



Women of the ELCA



Grace Unit Newsletter.....November 2020

Please start your day, begin your devotions, or open your meeting with the Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement:

**As a community of women created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and
promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.**

Dear Women of Grace,

Last week my computer crashed. Big time. Nothing to do but to take it in to someone who speaks “computer-eze.” After two days of leaving my computer in the hands of experts who examined the hard drive, files and operating systems, the diagnosis was “totally and completely corrupted. Beyond saving.” The recommendation was a “Total Cleaning.” In other words, take everything out and clean it piece by piece and put it all back in.

Corrupted. Totally corrupted. I have to tell you that kept running through my mind most of the week.

When push comes to shove, isn’t that what we are? Corrupted, totally corrupted? Beyond saving? Yet our Heavenly Father, Creator of all, knowing that we are all of that decided to “totally clean” us, redeem us and make us new.



I know it’s hard this year of 2020 to be thankful for so many things. The pandemic limits us, isolates us, challenges us, and even makes us fearful. The national climate in politics has us all on edge. We watch the economic news and hold our breaths. There are out of control fires and a plethora of hurricanes that are ravaging not only the landscape but our neighbors’ livelihoods, homes and very lives. And now it is November, the month of Thanksgiving.

Now more than ever we are called to muster up from deep within, our sincere and authentic thanks to God for His many blessings. The blessings are there. At times hidden. At times muffled under sighs and groans too deep for words, but the blessings are there. His Hand is there. His love is there. His each and every promise is there. You are on His mind. You are in His heart. You are watched over and provided for by His Precious Spirit that broods over the lives of you and me.

Remember my message of last month about a Hand Full of Thanks: We are made in His image for relationship with Him. We are invited to draw near. We are loved with an everlasting love. He is faithful. And last but not least, faith the size of a mustard seed is enough and can make an amazing difference!

So give thanks, dear Women of Grace. “...Love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever!..” (1 Peter 1:22b-23 NKJ)



Giving Thanks for each of you, incorruptible, beautiful you!
Vicki Marthaler

