



May 2011

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 10 Issue 5



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 changes:

Transfer out:

Pat & Nancy Connelly; Jason to Crosspointe Lutheran, Fargo

Transfer in:

Drew & Kym Gilman; Mollie, Maia from Beautiful Savior, Fargo



Lloyd Lundeen

Born: 5/31/1924

Died: 4/22/ 2011

Funeral: 4/26/2011



If you move or change your phone number, please call the office at 232-1516 with your new information - help us keep up-to-date! Thanks!



How to reach Pastor Dave Suelzle:

Pastor's study: 297-6885

Email: david.suelzle@gracefargo.org

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:	2/28/11	3/31/11
Receipts (inc. \$22,056 special funds)	\$65,370	\$86,859
Expenditures	\$53,871	\$76,079
Difference	\$11,499	\$10,780

“A Thankless Job?”

Parenting—It has been said that being a parent is the toughest job that God ever gave two people. As we look at the months of May and June we find ourselves facing two special days which direct our attention on parenting—*Mother’s Day* and *Father’s Day*. While these are very special days set aside to recognize our mothers and fathers, it is sad to a certain extent that they only get this special recognition two days out of the year, and sometimes recognition of these days has to be “forced!”

Sometimes we get the impression from our families that being a mother or father is one of the most thankless jobs in the world. It is so easy for us to take what our parents do for us daily for granted, even to the point of expecting things to be done for us without asking politely or showing gratitude. In fact, many times members of the family will display more respect for “outsiders” (i.e. friends, neighbors, strangers, etc.) than they will for those who are the closest to them. It may make one wonder if familiarity really does breed contempt!

Yet a parent knows from experience that one day their children will appreciate all that mom and dad did for them once they leave home and find out what life is like on their own. It is probably this hope that keeps a parent going in many respects. Proverbs 22:6 says: *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.* The problem is that parents are wondering how they’re going to survive the period between childhood and when they get old!

However, Proverbs also says about a mother’s children and husband: *Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “ Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”* (Proverbs 31:28-29) Notice the positive attitude **which is displayed** by the children and husband in the household in relationship to the wife and mother! It has been said: *The best thing a father can do for his children is love their mother **and show it!!***

If you are one of those parents who finds yourself waiting for your children to start being grateful for all your love, care and concern, maybe this letter from one daughter, now on her own, to one mother might give you more encouragement to keep up the hard work!

To Mother on Mother’s Day,

As I look back over my 17 years, I can remember all the laughs, the tears, and the talks we’ve had, which together constitute a relationship more precious than any earthly treasure. I remember the times you’ve helped me with problems, the times you’ve shared in my joys, the times you’ve given me the strength to go one, and

the times you've probably despaired in your wayward daughter.

I also remember the times we've talked about God, as a child and now as a teenager. Through your guidance and example as a Christian parent, I've seen how faith can become a living part of one's life and family. I could never thank you enough for my Christian training at home and in school. It has given me a foundation upon which I can build my life; it has given me the strength to face the problems and challenges which now face me.

I hope I can at times give back to you some of the strength and courage that you've given me. On this *Mother's Day*, for the first time, you have only a memory. But be thankful for that! Be thankful that you, too, were brought up in a Christian home and were shown how your Lord can help you through times like this. Think of your mother and all she did for you, and perhaps you will know some of my feelings on this day.

I know the words "I love you" are never spoken enough, and at times my actions don't even portray such an emotion. Far too often I come to you for help, in sadness, or with petty wishes; I too often voice my disapproval while my approval remains silent. I do not want to be so, mother. I want to praise and thank you for all you do; I want to always show my love, as you show yours to me. But my sinful nature hinders me, and although my love is not always spoken, you know it is there just the same.

Someday I hope to be a mother too. I hope my daughters or sons can feel the same way towards me as I do towards you. I want to be a mother who is God-fearing, patient, helpful, loving, thoughtful, a ready listener, and all the other things a mother should be. In other words, mom, I want to be someone like you.

Maybe it seems funny to write you a letter when I see you everyday, but sometimes things like this are easier written down than said. Even this doesn't express my deep emotions, but perhaps there are no words to fill them completely.

