



CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED MONDAY, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY Please join Pastor Jennifer in Connections at 10AM. This study will be on the Reformation using a video series.

GRACE GIRLFRIENDS will meet Sunday, September 13th in Holmer Hall, 11:30AM-2PM.

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS—Our core theological convictions when understood and articulated, instill confidence and courage to love and enjoy God more fully. Five centuries later, the voice of Martin Luther can still be heard. Join Pr. Jennifer beginning on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30PM as she explores weekly these theological convictions grounded in Reformation theology with a refreshing awareness that is intended to remind you of the way that Luther calls us to live out our Christian discipleship and share it with others. This class will also serve as our New Members Class for those joining in October. Email the church for more information.

Use this link to join this Zoom Meeting -
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882872850>

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED - Sunday, October 25th, Reformation Sunday, we will be welcoming new members to Grace Lutheran. If you are interested, please contact the church office for more information, 813.961.8747.

MUSIC GROUPS - Music groups have already started rehearsals, but it's not too late to join! All are welcome, and we are in specific need of Lower Voices (altos and basses), Guitarists, Drummers, and substitute Handbell players. Please see Lisa or Jim after church for more information.

Happy Birthday to our members and friends
who celebrate their birthdays in September!



You will notice there is no traditional Sunday school this year. In the past several years, that has not been successful due to low attendance. While fostering faith has always been the mission, doing

it the same way in a changing world is not the answer.

Jesus met people where they were—in their homes, at their workplaces, around tables, and along the road. As the church, we are called to do the same, listening carefully to the needs of our families and adapting our approach so that faith can grow in meaningful and accessible ways.

Our goal is not to preserve a particular program or tradition—it is to nurture faith and help children and families encounter Christ. If traditional Sunday School is no longer the best way to do that for many families, then listening, adapting, and offering new opportunities for faith formation is not abandoning our mission; it is living it.

When families tell us that a Children's Chapel during a portion of Sunday morning worship would better engage their children, we have an opportunity to respond with both grace and intention. Rather than expecting every child to learn and connect in the same way, Children's Chapel provides an age-appropriate space for elementary students, where they can hear God's Word, pray, sing, ask questions, and build relationships while still participating in the larger worshiping community. They begin worship with the congregation, leave after the Family Message if they want and are formed in faith in a way that meets their developmental needs, and return before the Peace, knowing they are an important part of the body of Christ.

Listening to families is an act of faithful stewardship. It demonstrates that we value relationships over routines and people over programs. By meeting children where they are today, we create a stronger foundation for lifelong faith tomorrow. We'll try this out this year and we hope you'll give your feedback along the way. It is always welcome.

Children's **CHAPEL** will begin on Sunday, September 20th.

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~ September 6, 2026