

GRACE NOTES

AUGUST 2011

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"[Christ] has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross." –Ephesians 2:15-16

Joseph Sittler, a Lutheran theologian, once wrote this about the symbol of the cross. Sittler was at a conference which was being held at a convent. Every day, he walked by the chapel and saw the nuns at prayer, gazing at the large cross that hung over the altar. This made him stop and wonder: "Is there any other image in the history of the world that could survive such constant gazing, reflection, and prayer? What other form could absorb all of the worries and apprehensions heaped upon it? Is there any other image in the world that could stand the weight of so profound a demand? And the answer was immediate and obvious: no." (*Gravity and Grace*, p. 21)

The cross has always been a central symbol in our Christian faith. I think that its staying power is because of the tremendous power that it has. It has the power to forgive sins. It has the power to show us God's unending love. And, it has the power to unite. Paul tells us in Ephesians that the cross of Christ has made us one, breaking down all barriers that had once been there. Before God, there are many images that we try and replace with the cross. There are many images that we try and replace will be able to take on our pain and replace these new symbols and begin to heap all of the cross. So, we begin to gaze at our worries and pains on this new symbol. But we quickly learn that this new symbol just doesn't work. Soon, the symbol falls apart and we are left alone once again, with all of our worries and apprehensions sitting in our lap. But, God's love and grace, as symbolized in the cross, always remains and are always there to take on our cares once again.



Amid all of the changes in life, we can take heart that we have an anchor in this one symbol. At the center of our church lies this one symbol, our defining symbol: A symbol of the love of God; a symbol of the grace of God; a symbol of the promise of God. We are united by the cross of Christ. As we begin to prepare for another school year, another year of sports practices and school music practices, and another year that seems to get busier and busier, remember that in the midst of all of this we find Christ. We find the cross of Christ there to take on our anxieties and fears. We find the cross of Christ there to remind us that, despite all of the barriers that life puts up (fear, busyness, etc.) God is there to remind us of the peace and love that Christ offers. I leave you with a question to think about this month: How can you remember that the cross of Christ is always there to take on all of your fears and anxieties? What can you do, personally or with your family, that will help you remember that God's love and peace are always in the midst of your life?

-Pastor Josh Enderson

Call Committee Final Report

The Grace Call Committee began its work in October 2009. Nearly two years later, we have completed our task of calling two new pastors to serve Grace Lutheran.

Through dozens of meetings, four site visit road trips, and hundreds of hours of work together, we experienced what it is to work together as brothers and sisters in Christ to seek God's will for our congregation while following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Each of our meetings began with a devotion and ended with prayer. We were able to share not only time, meals, car rides, and worship services together, but we also shared our opinions, our faith stories, our hopes for Grace, and our love for our Lord with one another as well. We grew together in our faith, our understanding of the Lutheran church, and our commitment to our congregation's future.

While it was not possible to calculate the number of meetings or hours spent together working towards our goal, here are some statistics you may be interested to know.

Number of candidates provided to us by the Synod: 32

- 15 candidates for Lead Pastor and 17 for Associate Pastor
- Candidates were from nine states: Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, Missouri, North Dakota, Michigan, and North Carolina.

Number of candidates interviewed: 9

- 4 interviews for Lead Pastor, 5 for Associate Pastor

Number of site visits conducted: 4

- All site visits were in Minnesota, but in three different synods: Northwest Minnesota, Northeast Minnesota, and the St. Paul Area synods.

Average length of time with candidate for each interview: 5 hours

- 1 hour tour of church and Luverne
- 2.5 - 3 hour formal interview
- 15 minutes to prepare/deliver a short sermon for the committee.
- 45 minutes of dinner/informal conversation with committee
- Associate interviews were 2 hours with the committee and 1 hour with Pastor Ron

Throughout the entire process we requested and felt the prayers being offered by the congregation. We appreciated and benefited from these prayers greatly. We are also thankful for the constant words of encouragement we received from members and also the respect our members showed for the confidentiality that is such a part of this process.

Now that the process is complete, we can only say Praise God for His work in and through our call committee and all of the members of Grace Lutheran Church! Amen!

Thoughts from Call Committee Members

- I want to thank the members of Grace for choosing an outstanding call committee, a band of seven who represented the congregation very well. We always had full engagement of all members, great attendance at our meetings, and an absolute commitment to our calling as a call committee.

- We experienced high and low points through the entire process. When we were at a low point we reminded ourselves God has a plan for us. After all the hours, meetings, interviews, etc., I am amazed how easy the decision was. We were right after all, God did have a plan our congregation.

