



Grace Notes

August 2008

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 7 Issue 8



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 purchased tickets to "Lutheran Night at the Redhawks" they are available in the office.

Please pick them up, they will NOT be mailed!

Lutheran Night at the Redhawks is August 4 and sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans



If you are moving or your phone number changes, 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:	5/31/09	6/30/09
Receipts	\$111,277	\$132,745
Expenditures	\$128,726	\$150,962
Difference	-\$17,449	-\$18,217

What Do You See?

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

(Ephesians 1:18-19a)

Vision—that ability which God has given each of us to experience the world around us. It is amazing how we take our vision for granted. Many people whose vision has been impaired will say, “you really don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone!” It’s also amazing how God has blessed each individual with their own unique aspects of vision. For example, five people can look at the same picture and see five different aspects of it. Different sights have different meanings to various individuals because of their unique, God-given vision.



However, we are “thrown off” many times by our vision as well. Magicians refer to themselves many times as “illusionists” because of the magical illusions they create for their audiences. It’s so easy for us to see the obvious and miss seeing the subtle. A good example is the picture to your left.

Because this is an optical illusion many people wonder what language is written in the black circle. But if we change our vision, perspective or way of looking at it, we see the life changing significance of this illusion. The white is actually English letters which spell **JESUS**.

This exercise is sometimes the way we approach our lives as Christians. We get so caught up in seeing the world around us that we miss Jesus. Or we expect God to work “extraordinary” things in our lives and miss God’s “ordinary” working in our everyday living. A good example of this was when God appeared to Elijah in 1 Kings 19. Elijah expected the LORD to reveal Himself in the powerful wind that *tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks . . . but the LORD was not in the wind*. Then an earthquake came *but the LORD was not in the earthquake*. Then a fire came *but the LORD was not in the fire*. God finally revealed His presence in a *gentle whisper*. (vv. 11-12)

The LORD has revealed Himself to us through His Word; through His creation; through His Son, Jesus Christ. Yet, because sin blinds us so many times to God's ways we fail to recognize His presence and work among us. For this reason, God has given us His Holy Spirit to enlighten *the eyes of our hearts* so that we may see the *riches* that are ours through faith in Him!! Because of this special "vision" we can still experience love, peace, joy and comfort in a world so filled with spiritual blindness, turmoil, unhappiness, hatred, discord and pain.

Focusing our vision primarily on JESUS and His work on our behalf will give us the ability to see clearly our condition as sinners as well as God's *incomparably great power* over our sin!! As you visualize the two words below with the eyes of your heart, take some time to look up the promises concerning them. Focusing on what God says truly is 20/20 vision!!

PEACE

LOVE

John 16:33	Philippians 4:6-7	Romans 5:8	1 Corinthians 13
Isaiah 26:3	John 14:27	1 Peter 4:8	Galatians 5:6
Colossians 3:15	Romans 5:1	Psalms 136	Joel 2:13
Galatians 5:22-23		Galatians 5:22-23	



Please Join Us **Kindergarten Open House**

4:30pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday, August 5

Grace Lutheran School

1025 14th Ave S ~ 232-7747

www.gracelutherschool.org

Helping Hands Days

Grace Lutheran School has a big "honey do" list and we need help!

Wednesday, August 5 & Tuesday, August 12 - 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Child supervision will be provided

There are several projects that anyone can do:

Paint the hallways & some classrooms	Move & re-hang lockers, whiteboards & posters	
Clean locker rooms & wipe down gym	Check & replace light bulbs, clean fans	
Plant flowers & pull weeds	Replace ceiling tiles	Clean & organize kitchen
Hang suspended shelves	Wipe down library	Clean windows & heaters

There are also projects that need special skills:

Electrical work including outlet & circuit checks	Carpet installation	Tile installation
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All supplies will be provided! If you have basic tools, please bring them with you!

Many hands make for less work!

Questions? Call GLS 232.7747

Dear LYF & Grace Members,

Well, the time has come, I really am getting married!! I can hardly believe it!! The wait was worth it!! God has given me a wonderful man. HE knew exactly what I needed and provided for me - just as HE has always taken care of all my needs, and yours as well!!

