



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

November 2017

A Movie and a Message

Susie, Stephanie and I were thinking of seeing a movie based on a book we had read. The movie and book had the same title, "same kind of different as me." We looked in the entertainment section of the Friday newspaper to see what it was rated. It was a one starred movie – a poor rating compared to others. But we knew that "Christian" movies were often down rated and this was certainly the case with this movie.

This remarkably true story is about three main characters: Ron and Deborah Hall and Denver Moore. Denver Moore is black and has a horribly rough life, bereft of parents, education, and money. He ends up in prison and eventually homeless and bitter. Meanwhile Ron is a successful art dealer and wealthy. Ron has an affair and Deborah finds out and resolves to handle in a most unique way. She asks her husband for the woman's telephone number and calls it.

From the book (altered somewhat in the movie) here is the dialogue: "This is Deborah Hall, Ron's wife. I want you to know that I don't blame you for the affair with my husband. I know that I've not been the kind of wife Ron needed, and I take responsibility for that. I want you to know that I forgive you. I hope you find someone who will not only truly love you but honor you. I intend to work on being the best wife Ron could ever want, and if I do my job right, you will not be hearing from my husband again."

After the call Deborah said to Ron: "You and I are now going to rewrite the future history of our marriage." She said she wanted to spend a couple of months in counseling so that they could figure out what was broken and find a way to fix it. "If you do that," she said, "I'll forgive you. And I promise I will never bring this up, ever again."

But this whole incident was a catalyst that would bring Deborah and Ron to work at a homeless shelter and meet Denver Moore. Denver, who had a bitterness and suspicion of all white people, would only slowly come to trust Deborah and Ron. Miss Debbie, as Denver would call her, is the true hero of the film and book. She would die of cancer but not before seeing the homeless shelter greatly benefitted and Ron and Denver becoming friends and partners. These two would end up raising 85 million for homeless shelters all over the country.

The movie and book take on the issues of prejudice, homelessness, the meaning of being a successful person, forgiveness and faith. But for me the greatest message of the movie and book is one of gratitude.

I am convinced that at the heart of every Christian is a sense of deep, abiding gratitude. What do we have that we have not been given? If the true treasure is faith in Jesus Christ (and it is the true treasure!) then the differences between rich and poor and black and white are dissolved. We are all the same though different. Gratitude leads to generosity. The Christian knows he or she has been put into this world to help others.

My experience in life is that we all need a Miss Debbie to come along at times to spark us to live the way Jesus would want us to live. I have had these people pop up in my life, causing me to stop and think and change course in my life. Everyone of them were "gratitude filled" people. I sincerely hope they "pop up" in your life too!

By the way, I highly recommend the movie "same kind of different as me." The acting was superb especially Djimon Hounsou, Greg Kinnear, and Renee Zellweger. But bring some Kleenex with you because you are going to need them.



~ Pastor Rich

grat·i·tude

[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

A Special
THANK YOU

Donna and I would like to thank each of you for the many prayers you have offered over the last three years and for the support you have provided to us and our grandson Zack. We also want to thank you for the many cards and expressions of condolence you have given upon his death on September 22. We sincerely appreciate all of you and we feel truly blessed to be fellow members with you at Grace.

*Yours in Christ,
Ray and Donna Maier*

Our Grace Family

Meet Mary Fisher

Mary Fisher hails from Pollard, Arkansas where she lived on a farm which had no electricity, plumbing or running water! Life improved greatly after her marriage to Ralph, who has two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Mary had two daughters, one of whom died at the age of eight, two grand-daughters and two great granddaughters, with another most likely here by now.

