



Grace Notes

November 2010

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 9 Issue 11



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.

Membership notes:

Received into membership on September 26 by transfer:

Nathan Wasvick from Trinity, Fergus Falls, MN and Sabrina Wasvick from Grace, Breckenridge, MN

<p>C. Elmer Anderson Born: 9/9/1921 Died: 9/22/2010 Funeral: 9/29/2010</p>		<p>Darrold Woodworth Born: 2/17/1931 Died: 10/5/2010 Funeral: 10/11/2010</p>
<p>Aiden Miguel Wang son of Derek & Anne Born: 7/16/2010 Baptized: 10/10/2010</p>		<p>Alivia Jane Bosch daughter of Joshua & Stephanie Born: 8/1/2010 Baptized: 10/17/2010</p>

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:	8/31/09	9/30/09
Receipts	\$184,353	\$206,132
Expenditures	\$188,198	\$213,060
Difference	-\$3,845	-\$6,928

“Equipping the Saints?”

Christ gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

When you hear the word “ministry” what thoughts come to your mind? Do you think about *The Great Commission* of Jesus as recorded in **Matthew 28:18-20**? (*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*) Do you think of “ministry” in a broad manner, including everything the congregation strives to do in our community and beyond? Do you think about the job which belongs strictly to the “minister” (i.e. pastor)? Do you think of the Word and the Sacraments?

The word *ministry* comes from a Greek word meaning *service* or *help*. From this word comes the word *deacon*—one entrusted to serve others. In the context of the Christian congregation it refers to serving other Christians in order to meet their spiritual needs. In fact, it appears that there was even a position of “deacon” in the early Church (cf. 1 Timothy 3:8-13) which worked along with the position of “overseer” (another word for “bishop”), also referred to as “elder” (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9), also referred to as “pastor” (another word for “shepherd”) in 1 Peter 5:1-3.

The ministry of the Gospel is actually that which Christians perform everyday in their daily vocations of life. According to Ephesians 4:11-12 Christ has provided various workers in the congregation for the purpose of equipping the saints (i.e. Christians) for the work of ministry. Thus, the pastoral office seeks to help each one . . . use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. (cf. 1 Peter 4:10) This is primarily accomplished through the teaching of God’s Word and the distribution of His sacraments. However, it is also done by being a mentor to others, teaching them various ways or methods to serve Christ through the congregation.

Paul said to Timothy, a very young pastor in the area of Ephesus, *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.* (cf. 2 Timothy 2:1-2) Thus, Timothy was to mentor other men for ministry in the congregation just as he had been mentored by Paul.

In our congregation the responsibility for the spiritual life of the congregation rest primarily in the Board of Elders. The board’s guidelines

state their purpose as: *To oversee the spiritual life of the congregation and its individual members . . . The Board of Elders shall have authority and responsibility for the spiritual welfare and activities of the congregational members, individually and corporately.*

With such an important spiritual responsibility in the congregation I strive to “equip” and encourage the elders in their tasks. We discuss various ministry situations, giving guidance for how to bring God’s Word into the lives of members in those situations. Pastor and elders strive to work together in the oversight of spiritual life in the congregation.

One of the ways that we are striving to train elders to take part in the work of ministry is by incorporating them into the worship service. It has been traditional for elders to service Communion with the pastor in our congregation. You may have noticed at various times that different elders have conducted the liturgy portion of the worship service. The desire for doing this is so that those elders who feel comfortable leading worship can use their gifts they have received to administer God’s grace by leading worship (cf. 1 Peter 4:10).

Actually, this is following common practice of the very early Church in the development of its liturgy, which forms the background for our liturgy in the hymnal. If you look at our hymnal you notice that the liturgy for the *Divine Service* calls for a worship assistant (pp. 152-156,166; pp. 168-173,183; pp. 190,200-201; pp. 205,212; pp. 215,218 — the **A** stands for *Assistant*). In the order of *Matins* (pp. 219-228) and *Vespers* (pp. 229-234) the worship assistant is designated by **L** for *Leader*. In fact, the pastor isn’t even mentioned until the option for him to do the *Benediction* at the end of the service.

