

## **Concordia Lutheran Church**

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"
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Precious Family of Jesus!

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

This is Paul's greeting to the congregations in Galatia. With this greeting, he presents the focus and message of Galatians, revealing the conflict between the Lord Jesus Christ and the "present evil age." This is a conflict that cuts through every human being, influencing families, friendships, places of business and across our county. We need to be delivered!

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is Paul's greeting to the church in Ephesus. Shorter and simpler, but no less powerful. Right after this greeting, Paul develops an affirmation of God's Grace and God's Peace. In my view, Ephesians 1:3-14 needs to be read, studied, taken-to-heart and turned-into-action. Over my years of pastoral counseling, I have encouraged many to read this meaningful paragraph, observing nearly miraculous personal transformations.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers, and sisters. Amen."

Simple, straightforward, necessary! This is how Paul closes the Letter to the Galatians. Having said what needed to be said, having taught what needed to be taught, having encouraged where encouragement was needed, and having corrected where correction was appropriate, Paul declares the "grace of the Lord Jesus."

Paul concludes Ephesians with "Peace be to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible." I desire the same for you!

Luv ya'!

**Pastor Craig** 

## **Happy August Anniversaries**

08/08 Andy & Sandra Hogrefe 08/10 Jon & Heidi Theis 08/10 Jeff & Mary Oamek

## **Happy August Birthdays**

08/01 Janice Theadore 08/03 Don Sherrod 08/08 Heidi Theis 08/08 Anna Schumacher 08/22 Dawn Moon 08/23 Ben Wharton 08/26 William McConnell



