



February 2010

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 9 Issue 2

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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.

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Membership Changes:

- Dale & Sheryl Sullivan, transfer in from Our Redeemer, Moorhead, MN
- LaDonna Etzel, transfer in from Our Savior, Glendive, MT
- Don & Cathy Axtman, transfer in from Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck



Henry Joseph Eichhorn

Son of David & Lana Eichhorn

Born: 1/1/2010 Baptized: 1/24/2010

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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!

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How to reach Pastor Dave Suelzle:

Pastor's study: 297-6885

Email: david.suelzle@gracefargo.org

Home: 205-1853

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

Deadlines: Sunday bulletin - Wednesday at noon

Newsletter - 20<sup>th</sup> of the month at noon

Treasurer's Report		
Year-To-Date as of:	11/30/09	12/31/09
Receipts	\$241,006	\$291,473
Expenditures	\$257,361	\$290,933
Difference	-\$16,355	\$540

“I love you . . . but . . . ?”

It seems that we have a way of creating decorations for every month of the year and February is no exception. When we think of February we may immediately think of Valentine’s Day—the so-called “day of love”. Many people decorate their homes with pictures of red hearts and cupids and send Valentine cards to those they love to let them know that they are very special to them.

Yet, our ideas of love seem to be a bit strange at times. How would you define the word *love*? It is very probable that if you asked fifty people for a definition of “love” you’d probably get fifty different answers. The real struggle with love for us sinners is that while we seek unconditional love from others we can’t love unconditionally. A conditional concept of love permeates every area of our culture and society as expressed this way: “I love you if . . . you let me have my way!” or “I love you when . . . you’re good to me in some way!” or “I love you because . . . you love me!”

When I think of love my thoughts turn to what Scripture says in Romans 5:8—*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!* The love God has shown us is not conditioned on whether or not He “gets His own way.” Jesus showed His love for us by giving Himself up totally for us! Neither does He show us His love on the basis of our behavior. **IT IS TOTALLY UNCONDITIONAL!!**

Jesus was rejected by many people during His earthly life. He was spit upon, slapped in the face, mocked, whipped, nailed to a cross and finally killed. Yet, while on that cross He looked at those people doing these things to Him and said, *Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!* (Luke 23:34)

Jesus loves us despite our sinful selves. Yet, when we come to a realization of this great love He demonstrated for us sinners through His living, dying and rising again **for us** we are moved to love Him, thank Him and show His love by striving to let Him love others **through us**—despite their sinful selves. It is only when we know and experience the **unconditional** love of Jesus that we can

truly display love for others. Somebody did that for me when I was sixteen and then shared the following message of Jesus with me. The LORD used it to changed my life and I share it with you as the greatest message of love for your consideration as you share “love” on Valentine’s Day.

My child, I love you. I love you unconditionally.  
I love you good or bad with no strings attached.  
I love you like this because I know all about you.  
I have known you ever since you were a child.  
I know what I can do for you  
and I know what I want to do for you.

My child, I accept you. I accept you just as you are.  
You don’t need to change yourself.  
I’ll do the changing when you are ready.  
I love you just as you are.  
Believe this, for I assure you it is true.

My child, I care about you.  
I care about every big and little thing which happens  
to you.  
I care enough to do something about it. Remember this.  
I will help you when you need me. Ask me.  
I love you. I accept you. I care about you.

My child, I forgive you.  
I forgive you and my forgiveness is complete.  
It is not like that of humans who forgive but cannot forget.  
I love you and my arms are open with love that asks  
please come here! Come here to me.  
I forgive you. Do not carry your guilt another moment.  
I carried it all for you on the Cross. Believe this. It is true.

(Author Unknown)



...HOW WIDE AND LONG  
AND HIGH AND DEEP  
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

– Pastor

Dear Grace and LYF members,

I just love winter! I tell myself that every day. I feel the cold on my face and I think about how bad it would be not to have a warm house to be in.

The love of Jesus warms my heart. I can't imagine a life without Him. I wonder how many people do not know about the Lord. I know that God calls us to be disciples for Him. I feel bad for the ones that do not know Him. And about the coldness in their hearts that stays with them for eternity. We need to witness to as many people as we can, so that they can know Jesus as their Savior too! Then they will be in the warmth of Jesus' love with us forever.

In Christ,

Jane

Things coming up:

Feb. 6 - Zone Congregational Skiing/Snowboarding/Tubing event at Andes Tower Hills near Alexandria. Special group rates apply - each congregation travels on it's own. Info and forms are available from the office.

Feb. 14 - 5:00 - 9:00 pm Valentine's Babysitting - check out last page of newsletter for more information!

