

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

October 2025

The Reformation Begins

*For by grace, you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift
of God, not a result of works, so that
no one may boast – Eph. 8-9*

Many people throughout the nation will be celebrating Halloween on October 31. In my neighborhood, Halloween decorations are already in place at many homes and have been there for weeks. Clearly, Halloween is a big day for a lot of people. In fact, it is second only to Christmas in terms of spending. In 2024, Americans spent approximately \$11.6 billion dollars on Halloween purchases.

Personally, I'm not a fan of Halloween, but I do regard the day on which it is observed as an important day in Church history. For on October 31, 1517 the Protestant Reformation began in earnest when Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk, nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's act challenged the spiritual and political authority of the Roman Catholic Church and started a movement that reshaped the religious, cultural, and political landscape of Europe and beyond.

Luther's Ninety-five Theses was a scholarly critique of the sale of indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church. At the time Luther wrote the Ninety-five Theses, Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar, was aggressively marketing indulgences to fund the renovation of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. According to Tetzel, those who purchased an indulgence would receive remission of purgatory. Indulgences could also be purchased on behalf of dead relatives and friends who, according to Roman Catholic teaching, were then suffering in purgatory. Hence, Tetzel urged people to quickly purchase the indulgence, claiming, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs."

This was too much for Martin Luther, the professor of biblical studies at the University of Wittenberg, so by way of his Ninety-five Theses, he set out to expose the sale of indulgences as a contradiction of the gospel claim that salvation was a gift from God and not a commodity to be bought.

Although Luther wrote the Ninety-five Theses in Latin, intending them to be discussed by scholars and not circulated among the general populace, they were quickly translated from Latin into German and widely distributed. As he himself acknowledged, "In a fortnight they flew all over Germany." In fact, they traveled well beyond Germany, even as far away as Rome, igniting debate and dissent throughout Europe.

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For the next two decades, after the Ninety-five Theses were posted, Luther saw the Reformation grow. Many regions in Germany accepted the evangelical doctrines that he and other Reformers discovered in the Scriptures. During his lifetime, Luther wrote several Christian hymns, two catechisms, and a German translation of the Bible.

Ever mindful that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, apart from works, Luther preached and taught God's promise of redemption to the repentant sinner. On his deathbed he prayed, "O Lord Jesus Christ, I commend my poor soul to Thee. O Heavenly Father, I know that, although I shall be taken from this life, I shall live forever with Thee. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Father, into Thy hands I comment my spirit."

Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546, at the age of sixty-two. Four days later, his casket was carried through the door of Castle Church in Wittenburg, on which, more than twenty-eight years prior, October 31, 1517, he had nailed his Ninety-five Theses. Little did Luther realize the Reformation he would begin when he protested the sale of indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church. As one author writes, "Martin Luther's hammer strike echoed far beyond Wittenberg. It was the sound of a world waking up."

The
HEAVENS
declare the
glory of God;
the Skies
proclaim the work
of his HANDS

Psalm 19:1



***Thank you to
Duane Landry &
Chris Neusetzer for
cutting and burning
the huge trees in
back of the Manse.***



Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

"First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way."

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



Blessed
is the NATION
whose
GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12

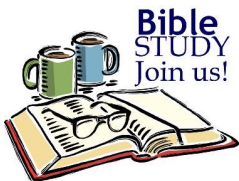
***The Lord's Supper***

will be observed on October 5 at the morning worship service.

Everyone is encouraged to be in prayer and repentance in preparation to partake in this holy sacrament.

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

Jeremiah 29: 12



**Please Join us every Wednesday
Time: 10:30**

**Where: Fellowship Hall
Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book
"Survey of the New Testament"
By
Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.**



Ladies
ministry

“Looking to Christ: The Book of Hebrews”
by Marci Ogrosky

Marci is a pastors wife, Mom, and has a degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Special Education. She is a down to earth writer that we have enjoyed learning from. Hebrews has 13 chapters, and encouragement is the heart of the books purpose. Jesus sanctifies us for the true worship of God, so that we draw nearer to heaven.

Please join us on the second Tuesday every month at 10am at Grace. I think you will enjoy Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with loving Christian women. Bring a friend if you like. If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison.

Pennies for Missions

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you’ve been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.

Calendar of Activities for the Month

Men of the Covenant: Thursday, October 2 at 1pm
Session Meeting: Sunday, October 12 at 12:00 pm
WIC Circle Meeting: Tuesday, October 14 at 10:00 am

Prayer for our Nation: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant **October 2** **New Time**

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant which will resume its monthly meetings every first Thursday of the month.

We will have a time of fellowship, food, and a devotion from the Word of God.

The men gather around 1:00p.m. for fellowship and the meal begins around 1:30p.m.

*“As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27: 17*

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, October 12 at 12:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler know.



OCTOBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	2 1:00pm Men of the Covenant	3	4
5 Communion	6	7	8 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	9	10	11
12 Session Meeting	13	14 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	15 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 10:00 Prayer for The Nation 10:30 Bible Study	30	31	

Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service

“Do not be
conformed to this
world, but be
transformed by the
renewal of your
mind, that by
testing you may
discern what is the
will of God, what
is good and
acceptable and
perfect.”

Romans 12: 2



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Grace Notes

Jesus and People

"Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

Jesus often stopped to talk with and care for people who had needs or questions—people who were poor, ill, or doubtful. This took a lot of time and energy. Jesus understood self-care and made time for prayer and quiet away from everyone, but he also made himself radically available to whomever he met.

Even as he prepared to ascend to heaven, Jesus promised to be with his followers. When Jesus gave his parting instructions, he did not abandon his disciples to the task, but rather said, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus has given us his Spirit to walk with us through whatever challenges we face. The Spirit is always here, God with us.

As mentors, we can't match the 24/7 availability of the Holy Spirit, but we can choose to give people high priority. Jesus made time for people and reminds us that whatever we do for others, we do for him (Matthew 25:40). In the Spirit of Christ mentors make themselves available to help others along the way.

May we be as ready to serve, guide, redirect, encourage, confront, teach, share, testify, question, understand, listen, advise, and mentor others as Jesus, by his Spirit, has mentored us. In the Lord's strength, are you available for others, and thus for him to work through you, today? -from *Today* devotional

Lord, give us the courage and strength to make ourselves available to others. May we invest in people's lives so that the name of Jesus is known throughout the earth. For Jesus' sake, Amen



October 2025



*The LORD your God is in
your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with
gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with
loud singing."*

Zephaniah 3:17