Since we have been blessed with various elders who desire to use their gifts in worship we are striving to incorporate them into the worship service as liturgists. There is also a practical element to the “equipping.” If we have a number of elders who feel comfortable leading worship they can fill in when pastor is gone on Sundays for vacation, district responsibilities or in case of pastoral sickness. Pastor will write a sermon for them to read and they’ll know how to conduct the liturgy. This is actually much easier than acquiring the services of a fill-in pastor and paying him for his services. More importantly, it does follow Biblical and historical Church models of incorporating the use of peoples’ various gifts in worship!

— Pastor



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT 7:00 PM
ELDER PIE SOCIAL TO FOLLOW IN BASEMENT

Dear LYF & Grace Members

Hallowe'en is right around the corner. Some people celebrate this day more than any other holiday. Take a look at the decorating that is showing up around town.

I think of All Saint's Day instead. We as a church body celebrate the saints that have gone on before us - those who have gone to heaven through faith in Jesus Christ.

That is what our faith is all about - believing in Jesus so we can be in heaven with all the saints worshipping the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally!!

Happy All Saint's Day!! May we always keep our focus on the Lord and the blessings that He gives us!

In Christ's love,

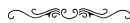
Things Coming Up!

Jane

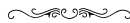
November 7 - Jr. LYF Bowling at the Bowler from 2 - 4 pm.

Meet at the Bowler, please bring \$6 to cover the cost of the lanes!

November 27 - 6:30 pm - Sr. LYF's "Fellowship of the Trees" decorating the sanctuary for Advent + cocoa and goodies - yum!



Friday, November 12 the Parish Fellowship Committee invites you to a Congregational game/craft night in the church basement from 6 to 8 pm. Please bring an appetizer to share. All are welcome!



The Lutherans for Life Annual Dessert Banquet is Sunday, November 7 at 7:00 pm at Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church in Moorhead. Grace Lutheran Church members are invited to sit together - please contact Jolene Richardson. Guests are encouraged to bring a new baby item for the Perry Center. Pastor Mark Erickson, a Nat'l LFL board member will speak on being the "Apple of God's Eye".



November 2010

Serve the Lord with gladness!
Psalm 100:2

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.”
(Psalm 136:1)

As I sit to write this article, I am so very thankful to God! I am thankful for the gracious support of this congregation for the LWML and the missions we support. Our Fall Festival was a great success! The proceeds will be used to fund our local mission projects, as well as the 3 missionary families we support. I am also very thankful to be part of a group of women, who come together to serve the Lord, serve our church, and serve those in our community in need. To God be the Glory!

Jan Brelje
LWML President

Upcoming Events . . .

Circle Meetings:

Nov. 2 - 7:30pm at A. Nitschke's home

Nov. 4 - 1:30pm, at the church - hostesses: I. Melander/S. Volness

Nov. 6 - 9:00am, at the church - hostess: B. Platt

Coins for Christ Collection: Wednesday, Nov. 3 & Sunday, Nov. 7

General Meeting: Saturday, Nov. 13 12:30 pm

Dessert Potluck, with speaker from the First Choice Pregnancy
Clinic

(Executive Committee meets at 12:00 pm)

Loaf Sunday – November 21 Enjoy a loaf of home-baked bread,
with appreciation from the LWML!

Mission of the Month:
Missionaries:

Coins For Christ
Paul & Ali Federwitz (Ghana)
Pastor Carl Kaye (Thailand)

Grace School Notes:

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS—In mid-August, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans launched the second part of its new Thrivent Choice program. This is replacing the supplemental funds program that has benefited Grace Lutheran School for many years. We have received a total of over \$50,000 from this fraternal program - Thank You Thrivent Financial! If you are eligible to participate in the Thrivent Choice dollars program, you will receive a letter telling you the amount of Thrivent Choice dollars that you have to designate and the directions to gift your funds. Individuals will receive different amounts of Thrivent Choice dollars based on their depth of business with Thrivent Financial. Please consider designating some of your Choice dollars to Grace Lutheran School. If you have any questions, please call Jim Krupski at 701-232-7747 or Steve Asche at 701-293-9358.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

