



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church
and Preschool

OPEN OUR EARS, LORD

³¹Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.

³²They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him. (Mark 7:31-32 EHV)



thought about with excuses such as these? The people who brought this deaf man to Jesus were looking for a drive-by healing—something common, something done before, nothing new. And we often treat Jesus' healing miracles the same. Nothing special, nothing new. We might as well be as deaf to the gospel as the man brought to Jesus. Couldn't Mark have simply summed it all up with, "And Jesus performed

Well, there's nothing to see here. I've heard this one before. Just another healing miracle by the God-man. It's not that special, not that unique, not that noteworthy. It's not like I could actually learn something from this particular section of the Gospel.

How many times hasn't Satan plucked the Word right from our ears with thoughts such as these? How many times hasn't our sinful nature stopped the Word from even being heard or

many miracles"? But he didn't. The Holy Spirit inspired him to write more. Every detail is divine. God longed for a relationship with his people. God longed to interact with sinners to make them sinners no longer. God longed for an opportunity to preach the gospel through his Son, not just to open ears to hear again, but to open ears to hear about
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OPEN OUR EARS, LORD cont.

sins forgiven by Christ. And so he longs to proclaim to us too.

In this unique healing we see the care and love our Savior has as he interacts with his people, looking not just to heal physical ailments, but to heal spiritual problems. He is looking to forgive sin. Our Savior longs to forgive us too. He looks for a way to open our ears to hear his gospel, to hear about sins forgiven. He never stops proclaiming, but remains faithful to his promises. Open our ears to hear the uniqueness of this gospel, O Lord. May it move us to praise you eternally.



**Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through your Word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;
Let me your child and heir remain. Amen.**

(CW 282:1)

PLATTEVILLE/LANCASTER VACANCY: CHANGES FOR GRACE IN PDC

Pastor Joel Voss of Faith in Lancaster and St. Paul's in Platteville accepted a divine call to serve as associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan. His last Sunday serving Faith and St. Paul's was Sunday, September 2nd.

Pastor Naumann received and accepted the call from the voters of the two congregations to serve as their vacancy pastor until a permanent pastor accepts the call to replace Pastor Voss. This means that Grace will have a slight change to their normal Sunday morning worship and Bible Class schedule starting on Sunday, September 16th.

Please keep Grace, Faith, and St. Paul's in your prayers during this time of transition.

TEMPORARY SUNDAY MORNING

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BEGINNING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

8:00—8:45: Sunday School & Bible

Class at Grace

9:00-10:00: Worship at Grace

10:15: Lay-led Bible Class at St. Paul's

11:30: Worship at St. Paul's



I rejoiced with those who said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Psalms 122:1

News & Notes

- The **WIGG group** will meet on Saturday, September 8th at 9:00 am at church to carpool to the Harpers Ferry boat landing for a Bible study and fellowship aboard Harold Miller's pontoon. (If you'd like to drive yourself, please meet at the boat landing at about 9:30 am.) Rain location: Church Classroom. Any questions? Please contact this month's hostess, Ruth Jacoby.
- Are you interested in **planning and organizing VBS 2019**? Talk to Pastor Naumann. Thanks!
- Your **Grace Lutheran Preschool** is excited for a new school year to begin on September 4th! Would you like to help in some way during the school year? Please talk to Debi Bahlmann to get involved. Kwik Trip Scrip Cards are also available again this year.
- The shelves at food pantries are often quite empty this time of year. Can you help fill them? The WIGG group will be **collecting items for the food pantry** in September. Healthy foods such as low sugar cereals, peanuts and peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruits (light syrup), dried fruits, 100% juices, soup, pasta and sauce are so appreciated by hungry families. "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." (Matthew 25:35). Look for collection boxes in the church entryway, September 2-September 23. Thank you!
- **Children's Choir** will resume during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 9th at 10:15 am and then the following weeks at 8:00 am. Talk to Liz Naumann with questions. Join us!



*Lord Jesus, teacher of the truth, keep
the light of Christian education
glowing in your church. With your
powerful Word, mold the intellect, will,
values, and habits of our children. We
seek these blessings in the hope that our
children and our children's children
may learn to know your name. Amen.*

Sunday School starts September 9th



Bring a friend!