



Happening in October

World Communion Sunday



Next Sunday, **October 3** at **10:30 a.m.**, we invite You to join us and Christians around the world as we celebrate World Communion Sunday.

We also will celebrate **St. Francis of Assisi** - the patron Saint of Animals. We will have an outdoor worship service in the beauty of God's creation. We also will be **Blessing the Animals** during worship. If you think your animals would like to be blessed, you can bring them to church; or you can always bring a picture of your animal if you think that would be best.

Please dress accordingly for the weather that early fall day, bring a chair or blanket to sit on, and come ready to hear about God's promise to all creation and receive the Holy Sacrament.

PLEASE JOIN US

Sunday, October 24

CONGREGATIONAL

MEE **TING**

Election of Officers for 2024



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

This offering will be taken on **Sunday, October 3**. Of the proceeds 25% will be given to Capable Canines of Wisconsin, Inc., a nonprofit organization that trains and places service dogs. They are dedicated to providing assistance and support to children and adults living with autism, seizures, diabetes, and physical disabilities.

Sunday School News

October

MEMORY
VERSE

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."
Ephesians 3:20*

Sunday School Mission Project 2021/2022 *Educate a Child ~ Transform the World*



For the 2021-2022 Sunday School year, the Mission for Sunday School first Sunday of the month and birthday offering was found in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog

where small gifts make a big impact.

The Educate a Child seemed very fitting for our children to support. The DREAM House provides mentorship and education to at-risk youth to help them become role models in their classrooms and communities.

The goal is to provide quality education for 1 million children in poverty through the "Educate a Child ~ Transform the World" initiative.

For more information please see the Sunday School bulletin board.



For more than 20 years, Grace Presbyterian Church has been filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC)!

We still have plenty of time to fill our boxes for OCC! Bring filled boxes to church and label with age group and boy or girl. Boxes will be dedicated on Sunday, November 14, and then brought to the collection point here in Winona. Our boxes will be joined with others from the mid-west and around the United States to be sent off to children around the world in over 150 countries. These children are suffering from natural disasters, war, poverty, illness, or neglect.

It has been 28 years since Samaritan's Purse began distributing OCC showbox gifts. Please pray that God will use OCC in a powerful way in the months ahead to bring the joy and light of Christ.

Session Summary

Session held its regular meeting in person on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, and approved the following items:

- ◇ To transfer \$500 from the Unrestricted Fund to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- ◇ To keep a balance of \$50 in the stock account in order to keep the account open.
- ◇ To purchase a new refrigerator for \$700 with money from the Capital Improvement Fund.
- ◇ To start having Fellowship Time after worship. Store bought, individually wrapped treats will be provided.
- ◇ To reschedule the Session retreat to October 30, 2021.
- ◇ To hold the congregational meeting for the purpose of electing officers on Sunday, October 24, 2021.
- ◇ The Personnel Committee is actively searching for an accompanist/organist.

Pam Lica, Clerk

Pastor's Page

There is a theory, made popular by theologian Dr. Phyllis Tickle, that every 500 years the church goes through a major shift. It is an intriguing theory considering it was little more than 500 years ago (1517) when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg. 500 years before that was The Great Schism (1054 A.D.) which separated the Western and Eastern church. Five hundred years earlier you have the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) which settled the heresy over the divinity of Jesus. You also have the Fall of Rome in (481 AD) which was a big deal for the church as well. 500 years before that was "The Great Transformation" which was in many ways the beginning of most of the world's religions. At this time Confucius and Lao-Tse were living in China, India produced the Upanishads and Buddha. Greece witnessed the appearance of Homer, of the philosophers—Parmenides, Heraclitus and Plato, and the middle east saw the great prophets Elijah, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. This takes us past the time of Christianity even, and it keeps going back from there.

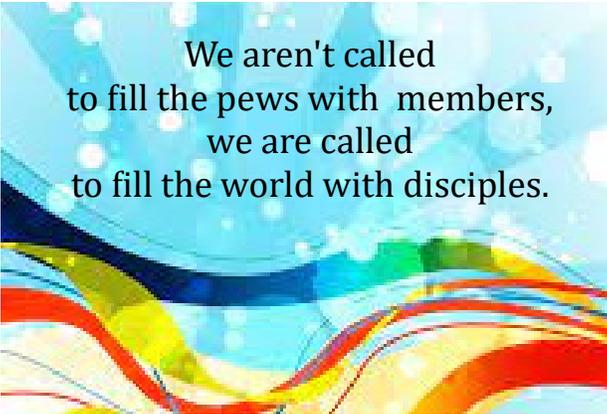
Obviously, this doesn't happen like clockwork as all of the aforementioned events did not take place over one day, but rather were eras that changed the landscape of world philosophy. Dr. Tickle, and many others, agree that our age is undergoing the same sort of thing. She calls it "The Great Emergence" because something new is emerging in Christianity. But what is it?