- Little did I know that I would totally look forward to our meetings, our candid discussions, devotions/prayers, interviews, and site visits. Needless to say, our committee did not always agree, but we respected each others' views and learned from one another. Lots of sharing took place. We were grateful for the work of the Transition Task Force to give us guidance.

- On site visits we were able to glean many ideas from other churches; notes were taken and some of those ideas have been used here at Grace or are in the dream stage.

- A "leap of faith" was taken by this call committee when Pastor Ron asked to speak and listen to the congregation concerning the forums we had. A huge turnout that evening was appreciated. The Holy Spirit's presence was felt that night! It was good to hear members speak of their faith and be witnesses to God.

- Lyrics to songs are always in my mind, so as my work on the Call Committee has come to an end, I think of two songs, in particular: "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!" and "Great is Thy faithfulness." Serving on the committee was a tremendous learning experience and a privilege for me.

- Thank you, Grace Lutheran family, for choosing me to be a part of this wonderful group of people! I learned to trust God for He is always faithful. We knew that God had already chosen our new pastors.....we just had to be diligent in prayer, patient and discerning in our duty, while reminding ourselves, often, to put our trust in Him.

- My faith has been so deepened by the opportunity to serve on the call committee. We spent literally hundreds of hours in conversation, thought, and prayer about what God's plans are for our church and even for ourselves. We learned what aspects of church life are important to us and to one another. Most of all, we formed a close group that shared tremendous Christian fellowship. I wish more members of Grace would have opportunities like this to grow in their faith and share their faith with one another.

- The commitment of this group was unbelievable. Dedication to our calling from the congregation and to one another as a group helped make this huge job much more enjoyable. It was a blessing to be so committed to our church and to the call committee!

- Thank you for your constant prayers and words of encouragement through this process. God is good all the time!!!!

News from the GLC Leadership

Capital Campaign Update

A Facilities Needs Task Force has begun researching the costs of various repairs, enhancements, and improvements to the church building and grounds that have been discussed as possible projects to be included in a new capital campaign.

The Task Force has broken into three subcommittees. The Building/Grounds group includes Kenny Scheidt, Terri Ebert, and Rollie Miller. The Organ group includes Paul Arends and David Olson. The Sanctuary Multimedia group includes Keith Graber, Reva Sehr, Matt Wagner, and Paul Arends.

Each of these groups will research options and receive bids for projects. They will then work with the Executive Ministry to create an overall capital improvement plan to be approved by the Executive Ministry and presented to the congregation. Please contact any Task Force or Executive Ministry member if you have questions or suggestions.

Old LBW Hymnals Donated

Grace Lutheran donated 218 used Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) hymnals to Heritage Lutheran Church in Brandon. The nameplate inside the cover of each hymnal was covered by a sticker that simply said "Donated by Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN". We are happy that our used hymnals, which have been in storage for more than two years, will continue to be used in worship for years to come!

Staff Transitions Continue

An interview committee has completed six interviews for the new Children & Family and Youth ministry coordinator positions. Committee members included Don Dinger, Lisa Kor, Barb Anderson, Jason Berghorst, and Kirsten Olson.

We were blessed to have a larger than expected number of highly qualified and experienced applicants. Finalists met with the pastors and will be forwarded to the Executive Ministry to be hired.

Look for an announcement soon of final plans for these coordinator positions.

August Ministry Night

All Ministries will meet on Tuesday, August 9 at 8:00pm. The Parish Planning Council (PPC) will meet the same evening at 6:45pm.

Remember the "old red books"?

About 20 copies of the 1958 "Service Book and Hymnal" (the old red hymnals used before the LBWs came in the late 1970s) were found in storage recently. If you are interested in having a copy, please pick one up from the bench outside the office when you're in church in August. Any remaining hymnals will be discarded at the end of the month.

Grace Lutheran Executive Ministry

Rhonda Olson, President
Jason Berghorst, President Elect
Don Dinger, Vice President

Cary Radisewitz, Secretary
Sherri Thompson, Treasurer
Ron Nichols & Josh Enderson, Pastors

Grace Lutheran Church Women August 2011

Renew! Respond! Rejoice!

