Dear Friends in Christ,

As a long-time academic, even though I'm no longer in school, September is for me the beginning of the year.

Every September I do my 'spring cleaning'—tidying, organizing, and rearranging my home, office, and schedule to prepare for a new year of work and life. It's especially significant this year, as I moved into a new home and a new office. Packing up the parsonage, I boxed up a cluster of photos that has long adorned a shelf in my home office. They're pictures of friends and family. And most of them are pretty old. Me and my sister in pigtails (brother with a home-shorn bowl cut). There's one of me and some college friends taken in the 90's—all of us had those awful big round glasses in vogue back then—yech. Really, I rarely look at those pictures, even though they're prominently displayed. They sit there, gathering dust. So this year, I decided that before I hang them in my new place, I'd update them a bit. I took them out of their old frames, matted some in cool color schemes, and put them in brand new frames. Wow—what a difference it made!

When I put a 40-year-old photo in a new frame, the picture took on a whole new look. The tired, bored eyes of the little siblings brightened; now they glinted with a bit of kid mischief. And my college pals, their stiff, still limbs seemed full of energy, eager to launch into the adventures ahead of them. When I put those photos in new frames, it gave them new life. Of course, the photos didn't really change; but the re-framing completely altered how I view them.

Like most of you, lately I've been thinking a lot about our church and all the major changes we're facing. And we all know how hard change can be. Humans are creatures of habit. We like things predictable and familiar. We tend to avoid change whenever possible. That's understandable. Change is scary. Change means stepping into the unknown, where routines are variable, and outcomes uncertain. Change makes us vulnerable, and brings home hard a message we'd rather forget: we're not in control. Our courage and confidence get shaken, knowing we are not all powerful, and cannot always direct the action of life the way we want. Change shoves us out of our comfort zones, big time. Especially big change.

I don't know about you, but with all that's happening at Grace—selling buildings, packing up, moving locations, and saying goodbye to so much that's been—I've been troubled. Worried about the future. Losing sleep. And then, I remembered those photos.
God has called us to do some re-framing. God has not called us to throw away our ministries, traditions, and treasured legacies that make us who we are. God has not called us to discard the relationships and deeply loving connections that make us the family we are. God has not called us to abandon our sacred mission of sharing the gospel in word and deed. God has called us to re-frame those good and holy things. Our 'photo'--the picture of our selves, our ministries, and our shared lives of faith--doesn't change. The way we (and others) view it, does. We are shaking off the heavy dust that has dulled us and slowed our forward motion. We are re-envisioning Grace Lutheran as the beautiful, bright, energetic, colorful, powerful community it is--the thriving, giving, loving, uplifting, empowering force of God's love at work in a world that so needs it. I am wholly confident that our new frame will give us new life. I sleep a lot better now.

Sure, God's call often looks like big scary change--just ask Mary staring down an angel with an important message, or Paul stumbling blind through the desert, the voice of Christ filling his ears with mission. Vulnerable? Not the one in control? Shaken? You bet. Part of the deal when we're walking in truth with our God--that's the path to new life. But ultimately, that's the point; that's what makes it all possible: we are walking with God. God is the one in control. God is the one who knows and holds our future lovingly in his hands. Paul, having come through some seriously major changes, boldly said:

"all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

God is faithful. God is walking with us on our changing path. God will lead us to new life. Today and always. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Diane
SALEM COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CENTER

After a successful summer program, filled with great trips and activities (including a special science program lead by Grace Lutheran volunteer Karen Reisinger—thanks Karen!), SCCCC is getting ready for a new school year.

With the Salem Street property under new ownership, there’s been a time of adjustment and working out the logistics of building use. A good relationship is being forged between the Foursquare Gospel Church and SCCCC, and with some help from Allan Wood in navigating the particulars of our new lease, things are beginning to settle down and fall into place.

More good news: after a transition in the day care’s leadership team, Pranvera Dauti (Vera) is going to be our new day care director. We wish her all of God’s blessings as she takes over this challenging position. Already we’re seeing great improvements under Vera’s direction, like the addition of a technology room, a total reorganization of office operations, and most importantly, new families signing up. It’s an exciting and encouraging time!

Some Highlights from the August Congregational Council Meetings

Recap of Aug. 19 Congregational Meeting: the congregation voted to approve the council’s recommendation to utilize the proceed of the sale by doubling the property budget for 2017, making a $10,000 donation to local charity to be determined in thanksgiving to God, and the remainder of proceeds to be allocated to our Thrivent account.

Property: the Coen St. buildings will be re-keyed for security purposes. The large damaged tree in the parking lot will be trimmed. A new and definitive building use agreement, concerning the use of the buildings by outside groups, has been created.

Worship and Music: A new Music Minister has been hired. The very talented Andrew Dixon, experienced in church worship and choir direction, and thoroughly passionate about music, will begin with us on October 1st. Many thanks to David Doolittle for his faithful service this past year as our interim Music Minister.

