



HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

9/13 Emily Widder
9/24 Travis Brenneman



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

9/3 Steve & Jen Hershberger
9/29 Jeff & Rebekah Clevenger



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mission gifts given in September will benefit: *Our Deacon's Fund and The James Isaac House.*

2. Operation Christmas Child (OCC) boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please take up the challenge of packing at least 1 box for every member in your household by Sunday November 16. Packing directions are available inside each box. Feel free to return boxes as you complete them. Thank you for serving the Lord as we seek to share the good news around the world!



THE CALENDAR:

Sun. Sept. 21	Council Meeting (noon)
Sat. Sept. 27	Wisp Mountain Coaster & Ledo's Pizza (4pm)
Oct. 24-25	Ligonier Always Ready Student Conf. - Lancaster, PA
October 26	Reformation Sunday
Sun. Nov. 2	Friend Sunday



COFFEE BREAK SCHEDULE:

Sept. 7 - Lori Wilt & Linda Upole	Oct. 5 - Amanda Carey
Sept. 14 - Allison Broadwater	Oct. 12 - Emily Widder
Sept. 21 - Amanda Carey	Oct. 19 - Allison Broadwater
Sept. 28 - Jeff & Rebekah Clevenger	Oct. 26 - Lori Wilt

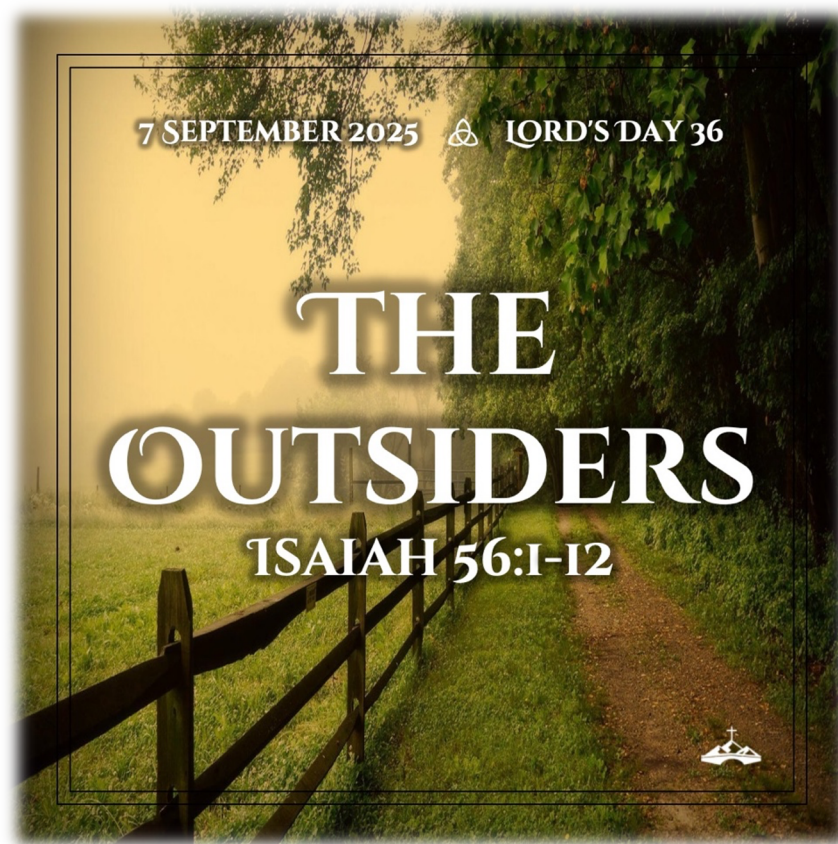


THE ELDERS:

John Carey	301-876-0342	jcarey6821@gmail.com
Matt Widder	717-496-3879	pastormatt@grantsvillechurch.com

To begin the process of joining the church as a member, please touch base with the Elders.

SOLA GRATIA **SOLA FIDE** **SOLUS CHRISTUS** **SOLA SCRIPTURA** **SOLI DEO GLORIA**
BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE BY SCRIPTURE ALONE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE



140 MAIN STREET - P.O. BOX 147 - GRANTSVILLE, MD 21536
WWW.GRANTSVILLECHURCH.COM
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES - 9:15AM - SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30AM

7 SEPTEMBER 2025 LORD'S DAY 36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32 ^{ESV}

GOD IS HOLY HE IS TO BE ADORED.

The Call to Worship | John 8:31-32

Song | *The Lord Almighty Reigns*

Prayers of Praise ^{Larry}

Welcome

GOD'S WORD IS TO BE HONORED.

The Gospel Reading | Luke 6:24-36 ^{Franklin}

Special Music

The Offering

The Kids Message | 1 Peter 5:5-6 ^{Gracie}

GUILT & SIN IS TO BE CONFESSED & REPENTED OF.