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess 5:16-18

Month of AUGUST: HOME DELIVERED MEALS – Grace Lutheran Congregation is on duty –
Call if you can help---- Bev Viessman, 283-2442

DATES TO REMEMBER

- +August 4 --- **Missions In Action** (dayofdoing)- 8:30 to 12:30 - visitors welcome; come and see.
- +Aug 9, EX BD- 9:30 a.m. +Aug 11, NO GLCW.
- + --until August 10 – Clothing Drive
- ***August 11, 12- set up 8:30 a.m. (**Help wanted**)
- +**Saturday August 13 – Rummage Sale and Bake Sale** (Bring baked goods or buy or both)
(Pick up pans and bowls- those that have been left for awhile may be sold)
- +**August 20, 21 - Quilts will be displayed and for sale.**

NEWS FROM GLCW Ex. Bd:

***_LaJean showed us the new photo album purchased from Myhre Studio for confirmation pictures; identical to the one that has photos from the first 50 years, 1955 –2005. Cost was \$235.

The ALBUMS with Confirmation Pictures are on a special stand over by the Sound System.

Find YOUR confirmation picture and reminisce awhile!

***We have need of a circle or group of people to plan a Christmas event;
a suggested program is available. Call LaJean Lammert or Donna Dahlen.

The Work Of Prayer –

(excerpts from “Prayer” by Ole Hallesby)

In many Christian enterprises today, the ‘machinery’ has become too heavy,
due to the fact that we are operating it with *human* power instead of
running it with power from above. The powers of heaven are at our disposal!

Let us pray for the Spirit of prayer. The future depends upon whether
the *Spirit* of God can persuade us to take up the work of prayer.

Be joyful, pray, give thanks.
Donna Dahlen

Reminder to all: **REMEMBER** to stock the Rock County Food Shelf. There are more and more families that are in need of this help. May God bless your giving.

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Monday Morning Bible Study update:

Recently we have been doing some 'book' studies. We have read through several of Paul's epistles and are now beginning an overview of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In Luke 1:4, Luke says “*In this way you will know that what you've been told is true.*” Bring your own Bible. We meet in the fireside room from 9 to 10 Monday mornings. Come when you can, you will be welcome. Questions? - call Donna Dahlen 283-2932

Missions in Action (formerly Day of Doing)

August 4 and 18, 2011 8:30 to 12:30

Just a reminder that the clothing drive is in progress. We will accept good, clean clothing and white elephant items. We will sort and set up starting Thursday, Aug. 11 at 8:30. This is where we can use the most help. If we don't finish on Thursday we will continue on Friday. Also need help on Saturday, the 13th, during the sale and then packing up. If anyone has a pickup and is willing to take the "leftovers" to Pipestone on Monday, we would greatly appreciate your help.

If you are interested in pricing the white elephant items, come and learn from the best. Alice Birkeland and Gen McClure can use some help. Let one of them, Mary or Ardie know and we will let you know when we are pricing that. (Because there usually is a huge amount of white elephant items, we start doing this soon after things start coming in.)

Quilt Weekend is August 20 and 21st. The quilts will be displayed on the pews. All quilts are available for purchase. The bigger, poly filled ones are \$50, the regular quilts are \$30 and baby blankets are \$15. You make take one home at the time you purchase it. All the money from the sale of the quilts will be used for transportation. Last year we paid \$450 for transportation which may not have totally covered the expenses for what we shipped out.

We thank you in advance for all the help and support you are giving us. We thank you for the food donations, the white elephant donations and the clothing donations. We can not do this without you!

God bless you all.

Ardie Bowen and Mary Akkerman

507-442-8151 507-283-9180

To all our Friends & Saints at Grace,
Thank You - Thank You! For all the years of help and prayers, especially as we prepared recently to transplant our roots to a new community and church home in Monona, WI. Thank you as well for the gift of seeing in you and living with us the Gospel-Good News in Jesus' name in this place. We've all learned, loved and served by the Spirit's willingness to keep coming after us since 1973! Keep seeking His Peace as well as Prayers ascending. We will do the same for you.
In His Name, this is most certainly true!
Les & Cheryl Mahaffay, 177 Shato Lane, Monona, WI 53716
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Thank you to everyone that sent get well wishes, for visits and prayers, and to Pastor Ron and Pastor Josh for their cares and concerns when I was in the hospital.  
A very special thank you to all that attended my birthday party - to my wonderful family and friends for gifts, cards and flowers.  
We are so blessed to be a part of a caring congregation and community. Gladys Siebenahler