Mary loved her pet chickens and those cats that people dropped off at her farm. Although she is not particularly fond of meats, she "gobbles" up all vegetables and anything "sweet." She has traveled in 22 foreign countries, 38 states and read plus listened to music in all time---plus she also likes to exercise! Her magic dream would be fulfilled if she could ever be an Olympic ice skater or a wonderful singer in the church choir. But a deeper dream might occur if she could travel to Israel or give more to family, church and especially missions. Why? Because her faith, family and church are so special. That being said, Mary is grateful for living in the USA. While Mary lived basely alone during grade and high school, she lauds her sister who provided a roof and food while she worked such jobs as drug stores, dime .stores, ironing, baby sitting and housework. As an orphan, she started picking cotton at the age of 11.

To sum up, Mary feels blessed to have Grace for her home church and is amazed at the most of the educated, talented members therein; and especially appreciates the Friday Bible Study led by Mary Schultz. She has been in our midst and was previously at St. Paul's for 30 years where she sang in the choir, quilted, belonged to LWML, visited the sick and drove the elderly to church.



~ Pat Kopp

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **1st of each month** for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by

the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.



November - December 2017

Watch your Sunday bulletins and website for more details on these and other upcoming events.

*Peanut Butter Sunday
Sunday, November 5*

*Grace Lutheran Parents' Day Out
December 6, 13, and 20*

*Advent Services: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
December 6, 13, and 20*

*The Graceland Express - Children's
Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17 - 5:00 p.m.*

Other Events:

*Financial Peace University
Mondays - 6:15 - 8:00 p.m.*

*Pastor's Adult Inquiry Class
Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m.*

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS



November 11, 2017

Dear Friends,

We have just come back from a little vacation in Spain. The weather was wonderful and the sights took us back in history to a time when Spain ruled the world. And yes, we saw the great memorial tomb of Christopher Columbus which resides in the magnificent cathedral of Seville.

As you know, it was October 11, 1492—exactly 525 years ago that Columbus "sailed the ocean blue." And it was October 31, 1517—exactly 500 years ago that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. I'd like to draw a parallel and a comparison between these two great men and make an application to us today.

Columbus was a great explorer of the world and a navigator of the oceans. Luther was a great explorer of the Bible, and was a pastor and Doctor of Theology.

Both of these men lived at a time of great ignorance about science and the world, and also great ignorance about God and the Bible.

Columbus persisted for many years in trying to get an audience with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. He was shuttled through committee after committee. Luther also persisted against great odds. Others had been burned at the stake. He posted his 95 Thesis and was excommunicated in 1521, but he didn't give up.

Columbus wanted to bring Christianity to the New World. It took lots of faith for him to travel over 3,000 miles on water. Luther wanted to make Christianity real to people, and to lead them to heaven over miles of sin by faith in Jesus.

Columbus sailed three ships: the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Luther's pillars of the Reformation were "a person is saved by God's grace alone, and we receive it through faith in Jesus alone, and we know this from the Scriptures alone.

Columbus needed a compass and wind to make that long journey. Luther needed the Bible and the Holy Spirit to make it from earth to heaven. "For no one can say that 'Jesus is Lord' except it be by the Holy Spirit."

Columbus had the courage and vision that God would guide him over the tempestuous seas, while others were afraid. Luther said, "Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me! Amen!" But many others turned back.

He opened up the way for many other explorers to follow him. And indeed, many reformers and Bible translators followed after Luther. So that we today are the rich inheritors of their pioneer work.

Columbus reached the New World in 1492. Luther reached heaven in 1546 at the age of 63 years.

Both men have been severely criticized. Both men were sinners and saints. Both were highly religious in trusting in Jesus as their Savior, and wanting to spread the Gospel to faraway lands.

Columbus wrote in his Book of Prophecies: "I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence."

Today, let us thank and praise God that Jesus did come to receive sinners, and He does support those who recognize they are lost without Him. If Jesus didn't seek us out and died for our trespasses on the cross, how else could we be saved? Today we need people who will walk in the footsteps of Columbus and Luther and who are not afraid of the future and who will go to great lengths to bring salvation to other people! The name 'Christopher' and 'Christian' mean 'Christ-bearer'— may we do exactly what our name implies.