Well, the short answer is that we don't know until we get there. In her book Dr. Tickle says that the Christian church has entered a post-denominational mode. This sociological and cultural shift involves a distrust of all institutions and is forcing mainline Protestant Christianity to become less hierarchal and more communal. At the same time, she says, it offers an opportunity for Protestantism to renew and refine itself. We have seen all too well the sort of setback Dr. Tickle is talking about. Many people we know have turned to non-denominational churches rather than maintaining membership in mainline denominations and some turn from church all together. There is not just one reason that we can pinpoint but many reasons

that have taken place over the last several decades and have built to this point. Not just on the part of the church but in secular society as well.

Many believers fear that this "Emergence" means the death of the church. While this shift may mean that some churches close their doors and some denominations lose members while others grow; we must remember that there is nothing in heaven or on earth that can stop the work of the Holy Spirit. You cannot kill the body of Christ. In some form "the church" will always be here. And while it is hard to lose members and close doors, it is not the end. It is an opportunity to ask "why" when we think about our

traditions, to try new things, and to focus on what the Church truly is and what its place is in this world.



We aren't called
to fill the pews with members,
we are called
to fill the world with disciples.

What does this mean for us? Well, it means that we need to focus our energy on how to sustain our church family through this change. Part of that is continuing to stay relevant with our online presence as that is how society is shifting. But more than anything else, we need to stop thinking like the regular mainline denominations

and focus on discipleship over and above membership. Afterall, what does it matter if we have few members, when our members are loved and our community is served by our church?

The shift from membership to discipleship is subtle is important. Rather than doing things in the community to bring in members, we simply do things that benefit our community. It is a "No-Quid-Pro-Quo" kind of ministry with a focus on servitude and beloved community. As we slowly continue on in this pandemic era, we have learned that the future is uncertain and the best laid plans often go awry. So, let's stop worrying about the future and do what we can for whom we can right here and now.

The shift from membership to discipleship will be our focus for stewardship this year. Afterall, stewardship and discipleship are deeply connected. This year I want to expand what stewardship means to us. You will be given the opportunity in November to see all the ways our church serves our congregation and our community. You also will be given the opportunity to further your discipleship both inside and outside the church walls by joining in community events and bringing your service and discipleship to the community at large.

Happy Birthday!

Henry Schantzen	October 3
Michelle Johanson	October 8
Jacob Johanson	October 10
Savannah Bell	October 11
Chris Schantzen	October 15
Cheri Looman	October 22
Jessica Weitschat	October 22
Jim Arndt	October 28
Derek MacAskill	October 28

Happy Anniversary!

Derek & Jennifer MacAskill	October 2
Mark & Tammy Engstler	October 12
Ron & Helen Philipps	October 13
Howard & Gloria Rockwell	October 21
Mel & Mary Rennells	October 25

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Time
RETURNS!!



Beginning on **Sunday, October 3**, we will once again have Fellowship Time following worship.

We are looking for people to **make coffee** and set out the pre-packaged snacks that the church has purchased.

There will be a spot on the Sign Up Genius for you to volunteer!

Halloween vs. All Saint's Day

There is much controversy about celebrating Halloween as believers in Christ. I would like to point out, however, that Halloween is fun and Jesus likes fun. The trick (pun intended) is to not take this "holiday" too seriously. Especially in the way we celebrate it today.

If you would like a more Christian response to "All Hallows Eve" consider lighting a few candles and saying a prayer for those in your life who have joined the Church Eternal. This is actually the way this holiday was celebrated by the early Church.

If you really want to keep it old school, you can attempt to fast all Halloween day and feast November 1st for "All Saints Day". Whatever you hope to do we hope to see you here at Church on October 31!

Introducing to our 2021 Confirmands



Meet **Abby Johanson**

Abby is the daughter of John and Michelle Johanson and has two older brothers.