Feb. 19 - Tentative date for Jr High Zone YMCA night.

Information will be distributed at confirmation when it becomes available.

Feb. 20 - Sr LYF are doing coat check @ Grace School Auction

Feb. 28 - 5:30 pm - Mystery dinner & talent show - All are invited. This will be a great time with the youth and the congregation. Purchase tickets for a free will donation so we can prepare better!

Mar. 3 - Sr LYF is serving Lenten meal



## February 2010

### Serve the Lord with gladness!

### Psalm 100:2

*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.  
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;  
it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never ends..."*

*I Corinthians 13:4-8*

This is one of my favorite sections in the Bible. I really can't think of anything else to add to it, except that I need frequent (daily!) review of it, and always find these verses relevant. May God bless you in this month of Love, and the whole year through!

Jan Brelje  
LWML President

### Upcoming Events:

- Tues., Feb. 2: 7:30 pm Circle at K. Cziok's home  
Thurs., Feb. 4: 1:30 pm Circle at Church  
Sat., Feb. 6: 9:00 am Saturday Circle at Church  
Sat., Feb. 13: 11:30 am Valentine's Potluck Luncheon.  
Please bring dish to share, and enjoy a Bible Study with Pastor Suelzle!
- Wed., Feb. 17: 6:00 pm LWML will serve Lenten meal  
Sun., Feb. 21: 2:00 pm LWML Prayer Service at Grace  
Mission of the Month: Great Plains Food Bank

### Missionaries:

Paul & Ali Federwitz - Sarah Longmire - Andy & Stephanie Jones  
Grace's LWML is also supporting student Faith Fretham who is studying in Hong Kong this semester. Please keep Faith in your prayers. You can check out how Faith is doing by reading her blog at <http://blog.cord.edu/fevretha>



Join us for the... LWML 2010 Prayer Service  
"Beautiful Feet"

Sunday, February 21, 2:00 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church  
821 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. S, Fargo

Join with your Sisters in Christ for  
prayer and praise!

## Grace School Notes:

AUCTION CHALLENGE: Mr. Shelly Ellig has given us a challenge in relationship to our Auction and Car Wash Books. If we sell 200 booklets of 3 washes before the Auction, he will donate at least \$10,000 to the school. The books sell for \$20 with the school receiving \$15 of that returned as a fundraiser. These make great gifts and also are great for companies who have fleets to wash and clean during the messy winter months.



### STEPPING FORWARD IN HOPE

Please Join Us

GLS 2010 Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Ramada Plaza - Crystal Ballroom

5:00 pm - \$40 per person

We have several childcare options available so that you can enjoy this fun night out with other GLS parents, please contact the school for more information!

Know a great business owner?

Have a craft project that you LOVE to do?

We're looking for items to sell at our annual auction, and we need your help!

We are doing our best to minimize multiple asks so if you are willing to contact a business or person, please email [kgilman@702com.net](mailto:kgilman@702com.net) to let Kym know how you can help!

If you have an item for the auction please bring it to the school office anytime after February 1. Tickets are available from Scott Wentz or Lisa Benusa or through the school office.

SCRIP PROGRAM: The SCRIP program is off and running. This is program in which you can buy gift cards at face value and the school receives a portion back. The great thing about this program is that it does not cost you anything more than you would normally spend. Extra order sheets are available in your church. Just turn them into your board member or church office by Monday noon and they will be available for pick up at the school by Friday at the end of the day or arrangements can be made to have them at church the following Sunday.

COOK NEEDED!: We are in need of a school cook - contact Mr. Krupski.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPEN HOUSES:

Monday, February 8 at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Preschool (Half day [AM] class for 3 & 4 yr olds. Must be 3 years old by August 1. Childcare available through 6:15 pm)

Tuesday, February 9 at Grace Lutheran School 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Full Day Pre-Kindergarten (5 day, full day program for 4 & 5 yr olds. Must be 4 years old by August 1)

Tuesday, February 9 at Grace Lutheran School 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Full Day Kindergarten (5 day, full day program - must be 5 years old by Aug. 1)

## Whose church is this anyway?

**Jesus!** Wow, that was easy. It is His! Always has been, always will be. No question about it. Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church exists for one reason only, to glorify and point the way to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a beautiful gift of eternal life!

Whose responsibility is it to insure Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church is a vibrant, active, loving, growing congregation of believers sharing the Word of salvation? Let's see. Could it be the persons to your left in the pew? Maybe it is the people to your right. How about the person in front of you? Or maybe the people behind you. I bet it is the person in the mirror! Man that was tough to say! It made me squirm!

