



January 2011

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 10 Issue 1



Grace Lutheran Congregational Mission Statement:

Called together by the Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church is a loving family of believers, growing in Christ through God's Word and Sacraments, and reflecting God's love by ministering to others and sharing His Word with the community and the nations.



If you ordered a "Lutheranism 101" book,
they are available in the office.

The final cost of each book is \$14.99.

Please make the check payable to Grace Lutheran Church
and write "Lutheranism 101" on the memo line.

There are some additional books on a first come-first served basis.



If you move or change your phone number,
please call the office (232-1516) with your new information
so our records can stay up-to-date! Thanks!



How to reach Pastor Dave Suelzle:
Email: david.suelzle@gracefargo.org

Pastor's study: 297-6885
Home: 205-1853



Office hours are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday - Friday.

Deadlines: Sunday bulletin - Wednesday at noon
Newsletter - 20th of the month at noon



Treasurer's Report		
Year-To-Date as of:	10/31/10	11/30/10
Receipts	\$228,035	\$249,370
Expenditures	\$236,961	\$258,608
Difference	-\$6,928	-\$9,238

RESOLUTIONS?

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

The beginning of a new year seems to spark in us the desire to make the New Year better than the past year. So we set goals which we want to accomplish in 2011 and call them “New Year’s Resolutions.” We “resolve” to do such things as lose the 10 pounds gained over the holidays (and then in the same breath “resolve” to do it “after the holidays are over, naturally). We may “resolve” to pay off some debt(s) or break a “bad” habit and develop better habits. The struggle with fulfilling “resolutions” is perseverance as many times we soon find ourselves giving up the discipline it takes to change.

It seems that the new year also brings us to a moment of reflection on the past year. We may stop to thank God for all the blessings which He has so graciously bestowed on us over this past year! We can rejoice that He has blessed us with one more year to enjoy His creation and to serve Him!

Yet, the new year also places before us the bad things which we’ve experienced in the old year, some because of circumstances outside of our control and others because of poor decisions we made. This latter may be one reason for our making “New Year’s Resolutions”—to try to correct some of our bad attitudes and behaviors so that history does not repeat itself in the upcoming year.

It is all the experiences of the past year that remind me of what God says in Romans 8:28 → *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.* If we reflect on all the experiences of the past year from a Christ-centered point of view, we begin to see how God used every one of those experiences to develop us into the people HE wants us to be. In fact, those past experiences have helped to mold and shape our present attitudes and behaviors.

Paul had the right idea when he said that he forgot *what is*

behind and pressed on toward the goal. When we set our “New Year’s Resolutions” we must remember that we cannot “make up” for the past. **The only one who can help us deal with those past sins is Jesus Christ and the forgiveness we have through faith in Him!** That’s why all of our “resolutions” must be Christ-centered. It is only in Christ that we can deal with the upcoming experiences which we may encounter in 2011 properly. Only in Christ can our fears of the “unknown” year be calmed and dealt with properly.

When our lives are focused on Jesus Christ and *the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus* then we will be able to make decisions which are in keeping with His Word and will as individuals, families and a congregation. It is only in Christ that we will also be able to face the failures of keeping those “resolutions” as we see that God loves us and forgives us in Christ! We function in our daily lives knowing who we are because of Christ’s righteousness, not our own righteousness. Then we also recognize the “new starts” in life are not a matter of the calendar but of the heart. As 2 Corinthians 4:16 says: *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

**MAY YOU HAVE A NEW YEAR FILLED
WITH RENEWAL DAY BY DAY IN CHRIST!**

— Pastor

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New Year’s Resolve

The new year brings with it new resolve, but so often that resolve fades before the first week is ended. The apostle Paul advised the Corinthians, “Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means” (2 Corinthians 8:10,11). By ourselves, we grow tired or get bored or just plain lazy. Let us ask the Lord to give us the desire to give generously, to serve joyfully, and to expend our time eagerly in response to what God has given to us and done for us.

Board of Stewardship

Dear LYF & Grace Members

Happy New Year!



When we were at the cookie bake in December, we talked about God's grace. The youth were wondering if God's grace was good enough for everyone or if there were some sins that were just too bad to be forgiven.

We can be assured that God's grace is enough for all who believe in Jesus as their Savior. That there is no sin that cannot be covered by Christ's sacrifice once for all. Let us always rely on the love of God through Christ Jesus. His Grace is sufficient for you.

Love in Christ!

Jane

Things Coming Up!

January 22-23 - Senior LYF Zone Ski Retreat at Buena Vista outside of beautiful Bemidji! Meet at Beautiful Savior at 1 pm on the 22nd and we will return about 8:30 pm on Sunday(23rd). Cost varies depending on ski/snowboard rental but includes lift tickets for Saturday evening and Sunday, lodging, late night pizza and pop on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. You will need to provide for 3 meals (Saturday & Sunday supper and Sunday lunch). Registration forms, complete with all the information, are available from Jane or the office. Please let Jane know by the 16th (or sooner) if you are going!