May God be with you, to give you comfort and strength, help in need, and hope for the future. The LORD has given this promise: *As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.* (Isaiah 66:13a)

Love forever,
Your daughter

Have a blessed Mother's Day!!

Dear Grace and LYF members,

What is Ministry? I've been asked that a few times in my 11 years here at Grace. I have tried to show Jesus to all my youth through my actions and faith.

Some of the ministry that we have done includes Camp Matz (ministry to the handicapped), Camp Heartland (ministry to those affected by AIDS), food pantries, homeless shelters, helping members and Pastors with financial gifts. The youth have made over \$50,000 in the past 11 years here at Grace. We have bought Bibles, Christmas trees, treats, pizza, meals, trips

Mostly though we have talked about Christ and what HE has done for us. Christ died and rose for you - HE loves us more than anyone can. HE calls us to minister to others with our money, time, food, or whatever other gifts HE has given us to use in His kingdom, to reach others where they are with the good news of the love Jesus Christ. We came into this world with nothing and we will leave this world with nothing. Everything we have and are is a gift from Him. The most important thing in our lives is our faith in Jesus and the certain salvation that HE brings!

Love in Christ, Jane

Upcoming Events

May 1: Confirmation Sunday: Confirmands are Colton Smith, Samantha Smallarz, Rebecca Sande, Caleb Laude, Morgan Christ and Luke Bakke

May 20: 5:30 - 8 pm Jr LYF at church

May 22: Sr LYF "Farewell to Seniors" (welcome to 8th graders)
Time to be determined in Sunday morning Bible class -
at Happy Joe's on South University Drive

May 29: Graduation - Seniors Haley Boisjolie (S), Becca Smelser (N), and Rachael Winter (S)

June 5-9: Vacation Bible School - sign up sheet is in the Narthex

Grace School Notes:

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL NOW TAKING ENROLLMENTS — We are currently enrolling for the 2010-2011 school year. A Pre-School program for 3 & 4 year olds (with afternoon daycare) is offered at our Beautiful Savior location. A full-time Pre-Kindergarten program is available for 4 & 5 year olds, plus Kindergarten through 8th grade at the main campus. Contact the school office for more information!

CAMP GRACE - We continue to receive full-time applications for this summer program. It's now open to the public, so if you know of someone who is in need of excellent summer care from 7:30 to 5:30, Monday through Friday, please send them our way!! There are 7 full-time openings remaining.

SPRING MUSIC PROGRAMS — The 4th-8th grade spring concert will be on Tuesday, May 3 at 7 pm in the school gym. The preschool through 3rd grade spring musical will be Thursday, May 19 at 7 pm in the school gym.

FINANCIAL REPORT: July 2010 - February 2011

Income: \$670,178

Expenses: \$675,509

We are ahead of our school-year budget by \$224. Because of last year's auction, we were able to spend \$19,506 on new technology for the teachers and students. This included individual laptops for students in grades 6-8 as well as the installation of three SmartBoards (interactive whiteboards).

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

May 3 — Spring Concert - 7 pm

May 4 — Muffins for Mom

May 17 — Lutheran School Softball Tournament

May 19 — Preschool-3rd Grade Musical "Bugz" - 7 pm

May 26 — 8th Grade and Kindergarten Graduation - 7 pm

May 27 — Last Day of School



“GOD PROVIDES”: A Bible Study for Couples with Young Children

All couples with young children up to age 12 are invited to attend the in-home Bible study, “GOD PROVIDES”, by Crown Financial Ministries. Through stirring accounts found in the Bible, God reveals how He wants to be our ultimate provider. This film learning experience offers a rich, dramatic journey through six theatre-quality, epic short films.

Hosted by Jay & ReNae Schaefer, 2309 14th St. S., Moorhead. We have two more Fridays to meet, May 13 and 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. This study is for adults only, child care will be provided on site (in ReNae's daycare).