Believe it or not, each and every one of us that are members of this wonderful church has a responsibility to use their time, talents and treasures to become active in our church. There are so many ways to serve our Lord and one another as we gather in His Word. Do you have an hour a month? What if that hour was during the time you are going to be at church anyway? Does that sound overwhelming?

How about an hour or two a month to serve on one of the Boards that exist to share the Word of our Lord? How about the tremendous friendships you will develop with your fellow believers as you come closer to each other? Sound too overwhelming and time consuming? I know we all have busy lives. Young families are pulled every which way but loose trying to raise their families. People whose families are grown feel they should have the time now to relax. I know our lives tax us in many ways each and every day.

There will be a number of people transitioning off Boards that they have served faithfully for many years. Look in the mirror. Ask yourself, where can I help? Pray that Jesus will guide you when these wonderful opportunities avail themselves to you. Remember, our church is everyone's responsibility. We have been moved to be members of Grace Lutheran. Let's become active with it!

God bless each of you,

George Cusher  
Congregation President

## Love Makes us Do It

A young girl was dying. Her only hope lay in a complete blood transfusion, but she had a very rare blood type. Only her brother, even younger than she, had the same type blood. His parents and doctors explained the situation to him, giving him time to ask questions. He agreed and, without delay, he was laid on a bed, the needle was pushed into his tiny vein, and slowly his blood seeped from his small body into the bag hanging from his bed. He lay quietly as the nurse stood next to him, ready to attend to any need he might have. "How do you feel?" she asked. "Ok," he answered, "but, Nurse, when do I die?"

What love this little boy had for his sister. What must he have thought when his own parents seemingly agreed, even asked him to sacrifice his life to save his sister's?

The boy's love for his sister can help us see how much Jesus loves us. Jesus suffered abuse, torture, persecution, and death for all of us. "Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends" (John 15:13). He demonstrated His tremendous love not because of our worthiness, but because He is a God of tremendous love. Jesus' love for His heavenly Father and for us changed the world. Through His death and resurrection from that death, we through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. God's love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

The love of Jesus empowers us to be His stewards. Because of Jesus' love, we change from people giving to a need to people responding out of love. Certainly, we give to needs such as our church budget, Christian causes, and people, but our primary reason for giving is out of love and commitment to Jesus. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. However, our primary reason for giving is a desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for our Lord and the love that He shows us every day. Because our love for Jesus is our motivation for giving, our giving becomes joyful. Love changes our giving from an obligation to a privilege.

We live in difficult and changing times. How wonderful it is that, as Christians, we know that there is the certainty that Jesus always reaches out to us and loves us. May our lives and our giving genuinely reflect His love for us.



The family of Monica Sund Weiland would like to thank the members of Grace Lutheran Church for their prayers and support during her long illness and passing.

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## Sunday School Snippets

Perfect Attendance - December

Preschool:

Noah Platt  
Abigail Sharbono

Kindergarten:

Keeley Eichhorn

4th Grade:

Corey Abraham  
Erin Groom

1st Grade:

Ethan Berneking  
Ellie Eichhorn  
Anne Lougheed  
Jacob Schaefer  
Mason Martinson

6th Grade:

Courtney Martinson  
Joseph Groom  
Sarah Wentz

2nd Grade:

Christian Abraham

3rd Grade:

Madison Bakke  
Alex Eichhorn

7th Grade:

Luke Bakke

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Our Lenten Services begin February 17 with the Ash Wednesday Service. Set aside Wednesday evenings in February and March to spend additional time hearing about God's grace to us in Christ. Pray that it will be a time of spiritual growth for all of us. The theme for the midweek

services this year is "The Seven Last Words of Jesus."

A "Lenten Supper" will be served before each of the Midweek services before Holy Week at 6:00 pm. Please join us and feed your body as well as your spirit!

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The Emergency Food Pantry needs the following items:

Bath Soap - Toilet Paper - Crackers - Soups - Clean plastic grocery bags from Cash Wise, Sunmart or Hornbacher's

These items can be dropped off in the box in the Narthex or by the elevator.



Valentine's  
Day  
Baby-sitting  
Sunday, February 14



The Youth will be providing babysitting services to any parents who may want a romantic evening out on February 14.

All ages of children are welcome.

The cost is \$10 family.

We will provide supper for the kids.

Hours are from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

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MYSTERY DINNER!!

The youth of our congregation in conjunction with the Board of Parish Fellowship are putting on a mystery dinner and talent show at 5:30 pm on Sunday, February 28. For a free will donation you can enjoy not only a delicious, mysterious, dinner, but also an entertaining show full of music, humor and fun. Tickets will be sold beginning February 7 so we can better plan the event. Hope to see you there!!