January 15 - Junior LYF will meet at the Dike to go tubing/sledding from 2 til 4 pm. Bring snacks, something to drink and warm clothes

February 5 - 2011 LCMS Family Ski Day at Andes Tower Hills near Alexandria, MN - This is a zone congregational event - youth will need to go with their parents. For more information, contact Jane - registration forms are in the church office. Deadline is Jan. 30.



January 2011

Serve the Lord with gladness!
Psalm 100:2

“My times are in your hands...” Psalm 31:15

Do you have your new calendar yet? For most of my life, I have been excited to turn to the first page of a new calendar. I always wonder what the year will bring for me, and what God has in store for me. Now that I'm getting a little, well, more mature, I am also a little bit nervous about my new calendar. Maybe not all the events will be happy and exciting; possibly there will be difficulties and sorrows that will mark the upcoming year. But, as the Psalmist says, the one thing I know for certain is that all the days of my life are in the hands of my loving Creator. I can always trust that he will ultimately bring about the most good for my life! So, I can confidently turn those calendar pages, and look forward to another year of God's grace to me!

Jan Brelje, LWML President

Upcoming Events

Tues., Jan. 4 - 7:30pm: Circle meets at C. Englestad's home

Sat., Jan. 9 - 9:00am: Circle meets at church (R. Suelzle)

(Thursday Circle does not meet in January)

Sat., Jan. 15 - 9:30am: Potluck Brunch and Willing Hands

Workshop. Please bring a brunch dish to share. Also, we will be crafting/sewing items for the First Choice Pregnancy Clinic; materials needed include: 2 yards of flannel (for receiving blankets), 8" squares of very soft fleece, plus various lengths of washable grosgrain and satin ribbons, in various widths and colors (for "tag blankets"); also washcloths, washable ribbons, and travel size toiletries for hygiene kits for homeless shelters. We will also be trimming Campbell soup labels and "Boxtops for Education" for Grace Lutheran School

Monthly mission projects

Lutheran Heritage Foundation Pastor Carl Kaye, Thailand
Paul and Ali Federwitz, Africa

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPPITS

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, we have some exciting changes to our Sunday School program. We will begin 2011 with a Rainforest themed VBS curriculum. During the months of January and February will explore the Amazon Rainforest, as we grow in our understanding of God as the Great Creator. We will also be changing our format temporarily to work with our new curriculum, as we learn more about our God through crafts, music, games, and dramas. We are looking forward to sharing this exciting change in our Sunday School program with your students!

Wishing you a very Happy New Year,

Kristi

Kristi.Pronovost@gracefargo.org

Classes resume: January 9th, 8:45am - please meet in the basement Fellowship Hall instead of the Sanctuary

Perfect Attendance

October

Preschool

*Morgan Mielke
Aydan Pronovost
Abigail Sharbono
Anna Sharbono*

2nd Grade

*Jacob Schaefer
6th Grade
Alex Crabill*

5th Grade

*Samantha Frojen
7th Grade
Isabelle Muchow
Carly Syverson*

November

Preschool

*Morgan Mielke
Noah Platt
Aydan Pronovost
Emily Saeman*

2nd Grade

*Ethan Berneking-Saeman
Ellie Eichhorn
Mason Martinson
7th Grade
Courtney Martinson*

4th Grade

*Alex Eichhorn
6th Grade
Austin Smith
8th Grade
Colton Smith*

December

Preschool

*Lindy Hanson
Noah Platt
Aydan Pronovost
Emily Saeman
Abigail Sharbono
Anna Sharbono*

1st Grade

*Keeley Eichhorn
3rd Grade
Christian Abraham
4th Grade
Madison Bakke
Alex Eichhorn*

2nd Grade

*Ethan Berneking-Saeman
Ellie Eichhorn
Jacob Schaefer
5th Grade
Corey Abraham
John Holeton*

Kindergarten

Jacob Sande

6th Grade

Austin Smith

8th Grade

Becca Sande

Elder Profile: Jim Nitschke

Age: 62 years; birthday January 8, 1949

Years of service as an elder: 6 years

Occupation: Sanford Health; Patient Accounts
Office Specialist

Home Town: Fargo, North Dakota

Family: Wife-Audrey (will be 39 years on 1/15)

Four children:

Garrett, 35, Minneapolis, MN

Rachael, 33, Cleveland, TN

Ryan, 28, Fargo, ND

Megan, 24, West Fargo, ND; married to Jon
Smelser

Three grandchildren:

Isaak, 15, Alaska

Odin, 10, and Maddux, 5, Cleveland, TN

Hobbies: Softball, bowling, and watching sports
(NFL football-Packers and Twins baseball)

Spiritual Mentor: Pastor Dave Suelzle through
worship, Bible studies, and especially our
Elder meetings as he defines our role as caring
elders in a Christian congregation through
prayer and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memorable Bible Verse: John 3:16 - For God so
loved the world that he gave his only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but
have eternal life.