Scriptural Call | Matthew 6:33

Hymn #615 | *Seek Ye First*

Prayers of Confession & Silence ^{Matt}

GOD'S GRACE LEADS US TO GRATITUDE & GODLINESS.

Scriptural Assurance | Isaiah 40:1-2

Hymn #281 | *Thine Is the Glory, Risen Conquering Song*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Request ^{Matt}

GOD'S WORD IS TO BE PROCLAIMED.

The Sermon Text | Isaiah 56:1-12

The Sermon | "The Outsiders"

GO SERVE IN OBEDIENCE.

Song | *The Way, The Truth, and The Life*

The Benediction

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES (9:15-10:15am):

9/7 An Introduction to Joshua ^{Matt}

9/14 An Introduction to Joshua ^{Matt}

9/21 1. Investigating the Land – Joshua 2:1-24 ^{John}

9/28 2. Crossing into Canaan – Joshua 3:1-4:24 ^{Matt}

For daily growth in the word, tune-in to: refnet.fm

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

	PRaise	GOSPEL READING	CONFESSiON	THANKS/REQ.	SERMON
SEPT. 7	Larry Rock	Luke 6:24-36 Franklin Broadwater	Jeff Clevenger	Matt Widder	Isaiah 56:1-12 The Outsiders
SEPT. 14	Jess Carey	Luke 6:37-42 Larry Rock	Matt Widder	John Carey	Isaiah 57:1-21 Gathered Away
SEPT. 21	Harvey Hershberger	Luke 6:43-45 Amanda Carey	Johnny Carey	Matt Widder	Isaiah 58:1-14 The Ideal
SEPT. 28	Adam Winkelvoss	Luke 6:46-49 Larry Rock	Franklin Broadwater	John Carey	Isaiah 59:1-21 The Actual

THE LORD'S PRAYER - MATTHEW 6

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



THE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD NEWS THAT JESUS CHRIST SAVES SINNERS.
So then: Repent, Believe, and Follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leaders, both religious and civil, have significant responsibility and are liable for their failures. Isaiah indicts those who are blind, dumb, and sleeping. They are not watching for signs of danger.

Sadly, there are many in the ministry today who are like this, and they must bear a large measure of responsibility for the weakness and ineffectiveness of much of the professing church today.

We need to pray that the Lord would deal with those in leadership, that either He would awaken them and give them a holy zeal for the gospel or remove them from office. If the Lord has blessed you with a faithful pastor, pray for him continually.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- John 8:31-32 ^{ESV}

Prayer Points for Monday	Prayer Points for Tuesday	Prayer Points for Wednesday	Prayer Points for Thursday	Prayer Points for Friday	Prayer Points for Saturday
*Maggie Carey.	*Our Deacon's Fund.	*Deliverance from temptation.	*For first responders.	*For the end of abortion & the close of the abortion mill.	*For Pastor Matt & Emily.
*For freedom to worship.	*For the protection of God.		*For future blessings.		*For Jaden & Megan.

Prayers of the Puritans - Morning Needs:

Holy Spirit... Hold me up and I shall be safe.

Pray for health/comfort for:	Psalms 121:1-2	Pray for those serving our country:	Isaiah 41:10
Becca Kilgus (friend of Linda Upole)		Nathan Brenneman (and the family)	
Bri Llewellyn		Pray for those in nursing homes:	1 Timothy 5:1-3
Lauretta Maust (mother of Jen Hershberger)		Helen Bender	
Sandy McKenzie (friend of the Broadwaters)		Shirley Bender	
Patty Rice		Pray for those battling cancer:	John 14:27
Blossom Widder		Nick Brown (young local boy)	
Those with chronic pain.		Linda Handwerk (daughter of the late Wanda Sheffield)	
Those with dementia.		Steve Hershberger	
Pray for our fallen world & global concerns:		Shelbi Knauer (friend of Hannah Hershberger)	
The call & response of the lost.	Matthew 18	Daisy Murray (friend of John Carey)	
The end of abortion practices.	Exodus 20:13	Cindy Widder (family of the Widders)	
Close of the abortion mill.	Proverbs 6:16-19	George Winkelvoss (father of Adam Winkelvoss)	
The sins of sexual rebellion.	Genesis 1:27	Wyatt Wilkens (friend of Jack Carey)	
Peace & Justice in Israel.	Psalms 25:22	Indy Yoder (local 4-year-old)	
The church in Iran.	Revelation 7:9-17	Gay Ziegler (friend of Linda Upole)	

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“You are before the Lord; let your words be few, but let your heart be fervent.”
- C.H. Spurgeon

Please note we “re-fresh” the health/comfort list at the beginning of each month. Thank you for your help in keeping the list up to date.

Isaiah 56 ^{ESV}

56:1 Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed.

² Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, “The Lord will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”

⁴ For thus says the Lord: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

6 “And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

⁸ The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

⁹ All you beasts of the field, come to devour— all you beasts in the forest.

¹⁰ His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.

¹¹ The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.

¹² “Come,” they say, “let me get wine; let us fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow will be like this day, great beyond measure.”



 Grace Community Church

DATE:
7 September 2025

TEXT:
Isaiah 56:1-12

TITLE:
The Outsiders

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Church History 101

NINTH CENTURY

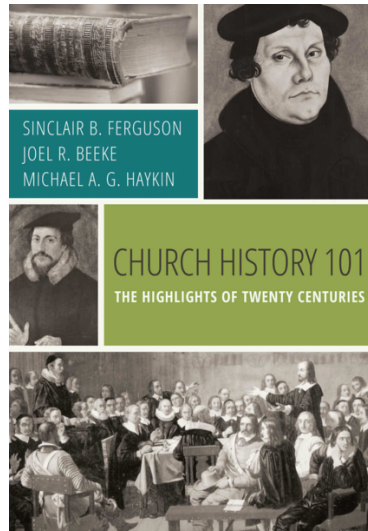
Struggle for Power in the Church;
Ratramnus and Gottschalk

One of the great tension points of the ninth century was a clause in the Nicene Creed. The inclusion of this clause in the text of the creed would eventually lead to a great division between the Western church and the churches of the East.

In some ways, it was a theological difference, a difference in understanding the relationship of the Spirit to the Father and Son. But it was also part of a power struggle in the worldwide visible church and between two of its leaders: the pope, or bishop of Rome, Nicholas, a man of considerable organizational skills, and the theologian and preacher Photios, the patriarch of Constantinople. In other words, the dispute over the creed became a battleground in the long campaign to establish the supremacy of the pope over all Christendom.

In the midst of this controversy, Pope Nicholas appealed to what scholars refer to as the Pseudo-Isidorean Decretals. These documents gave the bishop of Rome supreme authority over the ecumenical or worldwide church. They were certainly not written by Isidore of Seville, but were fabricated by an unknown source at a much later period. Patriarch Photios objected to these assertions, as did all the other patriarchs and bishops of the Eastern churches.

Despite this conflict over the claims of the papacy, individual figures were arising in the church with a great zeal to see Christ's kingdom extended. In the mid-ninth century, two brothers from Thessalonica, Cyril and Methodius, set out to spread the gospel to the region that would later become Russia. Today they are often called "the Apostles of the Slavs." They devised the Cyrillic alphabet in order to translate the Scriptures and the church's liturgy into Slavonic, as essential tools for preaching Christ to the Slavic nations of Eastern Europe. They were able to evangelize the entire region around the Black Sea. The presence of Christian churches in many of these places today can be traced back to their evangelistic work.



Another significant theologian from the ninth century worth mentioning is Ratramnus of Corbie, who wrote in opposition to his fellow monastic Paschasius Radbertus, who propounded transubstantiation, the notion that the consecration of the communion bread and wine changed these earthly elements into the flesh and blood of Christ. Ratramnus also defended predestination, though he was not as zealous in this as was Gottschalk.

Born in Saxony, Gottschalk was given over by his parents to be a servant in the church. Gottschalk became fascinated by Augustine's writings. Augustine had emphasized that we are not just spiritually sick, but are, as Paul says in Ephesians 2, dead in trespasses and sins. Gottschalk began to reflect on God's grace in electing some to salvation. But he also observed that many leaders in the church were teaching salvation by works righteousness. Gottschalk argued that we need to grasp that salvation, which we receive through faith, is a gift that God planned to bestow upon us before we were born. Like Augustine before him, Gottschalk left no place for any individual contribution in gaining righteousness before God. Our faith and works are merely reflections of the salvation we have received, not a contributing factor to it.

Though he preached salvation by grace alone, Gottschalk sometimes presented his case in an unwise manner. He was passionate about double predestination, that is, the doctrine that God has assigned some to eternal life as well as many to eternal punishment. His passionate preaching led eventually to his condemnation as a heretic. He was deposed from his ministry and imprisoned for twenty years. Gottschalk challenged the condemnation and requested that he be allowed to undergo a trial by ordeal to reveal whether or not he was truly a heretic. He strongly believed he would be vindicated as a preacher of biblical truth.

Though Gottschalk was not as temperate as he should have been, he was right about our contribution to salvation. The moment we begin to think that we contribute something to our salvation, it ceases to be the salvation of grace taught in the New Testament. The church should honor Gottschalk's memory despite his human frailties. We should also continue to educate ourselves about missionaries such as Cyril and Methodius, and remember that the quest for power and recognition, demonstrated by Pope Nicholas, ultimately detracts from the mission and witness of the church.