## August Birthdays

Aug 1: Brody Kopp, Dorothy Thorson  
Aug 2: Evonne Meinerts, Lucinda Rofshus, Nancy Scheldt  
Aug 3: David Swenson  
Aug 4: Lois Hatting  
Aug 5: Kaitlyn Anderson, Helen Kraayenhof  
Aug 6: Cheryl Heikes, Ashley Siebenahler  
Aug 7: Kathy Jarchow, Morgan Sommers  
Aug 9: Tom Arends, Bud Bjerrum, Carol Green  
Aug 10: Bonnie Moeller, Sue Sandbulte  
Aug 11: Lori Carlson, Matt Christensen, Megan Smedsrud  
Aug 12: Lori Gladis, Kathy Platt, Cole Stoltenberg, Ben Wagner  
Aug 13: Joanne Gabrielson, Austin Lee, Shelley Nattress, Jere Ohme, Wayne Walgrave  
Aug 14: Lucy Bose, Stacy Olson  
Aug 15: Kevin Fick, Chance Tunnissen  
Aug 17: Dick Richters, Greg Spath, McKenzie Swenson  
Aug 18: Lorraine Olson  
Aug 19: Trenton Rops  
Aug 20: Triston Kurrasch  
Aug 21: Blair Nattress  
Aug 22: Milo Hamann, Karen Miller  
Aug 23: Jim Cinkle, Heath Jaurt, Dorothy Rodman, Tanya Stroh  
Aug 25: Camden Hoven, Todd Oye  
Aug 26: Marcia Moeller, Spencer Swier  
Aug 27: Chuck Juhl  
Aug 29: Suzanne Kanninen, Zoey Sandbulte  
Aug 30: Barb Carrigan, Elaine Harms, Karen Sandager  
Aug 31: Chris Holmberg, Jude Hoven, Melynda Jensen



## August Radio Sponsors

Aug 7: In memory of Orla Powell, sister of the late Norman Aanenson from Ellen Aanenson, Jane, Jim, Jean, Neil, Bob, Kaylene, Sharlene, Wayne, Marlene and Tom

Aug 14: In honor of Dorothy Rodman on her 95th Birthday from Sarah Circle

Aug 21: In memory of Don Talbert, from Dolly, Stewart & Jennifer

Aug 28: In memory of Bertha Engebretson from Norma Gangestad

## Pastoral Acts



**Funerals** 7/15 Lois McCreary  
7/20 Arlene Thompson



# August 2011



| Sun                                                                                           | Mon                                                                                          | Tue                                                                                                             | Wed                                                                                      | Thu                                                                                                | Fri                                                           | Sat                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                               | <b>1</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br><br>10 & 4 Telecast<br><br>2:00- 7:00 Red Cross Blood Mobile | <b>2</b><br>9:00 Staff Meeting                                                                                  | <b>3</b><br>7:00 Men's Study<br><br><br>6:15 Worship                                     | <b>4</b> 8:30 Missions In Action<br>Noon—Past Presidents<br>1:00 Endowment<br><br>4:30 Book Study  | <b>5</b><br><br><br>3:00 Telecast Ch 3 Knology                | <b>6</b><br><br><br>5:30 Wor/Comm                                                |
| Clothing and White Elephant Drive.....                                                        |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |                                                               |                                                                                  |
| <b>7</b><br>8:15 Wor/Comm<br>9:15 Coffee<br>10:00 Wor/Comm                                    | <b>8</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br><br>10 & 4 Telecast                                          | <b>9</b><br>9:00 Staff Meeting<br>9:30 GLCW Ex Bd<br><br>6:45 Parish Planning Council<br>8:00 Ministries        | <b>10</b><br>7:00 Men's Study<br><br><br>6:30 Wor/Comm                                   | <b>11</b><br>8:30 Sort & Set up Rummage<br><br>4:30 Book Study<br><br>7:00 Exaltation Worship Team | <b>12</b> 8:30 Sort & Set up (if needed)<br><br>3:00 Telecast | <b>13</b><br>8:30 –1:00 Rummage/Bake Sale<br><br><br>5:30 Worship                |
| Clothing Drive.....                                                                           |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |                                                               |                                                                                  |
| <b>14</b><br>8:15 Worship<br>9:15 Coffee<br>10:00 Worship                                     | <b>15</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br><br>10 & 4 Telecast<br><br>GRACE NOTES DEAD LINE            | <b>16</b><br>9:00 Staff Meeting                                                                                 | <b>17</b><br>7:00 Men's Study<br><br><br>6:15 Worship<br>7:00 Bread of Life Worship Team | <b>18</b><br>8:30 Missions in Action<br><br><br>4:30 Book Study                                    | <b>19</b><br><br><br>3:00 Telecast                            | <b>20</b><br><br><br>5:30 Wor/Comm                                               |
| <b>21</b><br>8:15 Wor/Comm<br>9:15 Coffee<br>10:00 Wor/Comm<br><br>QUILT SUNDAY               | <b>22</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br><br>10 & 4 Telecast                                         | <b>23</b><br>9:00 Staff Meeting<br><br><br>CIRCLES                                                              | <b>24</b><br>7:00 Men's Study<br><br>8:15 Caring Ministry<br><br>6:15 Wor/Comm           | <b>25</b><br><br>CIRCLES<br><br>4:30 Book Study                                                    | <b>26</b><br><br>3:00 Telecast<br><br>Wedding Rehearsal       | <b>27</b><br>2:30 Wedding - Melynda Jensen & Heath Jaurt<br><br><br>5:30 Worship |
| <b>28</b><br>8:15 Worship<br>9:15 Coffee<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Gr 6-12<br>Day at the Lake | <b>29</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br><br>10 & 4 Telecast                                         | <b>30</b><br>9:00 Staff Meeting<br>1:30 MJB Comm<br>2:30 Pop Cr Comm<br>3:30 Vet's Comm<br><br>6:00 Ride & Dine | <b>31</b><br>7:00 Men's Study<br><br><br>6:15 Worship<br>7:00 SS Teacher Workshop        |                                                                                                    |                                                               |                                                                                  |