November 18 th —Christmas Boutique	5-8 pm
December 9 th & 10 th —Meet Me At The Manger	7 pm
January 20 th —Winter Band Concert	7 pm
February 26 th —Annual Grace Auction	



SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPPETS

Perfect Attendance - September

Pre K: *Avery Bosch, Lindy Hanson, William Hankel, Aydan Pronovost, Emily Saeman, Abigail Sharbono, Anna Sharbono*

Kindergarten: *Jacob Sande*

Grade 1: *Keeley Eichhorn, Maddisen Eisenlohr*

Grade 2: *Ethan Berneking-Saeman, Ellie Eichhorn, Anne Lougheed, Mason Martinson, Gabriella Muchow, Jacob Schaefer*

Grade 3: *Christian Abraham*

Grade 4: *Madison Bakke, Alex Eichhorn*

Grade 5: *Corey Abraham, Samantha Frojen, John Holeton, Chris Lougheed*

Grade 7: *David Boisjolie, Isabelle Muchow, Carly Syverson, Sarah Wentz*

Grade 8: *Luke Bakke, Becca Sande, Kaylee Sharbono, Samantha Smallarz*

Happy November to all of you! This is a wonderful time of year, and we are very thankful for our Sunday School teachers and students. Thank you parents for encouraging your children to come to class to spend time with their friends and teachers. We appreciate you!

As we give thanks for all that we have, we want to share our blessings with others. This month, we are excited to share with you that the Sunday School is planning to help collect youth-size mittens (also hats and scarves), for children in need in our area. Students are welcome to bring in any donations they wish to share, starting November 7th. We will be decorating a Christmas tree downstairs in the fellowship hall with all of the mittens, hats, and scarves that we are collecting, and the children are invited to hang the items on the tree themselves. Before Christmas, we will be taking the donations to the YWCA for the children in the Women's shelter. We are excited to be able to help these children in this way.

Does your Sunday School student have a musical gift that they would like to share with the congregation? Our Christmas Service is approaching quickly, and we are planning for a special time of pre-service music that Sunday. We are inviting our Sunday School children with an interest in sharing their musical abilities to perform their favorite Christmas hymns during this time. Solos, duets, piano, violins, flutes, and more are welcome. Please let me know if your youth would like to participate. :-)

Don't miss our Family Advent Party on December 5th! This is going to be a special time of celebration for our Sunday School youth and their families. The Sunday School teachers are going to be sharing their Christmas baking with you, and we invite you to join us for treats, hot apple cider, a family Advent craft, and Christmas carols. This will be a fun opportunity for family fellowship, and we'd like to have you celebrate with us.

Please mark your calendars:

November 7th - Our Mitten Mission begins!

December 5th, 2pm: SS Christmas Service practice

December 5th, 3pm: SS Family Advent Party

December 12th, 2pm: SS Christmas Service practice

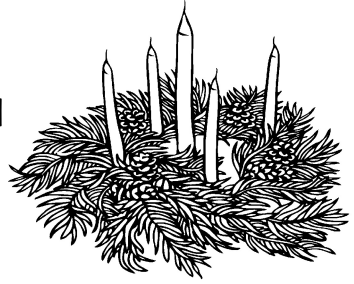
December 19th, 8:45am: SS Christmas Service walk-through

December 19th, 10:00am: SS Christmas Service

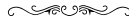
Give thanks to the Lord for His Grace!

Kristi.Pronovost@gracefargo.org

Advent is coming November 28!
Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent
devotional is available for download
at www.lhm.org.



If you would like a copy of the
devotional printed for your use,
please call the church office, 232-1516, to reserve a
copy. They will be printed the middle of the month and
available for pick-up on Sunday, November 21.



