



WORSHIP ADDRESS

Worshipping at the Natelli Family YMCA
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NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2022

A Lutheran-Episcopalian Ministry

HALLOWEEN THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR

SHOULD I BE AFRAID?

One dark Halloween night two guys were walking home after a party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery. When they got to about the middle of the graveyard they were startled and stopped moving. There was this terrifying noise, “TAP-TAP-TAP” coming from the shadows. Trembling with fear, they spotted an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones.

“Holy cow Mister,” one of them said after catching his breath. “You scared us half to death. We thought you were a GHOST! What are you doing working here so late at night?”

“Those fools!” the old man grumbled. “They misspelled my name!!”

Should we be afraid this Halloween? Are you afraid of the dark? Do you avoid black cats? Do you believe in ghosts, goblins, witches, the boogeyman, etc.? In the Middle Ages, people reasoned, a black cat crossing one’s path might be a witch or the devil in disguise, up to no good. While it is true that the devil is up to no good, he is not disguised as a black cat. He is cleverer than that.

II Cor. 11:14-15 “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness...” Satan may well appear as someone who appears godly or well meaning. Remember the likes of Prophet Jim Jones of the Guyana tragedy, or David Koresh of the Branch Davidians. Both of these men and many more gave a good appearance at one time, but could well have been in league with the devil!

What about those ghosts, goblins and the boogeyman in the movies? Personally I am not concerned about ghosts except for one, the “Holy Ghost.” Except that the Holy Spirit of God is not some kind of Holy Spook sent from God. The great commission tells us “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Godhead. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Holy Spirit even though we may not talk much about Him. When people put their faith in Christ and are baptized into Him, they receive the Holy Spirit into their lives as a gift.

A goblin is a grotesque elf-like creature of folklore, thought to work mischief or evil. Some of the Harry Potter movies have goblins in them. Goblins are also spoken about in literature, but are nowhere to be found on planet earth. How people come up with these evil little creatures is beyond my imagination. There are no literal goblins, but there is an evil spirit at work in this world! I Pet. 5:8-9 “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” Whenever we are ignorant of Satan and his schemes we become “sitting ducks” for him. Should a person be afraid of Satan? It all depends on who you are and how you are living. If a person is in Christ we have the power of God behind us and with us! Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world!

The boogeyman is an imaginary monster used to frighten children. There are some mean people out in the world but there is no true boogeyman! Even though there is no true boogeyman, there is a true Savior man! In the light of hurricanes, fires and earthquakes around the world many people are beginning to believe that the world is coming to an

end. Should we be worried? There will come a day, when God will call a halt to this world. But that is also the day when Jesus returns. I plan to rejoice.

Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." DO NOT BE AFRAID. If Jesus can make the wind and the waves obey him then surely He can save us eternally. Do not be afraid of the myths of this world. Do not be afraid of the Evil one. Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world!

Blessings and love,

Pastor Jones

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LIVING GRACE COUNCIL REPORT FOR AUGUST 9, 2022

A Living Grace Church Council meeting was held via Zoom, on Monday, September 19, 2022. Council members in attendance were Synodical Administrator Pastor Bob Harvey, Interim Pastor Doug Jones, Vicar Kris Roberson, Treasurer Mark Moser, Matt Travis and Secretary Chuck Hoffman. Christine Barnhart was unable to attend. Also attending briefly was Alejandro Meija. Pastor Harvey thanked our out-going Treasurer, Mark Moser, for staying on the job until we find his replacement. An amended budget was approved by the council. We remain under Synodical Administration, so the budget will be reviewed by our Synod and the Episcopalians before being presented to the congregation.

Our Synod is still working to find a new Treasurer. We are also actively searching for a new musician. Council also discussed the need to purchase computer equipment and a new music keyboard to replace personal equipment being loaned to Living Grace. The old keyboard, is a studio model donated by a former music director. It requires a sound board and external speakers. We may be able to sell it.

The next Living Grace Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 10/17/2022 at 7:00 PM. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

Note:

The best way to make your offering is online through the Living Grace web page at:

<https://www.livinggraceurbana.org/donations>

or if you prefer to mail a check made out to "Living Grace", please use the following address :

Living Grace
3520 Sugarloaf Pkwy
Suite F-03-58
Frederick, MD 21704

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GREATER URBANA AREA FOOD BANK – COLLECTION OCTOBER 2nd

Nana Prempeh, who is volunteering with us from Urbana High School, will be collecting urgently needed supplies for the Food Bank on the first Sunday of each month this Fall. Please bring any of the following that day:

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <i>Manwich</i> | <i>100% Juices</i> | <i>Tuna in Water</i> | <i>Mayo</i> | <i>Ketchup</i> |
| <i>Rice & Pasta Sides</i> | <i>Dish Soap</i> | <i>Comet Cleanser</i> | <i>Pump Hand Soap</i> | <i>Toothbrushes</i> |
| <i>Sugar</i> | <i>Flour</i> | <i>Salt & Pepper</i> | <i>Laundry Soap</i> | <i>Crackers</i> |
| <i>Ziplock Bags</i> | <i>Tomato Soup</i> | <i>Gluten free Snacks</i> | <i>Kitchen Bags</i> | <i>Cereals</i> |
| <i>Toilet Paper</i> | <i>Paper Towels</i> | <i>Coffee w/caffeine</i> | <i>Shampoo</i> | <i>Conditioner</i> |
| <i>Body Wash</i> | | | <i>Body Lotion (not heavily scented)</i> | |

THOUGHTS OF THE VICAR

“...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:30-31

To love God and our neighbor, this is what Jesus tells us to do. To say we love is the easy part; turning words into actions, service, and ministry is the part that so many in the church find difficult to accomplish. Nonetheless, that is our calling as Jesus followers and as a church: to love God and our neighbors in word and in deed. As we move toward the end of this church year and begin to consider what our church – as Lutherans and Episcopalians – looks like in the near future, how do you feel God is calling us to love our neighbors in Urbana, Adamstown, Green Valley, Monrovia and the surrounding areas? What services and ministry opportunities are there within the community that require addressing? Where can we as a people serve as the hands and feet of God here on earth? In the coming weeks, we will begin to unpack who we are as a church, and what it means to be the church as a place of welcome, a people of service, and a beacon of light and hope to the community around. As part of this process, I ask you to pray for guidance and direction; pray that the Holy Spirit may lead us as we seek and discern what it is and who we are called to be. How is it that we may live out God’s commandment to love in this time and in this place?

