

First, We Give Of Ourselves

Giving in Grace



Commitment Weekend

Today is a day of thanksgiving at First Lutheran Church. We give thanks for the mission that God has given us and the hands to do this important and life transforming work. Through our ministry together, many lives are impacted with the love of Christ. What we do makes an incredible difference in the lives of our members and those of our community.

We also give thanks for the opportunity to share and grow in our gifts for ministry whether they be that of time, abilities, or financial resources. We have the important opportunity to indicate how we can share our gifts for ministry in 2018. In the sharing of gifts, we are saying “*thank you*” for God’s gifts of grace in Christ. Today, we bring our completed commitment cards forward and place them in the basket during the time of offering. Our “*giving in grace*” is an act of worship and also a practice of our deepening sense of discipleship and faith.

We hear in worship today a story of grace. The Parable of the Prodigal Son in the gospel of Luke is a story of grace and the joy of sharing grace. Luke shares this story to illustrate the completeness of God’s grace in Christ. God’s grace is a gift that is not limited in any way by the barriers we are so inclined to erect in life. Secondly, the grace given to the prodigal and his brother by the father has the same characteristic of the grace we receive from God in Christ. It is a grace that fully encompasses us as individuals and celebrates our being a child of God no matter the circumstances. Such is the abundant and rich grace of God. Thirdly, this is the grace in which we live each day. It is a grace that is life giving and full of surprises.

Thank you God for your abundant and surprising grace in Christ and giving us the mission to proclaim this gift of grace. Thank you too for the hands of faith and discipleship to do the work of your mission.

In Christ’s name we pray. Amen