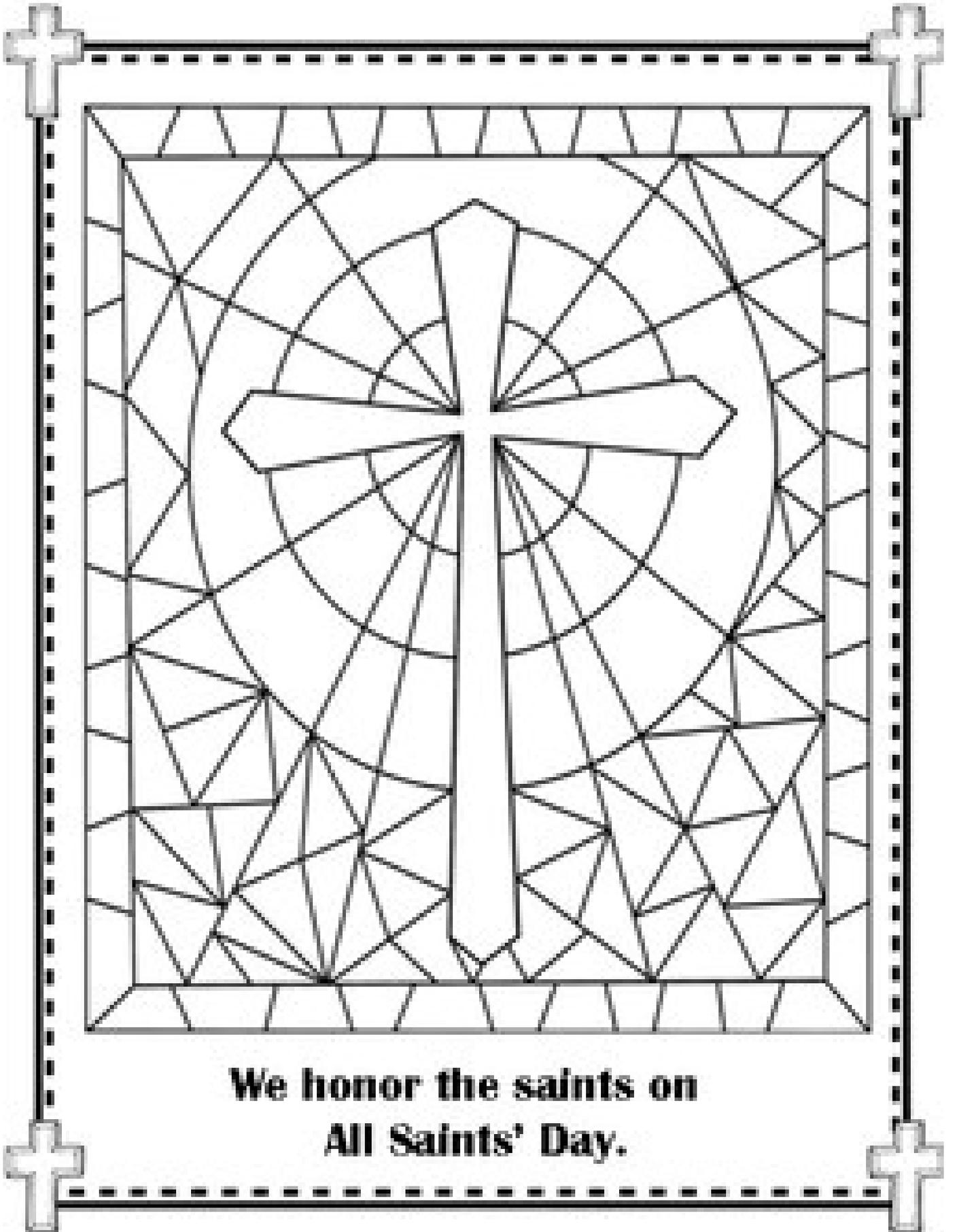
She is 14 years old and in the 9th grade at Rushford-Peterson High School.

Abby enjoys art and is hoping to learn lots of interesting "stuff" during Confirmation this year. Her toothbrush is sage green!



Pastor Rachel and David will be on vacation from **Thursday, October 7 through Monday, October 11.**

If you are in need of pastoral care during this time please contact Rev. Mike Hibbs at 608-582-2537 (cell) or Pam Lica for church related emergencies at 452-8884 (home) or 450-1935 (cell).



**We honor the saints on
All Saints' Day.**

Because we are
unconditionally loved by
God, we are called to do the
same in thought, word, and
deed with our family,
community, and world.

Mission

Thank God!

GRACE
HAPPENS
+

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Office Hours

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Tuesday - Friday

Sunday Morning

Sunday School

9:00 am

Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Fellowship Time

11:30 am

Minister

Rev. Rachel Rosendahl

Office Administrator

Cheri Looman

Accompanist

Guest Accompanists

Treasurer

Jennifer MacAskill

Church School Director

Kathy Rosendahl

Newsletter Editor

Lori Fort-Hoerig

lorigpcnewsletter@charter.net

Session Elders

Kjersti Anderson

Ron Dietrich

Rena Dornfeld

Nancy Dornfeld

Pam Lica

Jennifer MacAskill

Chris Schantzen

Board of Deacons

2021: Ann Lubinski, Kathy Rosendahl

2022: Candi Kohner, David Rosendahl

2023: O. J. Jacobson, Jeanette Karjala