues on **Tuesdays, 11:45-12:45** with a brown bag lunch. The group is concluding *Science, Faith, and Ethics*. Starting Tuesday, October 3rd the group will begin reading *On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good* by Jim Wallis. Bestselling author, public theologian, and leading Christian activist, Jim Wallis speaks directly into our current context, revealing the spiritual compass we need to effect lasting change in our society. This book seeks to move beyond the current media and political warfare and bring together a divided country, exploring how Jesus's agenda can serve the common good, what it takes to sustain a lifelong commitment to social justice, and how reading the Bible as well as the culture can shape our lives for genuine transformation. Books will be available this Sunday.

Reaching Out in Christ's Love:

News from the Caribbean Islands, and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (9/25/17): Less than two weeks after [Hurricane Irma](#) rocked the Caribbean islands and the U.S. Atlantic Coast, Hurricane Maria tore through a similar path over the last two days. Many small Caribbean islands were hit a second time, causing more widespread damage.

[Irma and Maria](#) are among the most powerful storms ever recorded in the Atlantic, wreaking havoc across Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other locations in the Caribbean.

While [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) (LDR) staff are aware of significant destruction in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, reports of the extent of the damage have been scarce so far. Puerto Rico's power system is largely destroyed, meaning that millions likely won't have power for months. Parts of the island received nearly 40 inches of rain when Maria hit. The storm has contributed to at least 13 deaths there, according to the most recent estimates.

The storm has killed at least 30 people across the Caribbean, and the power grid on the islands of St. Thomas and St. John will reportedly have to be rebuilt.

LDR staff has been continually contacting colleagues, congregations and partners, and has received some communication from them since the storm made landfall.

Flooding in Puerto Rico

“Now I understand what catastrophic means,” said Idalia Negron, director for evangelical mission with the Caribbean Synod, in a message to LDR staff. “In the community of Levittown [in Puerto Rico], where more than 600,000 families live, people were taken out of their homes because of the opening of a dam in Bayamón.”

Héctor J. Camareno Ojeda, president of Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico, confirmed the destruction caused by flooding. “La Plata dam, located on the river of the same name, had to be opened to avoid overtopping,” he said. “Downstream-river municipalities like Toa Baja, Vega Baja and Dorado, that are mostly plain, suffered from the rushing water of the river to places never seen. The Levittown flooding happened because of this. Also, Toa Baja and Vega Baja had a higher percentage of wooden structures and poor communities.”

Ojeda shared that communities in his area were working to clean debris and roads, and reported long lines at gas stations and supermarkets. “There is a curfew until tomorrow and we are not supposed to be wandering around [because of] electric posts, cables and trees in the roads,” he said.

Curfews in effect on Virgin Islands

Albert Starr, ELCA director for ethnic specific and multicultural ministries, heard from Merle Malone, interim pastor of Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Thomas, that the island is under a complete curfew after flooding, power outage and the accumulation of storm debris on the roads.

“In spite of the curfew, Pastor Malone had made some limited ventures out to attend to congregation and community,” Starr said. “She expressed great concern that the anxiety, stress, grief levels and sense of loss are running extremely high.

“It is significant that as a caregiver and first responder, Pastor Malone expressed how good it felt to have someone on the phone just to listen, pray and affirm that she and others like her are not alone. I pledged our continued care, prayerful support and the assurance that our Caribbean Synod sisters and brothers are not alone.”

In a message to LDR staff, Junia John-Straker, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands, shared: “Unfortunately, St. Croix was devastated by Hurricane Maria. The island looks like a war zone.”

She said her local hospital sustained some damage, and some patients will need to be evacuated. In addition, senior housing in the area sustained roof damage to several of its buildings. “All our facilities here on St. Croix and St. Thomas will require some repairs,” she said. “We do have some employees with substantial losses at home. We were under a 24-hour curfew with everything shut down for the past two days, but today it is being relaxed for four hours, allowing people to go grocery shopping.

“It will take some work and some time to get us back. This was a rough one and I think the recovery is going to be hard and long.”

You may still contribute to Lutheran Disaster Response through Grace, and your gifts will be matched by the Grace Foundation. 100% of your gift is used for relief. All of the overhead costs are already paid by our regular offerings.



LCM Fundraiser: Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 30th** for the LCM beer tasting at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 3:00 to 6:00pm. Join in for good food, good beer, and lots of fun with fellow members of Grace and other ELCA Lutheran churches in the area. The price is \$30.00. Tickets can be purchased online anytime, payment by Pay Pal. Go to

www.lutheranbuffs.org and scroll down to the announcement for the beer-tasting, then click buy tickets now. Or you can purchase tickets by checks, payable to Lutheran Campus Ministry, from Patty Meyers.

Remember Harvest of Hope food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. Our donations make a difference for those who struggle to find food each week.

BACHTOBERFEST: BOULDER BACH FESTIVAL presents some of the world's most revered artists specializing in the expressive music of the Baroque. This program includes sacred texts sung by the great Dutch soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg. And, world renowned violinist and Juilliard faculty, Elizabeth Blumenstock is joined by musicians from Amsterdam, Basel, and Boston in a splendid program.

- **Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:30** at Boulder Adventist Church, 345 Mapleton Avenue.
- **Saturday, October 14, 2017, 7:30pm** at the Stewart Auditorium at the Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road.

Pre-concert lectures at 6:30pm. Tickets (General, Senior and Student) and All-Access Passes available at: boulderbachfestival.org and [720-507-5052](tel:720-507-5052).

From Lutheran Family Services:

Older Adult & Caregiver Services offers free monthly telephone conferences to answer your questions about aging, called Ask Your Care Manager. Join us on **October 11 from 12:00-1:00pm MST** for the conference titled **“Concerned about an Aging Family Member? When it’s Time to Step In.”** Most have experienced the moment when we realize our aging loved one has changed. Maybe they seem more frail or appear to be having a harder time getting around. How do you know whether they are managing well or may benefit from additional assistance?

Learn what signs to watch for that may indicate your loved one needs more assistance, and what you can do to address these concerns. **Registration is required:** sign up at www.lfsrm.org/programs-and-services/oacs/ask-care-manager/ or contact our staff at 303-217-5864 or 970-232-1180.

Older Adult & Caregiver Services offers free in-person consults to discuss **Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives**, such as Medical Power of Attorney and Living Will. We can help you understand your options, insure that your legal documents reflect your medical wishes, and get your directives completed and notarized. Don't put it off. Contact our staff to schedule an appointment at 303-217-5864 or 970-232-1180.

This Week at Grace

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Sunday, September 24

8:45am

10:00 am

7-9

Adult Forum, "Christ the Center"

WORSHIP followed by fellowship

Romanian Dancers

Monday, September 25

10-3

Office Administrator Hours

Tuesday, September 26

10-3

11:45 – 12:45

1-3

Office Administrator Hours

Grace Book Group

Valerie Hess organ practice

Wednesday, September 27

10:30 – 12:10

1:00 – 2:40

6:30 – 7:30

7:15-9:00

International English Center, Fellowship Hall

International English Center, FH

Confirmation class at Atonement Lutheran

Grace choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 28

9-12

10-3

LWR Quilting Group

Office Administrator Hours

Friday, September 29

1-3

5:30-7:30

9:30 – 11:30pm

Valerie Hess organ practice

AA Meeting

HA meeting

Saturday, September 30

9-12pm

Boyd Hamilton rehearsal

Sunday, October 1

8:45am

10:00 am

7-9

Adult Forum, "Christ the Center"

WORSHIP followed by fellowship

Romanian Dancers