*In the Name of Jesus,
Pastor Stephen Skov*



**November Scripture of the
Month**

*Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extole him with music and song. For the
Lord is the great God, the great King above
all gods.*

Psalm 95:2-3, NIV

November is Thanksgiving in the Library

New Non-Fiction

God is For Real: And He Longs to Answer Your Most Difficult Questions by **Todd Burpo** (231.8 Bur): Burpo, a fireman and pastor answers with courage and compassion the questions many have about faith, prayer, and suffering among others.

Imagine Heaven: Near-Death Experiences, God's Promises, and the Exhilarating Future That Awaits You by **John Burke** (236 Bur): Burke examines 100 stories of near-death experiences from survivors representing all walks of life comparing them to what the Bible reveals about Heaven.

Anxious For Nothing: Finding Calm in A Chaotic World by **Max Lucado** (248.4 Luc): Philippians 4:6-7 ("Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer...") is the most highlighted passage in the Bible. Anxiety and worry comes with life, but it doesn't have to dominate our life. We are reminded that in the midst of fear, terror, and uncertainty we can trust God and step into the future with faith and hope.

Before You Hit Send: Preventing Headache and Heartache by **Emerson Eggerichs** (302.23 Egg): Having e-mails, text messages, and social media communication at our fingertips has led to a myriad of misunderstandings. Communications expert, Eggerichs, believes there are four points to consider "before you hit send": Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it clear? He discerningly presents how to evaluate each of your messages "before you hit send."

New Fiction

To Wager Her Heart by **Tamera Alexander** (Fic Ale): Book 3 in the **Belle Meade Plantation** series. This post-Civil War historical fiction story details the early years of Fisk University as a school for newly freed slaves.

Miramar Bay by **Davis Bunn** (Fic Bun): Actor Connor Larkin puts his career and his fiancée on hold as he escapes to a sleepy seaside town taking on a job as a server at Sylvia Cas-sick's restaurant. As he works his way into Sylvia's heart, the past he left behind threatens to destroy the new life he has forged.

God Bless the Broken Road by **Jennifer Dornbush** (Fic Dor): Amber is a war widow who blames God for the grief she has endured. As she forges a friendship with a race car driver, she experiences happiness she hasn't known for a long time. But when he narrowly escapes a crash, Amber must choose between walking away or trusting in God. (Soon to be made into a major motion picture).

Chasing Secrets by **Lynette Eason** (Fic Eas): Book 4 in the **Elite Guardians** series. Eason continues her suspense-filled stories of the Elite Guardian Agency as these women fight for the rights of the downtrodden. In this installment, Haley, a Belfast, Ireland, native who grew up homeless on the streets there, has begun a teen center in the poorest part of

Columbia, SC. As she works as an advocate for a little boy in need of a heart transplant, she finds her own life is in danger too.

The Writing Desk by **Rachel Hauck** (Fic Hau): Bestseller author Tenley Roth is weighed down with writer's block as the pressure of the deadline for her second novel quickly approaches. When she moves to Florida to assist her mother, Tenley begins to write at the same desk at which another author composed a century earlier. As Tenley writes, their lives become intertwined.

To Be Where You Are by **Jan Karon** (Fic Kar): Book 14 in the beloved series about Father Tim and the small town of Mitford. All the familiar characters return as Dooley's veterinary practice suffers a setback when flooded, Lacy loves her life mothering 4-year-old Jack whose adoption is fast approaching, and Father Tim is "called" out of his 12-year retirement into a completely new adventure.

Liar's Winter by **Cindy K. Sproles** (Fic Spr): An Appalachian novel. Set in 19th century Tennessee, Lachiel has been plagued her entire life by the superstition held that her red-wine birthmark is "the mark of the devil". The mark has put her life in jeopardy until a stranger comes to her aid.