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

We started our Sunday School year with this verse, and this has been our theme verse throughout the year as we've shared the Word of God with your children through lessons, crafts, music, and fellowship. It's relevant again now as we close this school year and look forward to summer and a new year in the fall. We hope that the children have learned something new during the year, as well as having been strengthened in their faith through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I want to say thank you to all of you that have helped us out in numerous ways throughout the Sunday School year through your time, talents, donations, ideas, and spiritual guidance. May God bless each and everyone of you as we finish our school year this month and begin to enjoy our summer. A special "Thank You" to our Sunday School families for taking part in our program, your children are a special blessing from God!

We invite our Sunday School families and the entire congregation to celebrate the Sunday School year by joining us for a potluck following worship on May 22nd. We will be sharing some photos from our year with you!

Welcome Larissa Brelje as our new Co-Superintendent! Larissa has agreed to help split up the tasks (and the fun :-) of our Sunday School program, and we are very excited that God has moved her to help in this way.

We are still considering the possibility of some Summer Sunday School dates, if you are interested in helping with one or more Sundays this summer, please let Larissa or I know, thank you!

~ Kristi Pronovost & Larissa Brelje

Perfect Attendance - February

3rd Grade: Christian Abraham

Perfect Attendance - March

Preschool:

William Hankel

2nd Grade:

Keeley Eichhorn

2nd Grade:

*Libby Gullings
Jacob Schaefer*

The Board of Education is continuing to explore if there is a need and desire for childcare during Sunday Worship. Kristin Sharbono will be providing childcare during worship on May 15th and 22nd for children 3 and under. If you have questions you can contact Kristin at (701)293-6670 or dougnkristin@q.com.



"GOD PROVIDES": A Bible Study for Couples with Young Children
All couples with young children up to age 12 are invited to attend the in-home Bible study, "GOD PROVIDES", by Crown Financial Ministries. Through stirring accounts found in the Bible, God reveals how He wants to be our ultimate provider. This film learning experience offers a rich, dramatic journey through six theatre-quality, epic short films. Hosted by Jay & ReNae Schaefer, 2309 14th St. S., Moorhead. We have two more Fridays to meet, May 13 and 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. This study is for adults only, child care will be provided on site (in ReNae's daycare).



Grace would like to recognize those members graduating from high school or college.

If you know of a member who will be graduating this spring, please call or email the church office by May 20 with the pertinent information - phone: 232-1516; email: gracelutheran@gracefargo.org - Thanks!



The Fellowship Committee invites you to join us July 15-16 for a Festival of Booths.
See Nehemiah 8:13-17.
More information to follow.

Therefore, Go!

We have just celebrated the greatest miracle ever to occur. The Son of God condescended to come to earth, to be humiliated for the sake of those He loves, and then to rise victoriously, the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” 1 Corinthians 15:20. We celebrate this miracle every Easter.



This is not a daylong miracle, however. The reality of Easter changes us forever. We no longer spend our days in hopelessness and defeat. We no longer go through our daily routines wondering, “Is this all there is?” No, we are new creations through this miracle. We are now “more than conquerors through Him Who loved us” Romans 8:37.

This miracle is one to be shouted from the housetops, for it is meant not just for you and me, but for all humankind. That’s what the “Therefore” in the Great Commission Matthew 28:20 means. Christ has died for our sins and risen again so that we might live forever with Him. He has authority to issue this command. “THEREFORE GO!” Don’t keep this miracle a secret. Take time to tell it to your neighbors and friends. Use your talents to build up your church so that its mission and ministry might be enhanced. Spend your resources so that others (if not you yourself) are enabled to be “[His] witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth” Acts 18.

Grace Stewardship Board



GOLFERS...join the team! FirstChoice Clinic’s 17th Annual Golf Marathon will be held at Rose Creek Golf Course, Tuesday, June 7th. We’re looking for golfers to join the team to golf and raise pledges to provide life affirming services for vulnerable moms and their families. FirstChoice Clinic is the region’s largest pregnancy help clinic with sites in Fargo, Bismarck and Devils Lake. For information call 237-5902 or www.teamfirstchoiceclinic.com.

