

# Grace Reformed Church Newsletter

**September 28, 2020**

During my years at Hope College, I had a professor for Old Testament studies who had a most unusual routine when he entered the classroom. Under one arm he carried the daily edition of the Detroit Free Press and under the other arm he carried a Bible. When I questioned him about this routine, the answer he gave me I will always remember. Whenever you read the news of the day, read the news in the light of what you also read in the Bible.

Lately, there's been one word that has repeatedly surfaced in my mind during my time of morning devotions. That word is "Signs." Specifically, what are the "signs" given to us in the Bible that we are nearing what Jesus called "the end of the age"? I subscribe to the Wall Street Journal as my primary source of news. So, I took my Bible recently and reread some of the more descriptive passages in the Bible about "signs of the end of the age" – passages like Matthew 24, Luke 21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 2 Peter 3:3, and Revelation 6-8. I would encourage you to do the same if you have not done so recently.

As you read these passages, make a note of the various "signs" that are mentioned - wars and rumors of wars, famine, earthquakes increasing, uncontrolled fires, increasing violence, pestilence, epidemics, terrible diseases, an increase in wickedness, the love of many growing cold, the revealing of a man of lawlessness, people being lovers of themselves (narcissists), lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having the form of godliness but denying its power, scoffers and skeptics about any second coming of Jesus, and people following their own evil desires – just to mention a few of the many "signs" mentioned in the Bible. Then, take that list and as you read or watch the daily news, make a check mark by each "sign of the end of the age" you notice. What we should see is lots of check marks – all of which should serve to us as Christ followers as a reminder to be vigilant each and every day. "As it was in the days of Noah," Jesus said to his first disciples, "so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." (Matthew 24:37)

So, Jesus continued, "keep watch for you do not know on what day your Lord will come." The writer of Hebrews gives us another directive in view of the "signs" pointing to the end of the age. "See to it that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God, but rather encourage one another, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." (Hebrews 3:12-13).

Good words, I would say, in view of having the opportunity this coming Sunday to gather with Christians around the world at the Table of our Lord and there remember his life, his death on the cross, his resurrection, his ascension into heaven, and His promise to come back at which time all the kingdoms all the powers of this world, and all the peoples of this world will bow down before Him and confess that He is the Lord! Maranatha! Even so, Lord Jesus, may it be so, and may it be so soon!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jack

## PRAYERS & PRAISE

Continue to keep Karen Harmsen in your prayers. She has an appointment with surgeon concerning her knee replacement on October 5. In the meantime, please pray for relief of her pain.

Please keep Sandy Gort in your prayers. As you know, she has not been feeling good for awhile. Please pray for healing, guidance, patience and strength. Pray for her as she seeks answers through many upcoming appointments and testing.

Ron Engels surgery went well and he was able to return home the following day. Please continue to keep Ron & Barb in your prayers.

Anna Borkowski is asking for prayers for her mother as she is having some health concerns.

## UPCOMING DATES

**THIS** Saturday, October 3, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm **FALL FEST! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for set up (9:30 am) and take down (1:00 pm). Also, people needed to just come and talk to the families attending ... a friendly face representing GRC. Masks are recommended for this event. Please see Pastor Heather if you can help out.

**Sunday, October 4, 10:00 am Pastor Jack will lead our service and share the message: "The Worshipper that God Seeks". This day we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. If you cannot be at this service and would like home communion, please call the office so we can make arrangements.**

**This will be Pastor Jack's last Sunday here at Grace. Please come and share in thanking him for his service to Grace.**

Monday, October 5, **MONDAY IMPACT** resumes! This includes GEMS, Victors, and Be BIG. Pizza will be served.

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 am Meet at church to go downtown to **FEED THE HOMELESS**. We will resume this ministry every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

Sunday, October 11, 10:00 am **COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR PASTOR HEATHER DOOD**. Pastor Heather will officially be Commissioned to be the Pastor at Grace Reformed Church. Members of the classis and special guests will be present for this service. Refreshments will follow.

Sunday, October 18, **TAKE HOME LUNCH** provided by the Neal's. Stop by the kitchen on your way out for a delicious take home lunch!

Sunday, November 1, 10:00 am - We will have a **special service celebrating Paul Kerkstra's years at Grace**. Included in this mailing is an envelope for a "Love Offering" for Paul in thanksgiving for his many years of service.

Beginning in November... **FAMILY WORSHIP!**

On the third Sunday of the month, kids will be included in the worship service.  
Watch for more details!