

A Grace Note from the Rector
August 29, 2024

Dear Ones,

I had a wonderful, if very warm, time in Rome. And I'm glad to be back with you as the new school year begins. My deep thanks to everyone who kept things running smoothly during my vacation. Many of you were asking if I have a favorite spot in Rome. The answer is that I don't – not just one anyway. If I had to make a small list, it would contain four churches that began life in the 4th or 5th century, and one particular coffee shop!

MUNCIE PRIDE

Muncie's annual Pride Festival will take place **this Saturday** (August 31) from **2-7 at Canan Commons**. Due to scheduling issues, Grace will not have a table this year, but don't let that stop you from joining in the joy. See you there!

ELECTION PREP

You may have heard a rumor that there is an election coming up in November! We Americans generally seek to maintain "separation of church and state." But the familiarity of that cliché obscures the fact that there inevitably are *intersections* of church and state.

Voting often is seen as a righteous act, or even a moral duty, and churches have a long history of encouraging people to vote. The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations has put together an extensive "**Vote Faithfully**" toolkit before Election Day to help Episcopalians, in particular, to explore and navigate the issues, encourage voting and otherwise engage with secular governance. The link is here

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/election-engagement/>

GATHERING GRACE

This past Sunday, we served 123 meals of Hamburger/Potato Casserole. The two Sundays before we served 130 meals each week. Thanks to everyone who donates money, and food, and time!

GRACE VILLAGE & WILD CARD CAFÉ YARD SALE

Our annual yard sale is coming soon. The yard sale is scheduled from 9am to 3pm for Sat. Sept. 7th. We need stuff to sell which can be delivered to Lutheran Church of the Cross on Sat. morning between 8am and 9am. We also need volunteers to help sort items, staff the event through the day and help with cleanup, which includes a run to Muncie Mission with items not sold between 3pm and 4pm. Lunch will be provided. This is a "priceless" sale with only a few items with suggested prices. For more information, please contact Markie Oliver at markie.f.oliver@gmail.com or text 765-212-4071. It's a lot of fun!!!

A BETTER WAY ~ SEPTEMBER NEEDS

Shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, colored pencils, adult and children's coloring books, women's underwear (small and medium). The facility remains full, with 10 to 15 children, along with their parents. In the past month, six clients and their children have been placed in homes – Beginning A New Life!

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets. **Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & sauce, mac & cheese.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lynn Bell (August 99)

Fr. Paul Jacobson (September 1)

Dennis Livingston (September 1)

Sandra Kelly (September 2)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

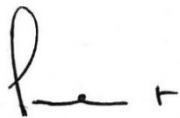
Phyllis & Max Nottingham (September 1, 1968)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Labor Day signals the end of summer, if not the summer heat. Observed on the first Monday in September, it is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. Before it was a federal holiday, Labor Day was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. During the late 1880s, seven more states passed laws creating a Labor Day holiday. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday. Here is a Collect for Labor Day, from the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 261.

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

God bless you as the seasons turn,



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