CHURCH FINANCES

As we prepare for the last 2 months of our calendar year at Grace, let us keep focused on the cross and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are about to enter the season where we celebrate His birth. We begin our journey that will end with the greatest gift we receive, that of the death and resurrection of our Lord. In this we are given forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. How freely He gave that gift of Grace!

As we move to the end of our year, please keep our finances in your prayers. Our Lord has moved this congregation to give more than we have been budgeted thus far and has allowed our church to spend less than what we had budgeted. These are very positive signs. Though we have not yet met our goal of our revenue meeting all our expenses and commitments, our bottom line is better than our budget indicated it would be.

We are doing better than we expected but not where we need to be. As we get to the end of the year, please pray about the gifts you have received from the One who gives everything to us. Pray about the greatest gift of all, forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. Please pray about what more I can give to sustain our mission of sharing His word and growing in His presences. May God's Blessings be shared with this congregation.

In His Service,

George Cusher
Congregation President



IS LIVING
and ACTIVE

HEBREW 4:12

Worship Opportunities

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Hebrews 10:25)

This Bible verse encourages Christians to worship with other Christians. It reminds us that the day of the Lord's return draws

closer. On that day, only those who believe in Jesus Christ will be saved. For faith to be healthy, the Word must be present. It must be heard and studied as we do each Sunday morning or Wednesday evening here at Grace Lutheran Church. Come, let us be in the Word together.

Worship Service Schedule:

Worship Services: Sunday - 10:00 am

Wednesday - 7:00 pm

Bible Study Schedule

Sunday School/Bible Class: Sunday - 8:45 am

Men's Bible Studies

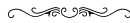
Thursday at Main Ave. Fry'n Pan - 6:30 am

Thursday at church - 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Studies

Monday at church - 7:00 pm

Wednesday at church - 9:15 am



QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
& POTLUCK MEAL
FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2010
BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

Part of God's Plan

"In those days . . ." So begins a well-known passage of Scripture. Do you know what comes next? "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree . . ." (Luke 2:1). Some of us can quote the whole story by heart. Even though we've heard it year after year, some of us for many years, the story is still precious to hear, still warms our souls, still excites our minds, still calms our fears.

Two seemingly inconsequential people of little means obeyed that decree and traveled to the town of Bethlehem to register for the census. The woman, Mary, was about to have a child. She knew that her child was the Son of God, a child to be named Jesus. Joseph, her husband, knew he was not the father of the child, although that was how the world saw him. These were two of God's faithful. They knew the prophecies regarding the Messiah. They had been visited by the angel and learned that they were to be part of the fulfillment of those prophecies. They didn't know how things would turn out. They didn't know all that God had in store for them. They just "obey[ed their] rulers and submitted to their authority" (Hebrews 13:17) as they trusted God to guide and protect them and His Son each step they took on His path.

Of course, God did just that. He provided a place for the Child to be born (Luke 2:7). He sent angels to announce the birth of the King and moved the shepherds to respond to the joyful news and go to worship the new Baby (Luke 2:8-20). He sent "Magi from the East" who brought "gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh" and then believed the warning God gave them in a dream and avoided the evil King Herod on their return trip (Matthew 2:1-12).

How many of these people involved in this most wondrous story realized the important and memorable parts they played? We cannot say for sure but surmise none could really comprehend the eternal significance of the events as they unfolded.

We, too, are involved in God's plans. Certainly none can equal in importance the birth of Christ, but nothing God does is without purpose. Are we listening for the voice of the Spirit as He speaks to us through God's Word? Are we, as we go about our daily routines, obeying our rulers, cognizant of being God's feet and hands and voice to carry out His plan? Do we bring our gifts, aware that God may use them according to a purpose we can't even imagine? How exciting it is to think and know that we are God's instruments! What a loss of blessing to us if we refuse to let God use us and another gets the opportunity instead (Esther 4:14)!

As we live out our daily lives as stewards, "let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith . . . so that we will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:2-3), but instead look forward with eagerness and anticipation toward the unfolding of God's plan in our lives.