From the Congregational President:

THRIVENT MEMBERS: AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT THE SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM!

There is going to be a short (15 - 20 min) informational meeting on Sunday, Jan. 9, after fellowship (about 11:30). Steve Asche will discuss the Thrivent Choice Dollar program. Many Thrivent members have dollars available to designate towards various Lutheran organizations. These include the local congregations or Grace School. Please plan to attend. You may lose those funds if they are not designated within the year they are earned. Steve will talk about all aspects of this program.

CEMETERY PLOTS GIFT

The Voters Assembly has approved the offer of sale of the 2 cemetery lots received as a gift from Homer and Florence Pietrick. These lots are being offered first to Grace members. If not sold, these will be offered to the other LCMS congregations in Fargo/Moorhead. Submit your bids in writing to the President of the congregation no later than January 31, 2011. Bids will be dated as received if tie breaker is needed. First received of winning equal bids will be awarded sale. Total value of both lots is \$1000. Minimum acceptable bid for both lots is \$500. Bidder must purchase both lots. Location: Sunset Memorial Gardens, Fargo, ND. Garden Name: Last Supper. 46 B1 & 2. Location requires ground level markers.

Map is located near church calendar in basement.

THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful members for making this year so successful. So many of you have taken an active role in administering the functions of this church. You have given your time so freely in our mission, to grow in His Word and to share His Word. Your efforts, whether it was with the education programs, taking care of our beautiful facility, insuring the church functioned properly by administering its business, outreach to the community or the growth of fellowship within our church family, have been felt and appreciated by each of our members. As we begin a new calendar year, my prayer is that we will continue to grow in His Word, renewing our lives with His Grace that He has so freely given us. I look forward to an exciting 2011!

In Christ,
George Cusher, President

MARRIAGE RETREAT

All couples are invited to the annual Marriage Retreat

Friday, January 28, 2011 (9pm) - Sunday, January 30 (noon)

At Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads

3 delicious meals, snacks, goodies, beverages

private bedrooms, linens, towels

Led by District President and his wife, Jim and Myrna Baneck

\$150.00 per couple for the entire weekend!

Sledding, relaxing, down-time, conversation

THEME: The Lifelines of Love (very informal, fun and

non-threatening), focusing on 7 F's:

Foundation in Marriage

Forgiveness

Faith

Fidelity

Finances

Family

Freedom in the Marriage

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ND DISTRICT ANNUAL MEN'S

WINTER RETREAT

February 4-5, 2011 at

Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads

St. John. ND

"Caution—Construction Zone

Men at Work in the Home & Church"



Presenter: Rev. Dave Suelzle

The goal of the retreat is to strengthen men in their God-given role as leaders in their family and congregation.

For some 25 years men have enjoyed the camaraderie of these retreats --thought-provoking Scripture-based presentations, fellowship, music, good food, games, skeet shooting, sleigh rides, etc. Come and join us!

Begins with 6 PM Supper Friday--ends 3:30 PM Saturday

Cost - \$75

(includes 3 meals, lodging, speaker, book {Wild at Heart}, snacks, games, fire-side chat, sleigh ride, skeet shooting [all supplied], etc.

Bring: Bible, bed roll, personal items warm clothing, & friends

To register: talk with Pastor Suelzle by January 24, 2011

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

After the Christmas worship schedule, things get back to normal again in our worship lives, at least until Lent. Of course, what is normal about coming into the presence of the only true God to worship Him and listen to Him speak to us? What's normal about coming into the presence of the Creator of all and being forgiven in His grace? Worship is not normal. Worship is a privilege. God invites us to come before Him with our brothers and sisters in Christ so that He might remind us of His love and mercy. Looking for an out-of-the-ordinary experience? Come and worship this God of ours who comes to us through ordinary means. We worship at the following times:

Sunday mornings - 10:00

Wednesday evenings - 7:00

Bible Study Schedule:

Sunday mornings - 8:45 am

Men's Bible Studies: Thursdays 6:30 am at Main Ave. Fry'n Pan
7:00 pm at church

Women's Bible Studies:

Monday - church - 7:00 pm

Wednesday - church - 9:15 am

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Sanctity of Human Life Gathering

Friday, January 21, 2011

2:00 pm

Grace Lutheran School
1025 14 Ave S, Fargo, ND

The Fargo-Moorhead Area L.I.F.E. Coalition invites you to attend a pro-life gathering to commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

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The Valley's Largest Baby Shower...January 1-31

Helping Moms and Dads in Need!

Items used for FirstChoice Clinic's Parent Educational Programs

Suggested NEW Donations...

**Diapers, Wipes, Wash & Lotion, Pacifiers, Bibs, Sippie
Cups, Spoons, Baby Clothing & Baby Books**

Drop off at ALL Hornbacher's Foods

(except Hornbacher's Express)

Thank you for your generosity!