Other new authors added to the library and their titles include **Jane of Austen** by **Hillary Manton Lodge** (Fic Lod) and **Hidden Falls** by **Olivia Newport** (Fic New).

New Amish Titles

Assaulted Caramel by **Amanda Flower** (Fic Flo): First in a new series entitled **Amish Candy Shop Mystery**. A mysterious death at chocolatier Bailey King's shop hurls the small Amish community of Harvest, Ohio, into a frenzy as they seek to solve the mystery.

The Proving by **Beverly Lewis** (Fic Lew): Amanda left her Amish home five years earlier to become an Englisher. When she learns of her mother's death, and that she has inherited her mother's bed-and-breakfast, the most popular one in Lancaster County, she reluctantly returns to the life she left behind. But the will stipulates that she must prove herself before the inheritance is hers.

Find these and materials celebrating Thanksgiving on display throughout the month.

*Blessed Thanksgiving to you,
Mary Schultz*



Why The Reformation Matters

Martin Luther was a monk in Germany who thought his guilty conscience would be comforted if he devoted his life to church work. It did not help. The Reformation was primed to happen when he discovered "the righteousness of God" is not what we must do to please God, but what God gives us because of Jesus' death and resurrection. In 2017 we will observe the 500th anniversary of The Reformation.

The chief benefit of The Reformation is Justification by Faith. God reckons us righteous and at peace with Him through trust in the promises He makes because of Jesus. (Romans 5:1) Our moral standing has nothing to do with it. The Priesthood of All Believers means we do not need to go through another human to approach God. Luther also says it means we Christians each tell our neighbors how "Christ has swallowed up death, devoured hell, drunk sin to the dregs, and placed us into eternal life." (On 1 Peter 2:9) It became important that the Bible would be available to all in their own everyday language (Vernacular Versions), not just the official Latin version loved by church leaders of Luther's time that was understood only by the very educated. As priests before God, each Christian is free to read the Bible for himself without the need to follow an official interpreter. Worship also moved over into in the language of the people and it became important that worshipers participate with congregational singing, not just be present to observe the clergy doing the service. The preaching of God's Word took a prominent place in the worship service not known since many centuries earlier. Public education also became important so all could read the Bible for themselves.

In 1521 Luther was summoned to Worms, Germany to account for himself and his teachings in front of the emperor, Charles V and prominent leaders in the whole church. He was given the choice of rejecting his own writings or facing a death sentence. He said official church rulings can and do make mistakes. He would not and could not change his mind unless convinced by the Word of God. That act is credited as the first time an individual stood up to all known human authority and said, "No! I will not!"

There were other benefits that came because of The Reformation. Marriage and family came to be seen as blessings of God in which one serves God just as well as if one remains celibate and becomes a priest or a nun. All work and regular occupations were also seen as blessings of God to which one is called just as if called to work in the church.

We could celebrate with events that focus on ourselves and our past. But, it would be in keeping with the benefits and blessings of The Reformation if we plan ways to be more involved with God's Word and taking Christ to our neighbors.

~Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show.

NEW AIR TIME: Thursday Evenings - 9:00 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Stream for DISH or Direct: Go to CTVKNOX.org. Click on Icon and watch



NOVEMBER 2017 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 02 - Diabetic Retinopathy and the Risk of Blindness - Dr. Matthew D. Lowrance (taped 5/11/16)
- 09 - Orbera Balloon-Assisted Weight Loss - Dr. Bergein Overholt (taped 3/9/16)
- 16 - Binge Eating - Dr. John B. Robertson, Jr. (taped 6/10/15)
- 23 - Food Allergy or Something Else - Dr. Andrew Singer (taped 8/10/16)
- 30 - A Surgical & Nonsurgical Procedure for Weight Loss - Dr. Jonathan Ray (6/8/16)

Let us come before his presence
with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto him
with psalms.

For the Lord is a
great God
and a great King
above all gods.

Psalm 95:2-3

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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TO:



“Sharing the Love of Christ”