Thrivent Choice Meeting

Wednesday, May 4 at 8 pm.

Following Worship in the church basement

Please attend this meeting to support what matters most to you through the selection of Thrivent ChoiceSM congregational advocates and the directing of funds already received through this program.

Thrivent ChoiceSM is a Thrivent Financial charitable grant program. By participating in the Choice DollarsSM component of this program, eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can recommend where Thrivent Financial will distribute a portion of its charitable funds, including Grace Lutheran Church.

Here's how Choice Dollars works:

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars based on:

- Annual premiums of qualifying insurance products.
- Contract value of qualifying products.
- Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position.

You are also invited to learn more at

Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

You'll get helpful information about the Thrivent Choice program – including whether you qualify for the Choice Dollars component of the program and the estimated Choice Dollars available for you to direct. Find out how you can help direct them quickly and easily online or by phone.

You can also ask members of Grace Lutheran who are already participating like George Cusher or Herman Rabanus.



Many thanks to the following volunteers who filled baskets at the Food Pantry in mid-April:

Joe Calvert

Ed Hafner

Al & Sheila Kath

Audrey Nitschke

George & Carolyn Cusher

Lois Agather

Judie Feist

Arlyss Machado

The Board of Human Care

Elder Profile: Tim Gullings

Age: 36 years; born May 11

Years of service as an elder: 2

Occupation: Custom Countertops

Home Town: Moorhead, MN

Family: Wife: Julie, married July 31

Children: Three Girls:

Morgan (14)

Hope (11)

Libby (7)

Hobbies: Coach and play hockey, softball, golf, bowling

Spiritual Mentors: My Grandmother, Delores McKee

Memorable Bible Verses: Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."





“*The Other End Of Life*”

Do you have a clear plan in caring for your aging parents or grandparents?

What direction can you give to your children as you face the end of your own life?

Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, will address matters related to “*The Other End Of Life*”. Using God’s Word, Dr. Lamb will answer questions such as:

- What about extraordinary treatment?
- How should I view ventilators and feeding tubes?
- But what if I’m a burden?
- Are food and water extraordinary care?
- What about unconscious patients?
- When is enough enough?

He will help us to honor Christ with God-pleasing plans and decisions regarding the end of our physical life on earth.

Sunday, May 15, 2011
7:00 PM
Doublewood Inn, Fargo
3333 13th Ave. S. Fargo, ND



2011 Vacation Bible School
JUNE 5 - 9
Registration Form

One child per form, please!

Child's name _____

Grade completed _____ Birthdate _____ Age: _____

Parent's names _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____ Alt. phone _____

Emergency contact person _____ Relationship _____

Food allergies Y N (List:) _____

Medical concerns Y N (Explain) _____

Family Doctor _____ Phone _____

Siblings attending VBS (Names/ages) _____

Church membership _____

People who may pick up the child _____

VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program

Parent's signature _____

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF DRIVE

Lutheran Social Services of ND teams with Midwest Motor Express each spring to collect and deliver quilts and kits at distribution points across the state for the Lutheran World Relief Drive. Please notice that Lutheran Social Services does only the spring drive and Midwest Motor Express does the fall drive. The needs remain nearly the same as in previous years except that **LWR no longer accepts clothing.**

In Fargo: May 16 - 20, 2011 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at
Lutheran Social Services, 1325 S 11th Street.

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS FROM LWR

1. Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
2. Donations should be sorted and packed in separate boxes.
3. Use strong cartons secured with packing tape.
4. Do not allow box weight to exceed forty (40) pounds.
5. Label each box as follows:
 - Name and address of congregation
 - Contents of box

Please be prepared to load cartons into the trucks.

- NEEDS LIST:** *(Due to the Haitian Earthquake, health kits and quilts are in high demand)*
- Quilts
 - Layettes
 - Sewing Kits
 - Health Kits *(please do **NOT** include toothpaste)*
 - School Kits
 - Blankets
 - Any brand of new bar soap

*** Please note that LWR no longer collects clothing! ***

Thank you for your commitment and assistance in making the Lutheran World Relief Fund Drive a success!