

GRACELINES

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From our Pastor

God Provides (I Kings 17:8-16)

Rev. Michael Mueller

If you were to sum up the story of Elijah's life in just a few words, you would be hard pressed to find a better summation than this: God Provides! The story of Elijah is an incredible testimony to the faithfulness of the one true God—the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I've structured my message around six points on Elijah's story.

#1 — A Time Like Our Own

Elijah's time was just like ours: 1) God's people were ignorant of the Scriptures and indifferent toward God. (Hosea 8:12); 2) Those who did know the Scriptures did not live by them. (Ezekiel 33:31); 3) Their worship had become only empty rituals. (Isaiah 29:13); 4) They wanted to run their lives their way. (Isaiah 29:16); 5) Sin did not even seem "sinful" anymore. (Jeremiah 6:15); and 6) They had perverted God's good gift of sexuality. (Jeremiah 2:33).

#2 — He Was Just Like Us

Elijah's name means, "The Lord is my God." The New Testament says explicitly. James 5:17, "*Elijah was a man just like us...*" And this is point two: you get it, when you see that YOU are God's provision. See, Jesus didn't say in the Great Commission, "Go and make believers." He said, "Go and make disciples." He said He wanted people who are devoted to Him with their whole heart and with all their soul.

#3 — God Provides

If God said, "I'll feed you every morning and every evening" you know what I'd say? What about lunch?! But not Elijah! Because this Elijah had learned point number three: You get it when you accept that what God provides is all you really need.

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Gracelines Calendar and Gracelines are monthly publications of

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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School News



Grace Lutheran School's 60th Anniversary Activities are being planned for May 4 & 5

Friday, May 4, 6:00PM: PTL sponsored Benefit/Auction, Dinner, Fun Activities & Student music.

Saturday, May 5, 3:00 PM: Meet & Greet, Short Program, Finger foods, Alumni Activities (be sure and tell any alumni you know to come!)

Saturday, May 5, 6:00 PM Chapel led by alumnus; Rev. Jim Henkell, Music led by alumnus Terry Szalai.



Funding the Future!

We are now enrolling for next school year! You can help a student attend Grace Lutheran School by donating to the Scholarship Fund. Annual tuition is a little over \$5,000.

Continue praying that the Spirit will move the hearts of our families to yearn to hear more about Jesus' love, grace, and mercy.



Grace Lutheran School Celebrating 60 years in Christ-centered education; Building a legacy, one child at a time. That's My Brick! Celebrating, Memorializing and fundraising all in one. Order forms are available in the school office. Or Order online: www.ThatsMyBrick.com/Grace.



Grace Lutheran School is enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year. Please contact David or Chris in the school office 661-948-1018, principal@gracelancaster.org or school@gracelancaster.org for more information or a tour.

Church Happenings



From Stewardship:

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.



By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack.

I can almost hear it now: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” But our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

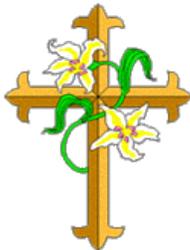
It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things.”

In His Service,
Lee T. Jackson

EASTER WORSHIP



SUNDAY ~ April 1
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Invite your family and friends
to worship our Risen Lord

EASTER BREAKFAST



7:15 TO 11:00 AM
Freewill donations
Donations & Help Are Needed
Check the display in the Parish Hall and
sign up to donate food or help cook & serve.
Contact Sandy Garland ~ 661- 406-3686

April Abundance Sunday Collection for Grace Resource Center is children and adult socks and underwear. Bring them to the narthex any time during the month of April.



Join or Help Support Our Relay for Life Team

Grace Lutheran Church & School will be having a team this year for the Relay for Life on **Saturday, April 28, 2017.**

Here are a few ways you can help:

- ◆ Sign up to be on the team
- ◆ Donate in Grace Lutherans name
- ◆ Buy a luminary bag in memory, honor or support for cancer care and research

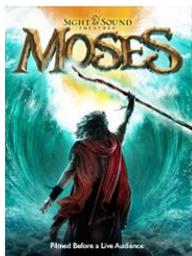
Restaurant Fundraising for Relay for Life

Panera Bread - 43458 10th Street West, Lancaster
Tuesday, April 10 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Vince's Pasta & Pizza – 2833 W. Avenue L, Lancaster
Tuesday, April 24 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.



Blood Drive Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 24** from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm at the AVOIC- Antelope Valley Outpatient Imaging Center (J-5 and 15th Street West Room 305) There will be a table set up in the Narthex for you to sign up. Thank you to all who have participated.



Mark Your Calendar for a Family Movie Night!
Friday, April 13 at 6:00 in the Parish Hall
Featured Movie: Moses by Sight & Sound. Filmed before a live audience.



Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, June 24

The Hanger ~ 45116 Valley Central Way, Lancaster
Please watch for more information in the weeks to come.



High Desert Lutheran Chorale Spring Concert
Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 PM at Grace Lutheran Church



The LWML MITE BOX

You can help support the LWML grants by bringing your Mite box filled to the brim any Sunday to the large Mite box in the Narthex.



Attention All Graduates! (High School, College, Proud Parents!) Please share with Teri in the church office information concerning you or your son/daughter's graduation and future plans. We would like to share and pray for their success and future.





Regular Voter's Meeting ~ Sunday, April 15
Following Worship Service
Revised Budget for August 18-July 19.
New voter's accepted at end of meeting.



LWML SAGE & SAND ZONE 20
2018 SPRING CELEBRATION
Saturday ~ April 14, 2018
Ascension Lutheran ~ Apple Valley
Cost ~ \$10 ~ Includes Lunch
Carpooling from Grace Parking Lot

Program: Rev. Clint Hoff
LCMS Pastor and former missionary to Czech Republic

Ingathering ~ Set Free Mission-Men's T-Shirts 2x or Larger (new or gently used) or a monetary donation.

Reservations to Dorothy Bromaghim or Teri in the Church office by Thursday ~ April 12



- May 4 GLS Annual Spring Auction
- May 5 GLS Alumni
- May 6 High Desert Lutheran Chorale Spring Concert
- May 20 Confirmation Sunday
- May 28 Memorial Day- Facilities Closed
- May 29 Preschool Promotion
- May 30 8th Grade Graduation
- June 1 GLS Last Day of School
- June 19 Blood Drive
- June 11-15 Vacation Bible School
- June 27-29 Pastor out of the office for the District Convention

Please watch for more information in the coming weeks/months on each of these events.