As St. Paul reminds us in 1st Corinthians, chapter twelve, we the church are many members but one – one is service, one in love, one in spirit. What part do you or will you play as a member of Christ’s church? Each person has been endowed by God with gifts and talents, how will you use that which is bestowed upon you for God’s glory; how will you let your light shine before others so that they may see God’s good works? As we move into the next few weeks, dutifully pray that God will empower each of us to live in bold confidence and to faithfully serve using the talents and gifts God has granted us. Perhaps you are a gifted baker and can whip up a batch of cookies for snack or to deliver as welcome gifts to visitors. Maybe you are blessed with the ability to perform great feats of math and could serve on our finance team or count the offerings weekly. Are you being called help set up and take down each week, moving chairs and setting the communion table? Love to sing or play an instrument? Share your talent during the worship service one Sunday. Where is it that God is asking you to be the hands and feet of the church? Together as one body, we are called to worship and serve together in community and togetherness, to support and uphold one another in sharing God’s “good news” to all around us. How will you help spread the Word and share God’s love with others?

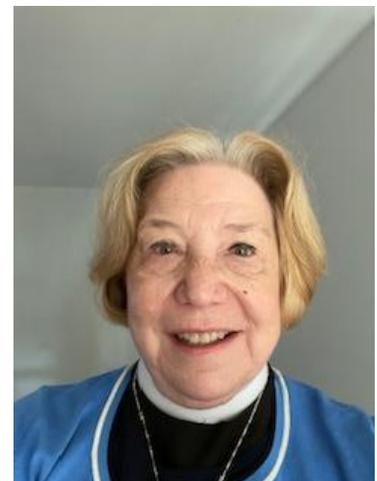
In Christ,
+Vicar Roberson

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SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER – OCTOBER 9

On Sunday, October 9th, we will be blessed with a wonderful guest preacher from the Episcopal Church, the Rev. Canon Mary Sulerud. Come and join us that morning at 9:30 AM.

Mary Sulerud is the Canon to the Ordinary to the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. In that ministry she works with congregations involved rethinking their property as a community-based asset, works with congregations that are conflicted, aids congregations to look outward in their understanding of their life and ministry, supervises some of the diocesan staff, as well as works in the area of clergy discipline. Among her assignments is working as part of the team envisioning the new faith community that is Living Grace as a joint Episcopal and ELCA ministry in Urbana. She has been a senior pastor, an interim pastor, a diocesan staff member in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and a congregational development consultant in the Episcopal Church in dioceses from Atlanta to Milwaukee, with most of her ministry focused in the mid-Atlantic in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland.



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ATTENDANCE JULY & AUGUST

Date	In-Person	Online	Totals
Sunday, August 7	21	49	70
Sunday, August 14	29	48	77
Sunday, August 21	25	34	59
Sunday, August 28	33	51	84
August Averages	27	46	73
Sunday, Sept 4	17	123	140
Sunday, Sept 11	23	57	80
Sunday, Sept 18	17	26	43

SERVING IN WORSHIP – OCTOBER

Please let Pastor Jones know if you wish to assist.

Assisting Minister

September 25 - Deacon Jim Pope
 October 2 - Ronnie Jones
 October 9 - Deacon Jim Pope
 October 16 - Robin Drummond
 October 23 - Hanna Jeffries
 October 30 - Anne Fix

Altar Guild

Diane Brown
 Linda Kuntz
 Steve Roth

Audio Visual

Brian Angelini
 Ray Kuntz

Cookie Brigade

Dana Burns
 Anne Fix
 John Jeffries

Counter

Robin Davis
 Chuck Hoffman
 Steve Silvious

Greeter

Nana Prempeh

Snacks & Hospitality

Anne Fix
 Jeanne Ruddock

Usher

Steve Roth

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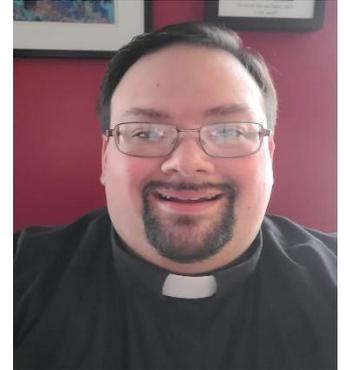
CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?

SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE



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Follow Vicar Kris Roberson on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @VicarRoberson



PRAYER LIST

Deaths

Ella Bresee
 Kathleen Kastama
 The Eyler & Walehiem Families

Illness

Jack H
 Linda Irving
 Allison Medrano
 Don McClain
 Judy McKnight
 Alex Roth

FALL CONGREGATION LUNCHEON

Members new and long term gathered at Pastor Jones' house on Sunday afternoon September 18th.



Good food, good friends and an amazing chocolate, chocolate, chocolate cake thanks to Nancy Miles.

The hippo scavenger hunt was won by Hanna Mills and Scarlet Roberson who spent much of the day exploring for hippos. Congratulations!