Vision & Mission: after a summer hiatus, the Vision & Mission Team will resume its work with the Forward Leadership program, and intensify its efforts discerning future paths for Grace.

Outreach: our ‘bean team’ delivered 190 quarts of green beans to the Ecumenical Food Bank (a slightly small number than the usual harvest, due to some hungry beetles). Many thanks to all who helped sow, plant, and pick!
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
DISCIPLESHIP SERVICE
Join us for a special worship service on
SEPTEMBER 9th – 9:30am

We’ll be...
Installing our Christian Education leaders.
Blessing backpacks, students, teachers, school staff.
Kicking off a new year of Sunday school.
Celebrating the New Beginnings ministry.
Renewing our commitment to be Christ’s disciples.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY!

Special worship to celebrate
our outreach ministries and preparing to do
congregation-wide service project together.

SEPTEMBER 30TH
9:30 AM

CHOR PRACTICE STARTS
SUNDAY SEPT.16TH, 8:45 AM

Join the song!
Make a joyful noise!
September 14 – Sharon Kosko
September 16 – Ted Kosko
September 22 – Sarah Nehm
September 28 – Bob Sharon
September 30 – Natalia Chesnas
September 30 – Katie Gabrielson
September 30 – Travis Kosko

September 1 – MaryLou & Bob Sharon

If you don’t see your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know, so we can add you to the list.

WORSHIP LEADERS WANTED!

Ever wanted to help lead worship?
Live out a lifelong dream to be an acolyte?
Now’s your chance!

We are always looking for leaders to serve the Lord and help our congregation grow closer to God though worship. If you’re already a worship leader, thank you!

LECTORS AND WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ACOLYTES (all ages welcome!)

GREETERS AND USHERS

ALTAR GUILD

And please don’t forget FELLOWSHIP!

Interested in joining these teams please email or call the office.
Back to School:  
A Special time for Prayer

A new school year is both exciting and stressful for students, parents, teachers alike. Invite God into this time of transition with prayer. Here are a couple of prayers to get you started:

**Bless This New School Year**

Thank you, God, for the gift of learning, and for the ability to study and discover new things.

Bless this new school year:

Guide our schools; encourage and enliven teachers; Support parents, fill students with wonder and a love of learning.

Give wisdom to principals and counselors.

Uplift those who prepare school lunches, drive buses, and those watch over schoolyards and campuses.

Help school nurses, and office administrators.

Be with all who support the education and growth of students.

Bless every student with confidence and a thirst for knowledge.

Help us to do our best with gifts you have given us.

Help us to learn.

Lord, sometimes a new school year can seem scary, overwhelming, or exciting. Sometimes school is great, sometimes it’s really hard. Whatever the school year brings, help us to know you are with us always. Amen.

**A Special Prayer for Educators**

As I step into a new academic year, restore my spirit. Renew my passion for sharing your wisdom and nurture my compassion for those you put in my charge. Transform me as I seek to transform: guide me as I seek to guide; open my mind and heart as I seek to open minds and hearts to the Good News of justice and peace.

Help me listen more deeply to the world and to your Word, So I can walk with my students, attentive to the Wisdom that calls us all to the Kingdom of God. Amen.
We greatly appreciate the times when folks find their own replacements. Please let the office know so we put the correct names in the bulletin insert.

If for some reason you cannot find a replacement, please email or call the office. Thank you.
PRAYER LIST

Our prayer list needs some updating.  
We’re starting from Scratch

If you would like to put someone on our prayer list please call the office at 203-723-3402 or Email us at gracenaugatuck@yahoo.com.

Also, there is a prayer request sheet in the church entryway.

Remembering Friends & Family
Addresses are listed below for our members who are currently unable to attend services.  
A card or note is always welcome.

Betsy Robb  
500 Woodside Ave, Middlebury, 06762

Mavis Hanning  
Glendale Health Center  
4 Hazel Ave, Naugatuck, 06770

Michael Roland  
The Village at East Farms  
180 Scott Rd, Room #154  
Waterbury, 06705

Allan Johnson  
40 Lorann Dr, Naugatuck, 06770

Lindy Parson  
366 Millville Ave, Naugatuck, 06770

Mildred Evenson  
75 Trowbridge Place,  
Naugatuck, 06770

Dorothy Fritz  
Southbury Lutheran Home  
990 Main St. N, Southbury, 06488

Anita Peterson  
Apple Rehab  
35 Bunker Hill Rd, Watertown, 06795

Thank You For Caring!

Reminder: October newsletter articles and announcements must be in no later than September 15th. Thank you!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THURS</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am Worship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family Day at the Movies 12:55pm Moses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to School Sunday/Rally Day 9:30am Worship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Overeaters Anonymous 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am Choir Practice God's Work, Our Hands Sunday 9:30am Worship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grace Lutheran Church
170 Coen Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Staff:
Rev. Diane E. Rainson, Pastor
Dina Buonocore, Administrative Assistant
David Doolittle, Music Minister
Phone: 203-723-3402
Email: gracenaugatuck@yahoo.com