## Children & Family Ministries

Mark your calendars NOW for Grace Lutheran's



### **“REV'D UP Rally Day” 2011!** **Sunday, September 11**

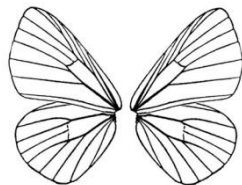
- First Day of Sunday School
- Special Activities during Sunday School Hour
- All-church outdoor grill-out under the tent

#### **Grace Lutheran Motor Show**

Classic cars, race cars, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks, tractors, four wheelers, snowmobiles, anything with a MOTOR on display in the church parking lot!!



Donations of food will be accepted for the grill-out. Hamburger patties, hot dogs, buns, chips, and cookies will be needed. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex during August. If you'd like to enter a favorite vehicle in the show, please call or text 507-227-6891



**WINGS is Grace Lutheran's Wednesday after-school ministry for children in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. WINGS will begin again after Labor Day. Please watch the bulletins and September Grace Notes for more information!**

#### **Sunday School Teacher Workshop** Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00pm

All 2011-2012 Sunday School teachers are asked to attend in order to receive class lists, curriculum material, the Sunday School Calendar, and information you will need for Rally Day and the rest of the year.

**Please make plans to attend!**

Please contact Jodi Rops if you are unable to attend this important meeting.

#### **Grace Lutheran Sunday School begins on September 11!**

Parents and families who would like to register new students should contact the church office at 283-4431. Information about Sunday School will be sent to all families prior to the start of the year. Watch your mailboxes, bulletins, and September Grace Notes for more info!

## Youth & Young Adult Ministries



### **Mall of America Trip for Youth & Adults**

Invite your friends and family of all ages to join you for a day of shopping, rides, and fun. Everyone is welcome!

**Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** - Depart at 7:00am

Cost is \$22 per person

Call Lisa Kor at 227-5512 ASAP if you plan to attend....space is limited!

### **Grace Lutheran Confirmation Ministry will begin in September**



Families of 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders will receive information in the mail later this month. Families who are interested in registering NEW students should contact the church office and talk to one of the pastors.

### **Join your friends from Grace for a day at the lake! Sunday, August 28 - Leaving after 2<sup>nd</sup> service at 11:00am**

Grace youth in grades 6-12 are invited to spend a late summer day at the Gust's cabin on Lake Sarah. We'll spend the afternoon swimming, boating, playing games, jumping on the water trampoline and eating! You don't want to miss this! Participation forms and Sign Up are outside the Youth Office.

### **Don't miss Rally Day 2011!**

**Sunday, September 11**

- \*First Day of Sunday School
- \* Outdoor grill-out for everybody
- \* A MOTOR SHOW in the church parking lot!



**\*\*\*REV'D UP Rally Day\*\*\***

### **How can YOU help our Grace YOUTH to *Live in Christ and Grow in Grace?***

- Serve as a Confirmation small-group leader
  - Teach Middle School Sunday School
- Be a teenager's prayer partner
  - Help with Wednesday Suppers
- Chaperone youth events

**Contact a member of the Young Peoples Ministry today to volunteer!**