



# Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church  
and Preschool

## You're Invited!

Sunday, August 12, 2018

# CHURCH PICNIC

Food \* Games \* Fellowship

Join us for worship and stay for the fun!

Please sign up in the back of church  
if you plan to attend.

*Bring a friend!*



### WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE "HARD TEACHINGS"

*"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them." (John 6:35 EHV, see also verses 41, 48, and 51)*

*"When they heard it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?'" (John 6:60 EHV)*

**LORD  
TO WHOM  
SHALL WE GO?**  
YOU HAVE THE WORDS  
OF ETERNAL LIFE.

In the text quoted before, a long text which we'll be examining all through the month of August in worship, Jesus was most certainly teaching something that was hard for people to grasp. In fact, Jesus states a number of things that people found

What do you do when you come across a "hard teaching" of Scripture? In fact, what is a "hard teaching" in Scripture? Is a hard teaching one of those that is difficult to understand, like the Trinity? How can God be three-in-one at the same time? Or is a hard teaching one that flies in the face of society, that people find hard to swallow and follow, things such as what Scripture clearly says about marriage or abortion or church fellowship? Or is a hard teaching something else, something different, something indefinable? What is a hard teaching of Scripture? And what do we do with these hard teachings?

impossible to believe. And chief among those difficult teachings was this simple fact: no one can come to God by their own works; instead you can only come to God the Father by partaking of the Bread of Life, which is Jesus.

We have a simple word that we use to express that twofold truth—that you come to God not by your works but through faith in Jesus, the Bread of Life. We call that teaching the *gospel*. It is the good news that you are saved by faith in Jesus who is your one and only Savior from sin, the one who takes away your sin by dying on the cross. That's the gospel! It's simple!

**[This article continues on the next page.]**



Grace  
Lutheran Church  
and Preschool

1515 S. 15th Street  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821  
Church Office: 608-326-4899  
Pastor's Cell: 608-306-1011  
[www.gracepc.net](http://www.gracepc.net)

## WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE "HARD TEACHINGS" cont.

It's glorious! It's liberating! It's something to be believed and something to be proclaimed!

But you know what else the gospel is? It's difficult. It's not that it's difficult to understand. In fact it's so simple that a child can believe it! It's not that it's difficult to explain. Jesus died for the sins of the world. You can recount it in one sentence. It's that it's difficult to our sinful nature. It's difficult to believe. In fact, it's impossible to believe on our own.

You see, our sinful nature hates the gospel. It hates it to the very core. It doesn't want to hear about how desperately we need this good news of a Savior. It doesn't want to accept the life-giving truth that only in Christ can we receive all we need for eternal life. It doesn't want to hear that we can't add anything to our salvation, or that our works mean absolutely nothing when it comes to our standing before God. That's what makes the gospel difficult. That's what makes it a hard teaching. And it is such a hard teaching that it caused many of Jesus' DISCIPLES—not just

random people, but those who followed Jesus! (in addition to the twelve, of course)—to fall away and say, **"This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it!"** A few verses later, John tells us, **"After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore" (verse 65).** The gospel is a hard teaching that no one can listen to by nature.

But here's the joy of knowing the gospel: **"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27).** What an awesome miracle that God works in us! We call it faith—faith that believes this simple gospel message. It's that same miracle-worked faith that moved Peter to confess, **"Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69).** May God move us to confess this same thing. I'm looking forward to learning more about it in worship with you this coming month.

-Pastor Daniel Naumann

# Now Enrolling! 2018-2019



## Open House

Wednesday, August 29th ~ 4:30-7:30 pm

## News & Notes

- The "summer schedule" for **Sunday morning Bible class** will continue through August with 19-Minute Bible Studies every week following worship and fellowship. All ages welcome. Join us!
- The **WIGG group** will meet on Saturday, August 11th at 9:30 am at church for a Bible study and fellowship. We'll also help get the preschool room ready for the upcoming school year.
- Are you interested in **planning and organizing VBS 2019**? Talk to Pastor Naumann. Thanks!
- Join in the fun at Grace Lutheran's **Church Picnic** on Sunday, August 12th! Thanks to Steve & Laura Gress and Dennis & Connie Riebe for planning this special event. Meat and drinks will be provided; please bring a salad or dessert to share. For planning purposes, please sign up in the back of church if you plan to attend. Thanks!
- Your **Grace Lutheran Preschool** is excited for a new school year to begin on September 4th! Would you like to help at the Open House on August 29th or other ways during the school year? Please talk to Debi Bahlmann to get involved. Kwik Trip Scrip Cards are available again this year. Thank you for all the caps to the Kwik Trip Milk Moola program—they totaled \$169.
- Have you noticed some **capital improvements** in our church building? Check out the new flooring in the hallway! We're also planning on leveling out the step outside the entrance, updating the sheds, and installing new preschool playground equipment.



## Sunday School starts September 9th



## Bring a friend!