All Grace members are welcome to come to our wedding, August 14 at 6:30 pm to celebrate with us. To the youth, please come early to sit in the front, I want you to be a part of my special day.

Upcoming events:

August 5 - following Worship - meeting to plan!

August 14 - Jane's wedding, meet at church at 6:00 pm. I have asked the Sr High youth to be in charge of the gift table.

September 13 - Moving day fundraiser for Jane. Please come and have pizza and fellowship - parents are welcome to come with their youth!



“Hold onto Hope” is the theme for the 7th Annual Life Walk Event to be held by FirstChoice Clinic on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at Lindenwood Park in Fargo. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., with coffee, apple cider and donuts. The Walk is a short two miles, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and finishing by 10:00 a.m. Participants walk at their own pace and this is a non-athletic event designed for the whole family. Walkers are asked to pick up a Walk brochure and collect pledges for their walk. These walk brochures can be turned in the morning of Sept. 19th at the Walk site. Please call Susan at 237-5902 or email: susan@firstchoiceclinic.com for more information or with questions. Walk brochures are available in the church lobby. FirstChoice Clinic a non-profit faith-based pregnancy resource clinic (celebrating 25 years in 2009) which provides life affirming support for mothers and families experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.



August 2009

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Psalm 100:2

Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00pm we will be having our annual LWML planning meeting, in the church fellowship hall. All members are welcome to help with planning our programs for the next year. We will also be planning which monthly mission projects to support, so bring your ideas! If you are not able to attend, but have some ideas for programs or mission projects, please call me or e-mail at the numbers below.

Please consider attending the annual North Dakota District LWML Retreat, September 11-13, in Carrington, ND. Our theme this year is "Outrageous Joy!!" Jan Struck will be our presenter. From past experiences, the retreat is a wonderful opportunity to get away, spend some time in fellowship with our sisters in Christ, and grow in Bible study opportunities. Also, I have never laughed so hard or so much in one weekend in my life! (And that's saying a lot!) Please call or e-mail me or the church office for more information. We will soon begin reserving hotel rooms, so we can stay together.

God's blessings on the rest of your summer!

Jan Brelje
LWML President
Phone: 237-4710
E-mail: jabrelje@msn.com

Monthly Mission projects for August:
American Cancer Society

Missionaries:

Paul and Ali Federwitz

Sarah Longmire



Make plans now for the Fall Festival
Saturday, October 17, 2009

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

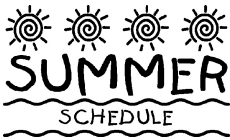
Delicious food

Craft & bake sale items



We are planning to put together
"in a mug" mixes
Friday, October 9 at 7:00 pm





Through September 6:
Adult Bible Class - 8:00 am
Worship Service - 9:00 am



*Grace Lutheran Church - 1100 Main Street, Breckenridge, MN,
invites you to come and join them for the
ordination & installation of Ryan Drevlow
on Sunday, August 9, 2009 at 3:00 pm.
A light meal will follow the service.*



50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Art & Angie Weidner
Sunday, August 23, 2009 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm
22169 Aurdal Road, Fergus Falls, MN
(From I-94 take Hwy 210 east to Aurdal Rd - about 6 miles)
A light lunch will be served.

The family of Art & Angeline Weidner invite Grace congregation
to celebrate Art & Angie's 50th wedding anniversary.



Pastor Ted Benson will be installed as Associate Pastor at
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church - 1000 S 14th Street, Moorhead
on August 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Your presence would be welcome at the installation.
A pie and cake social will follow the service Ted is a 2009
Concordia, St. Louis graduate who will be working half time
with Campus Ministry for MSUM and half time for Our
Redeemer. Ted and his wife Sarah have two children, Carter
and Abigail.



SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING **SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 - FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

One item only!

We will meet to consider, discuss and vote on a recommendation
from the Board of Elders to provide a part-time DCE internship
for Jay Schaefer from 9/1/09 to 8/31/10.

God Calls Us to be His Workers

In spite of our foolish and sinful ways, God calls us to be His workers. Scripture tells us that Jesus did not pick people from society's elite when He chose his workers. Jesus' disciples were peasants, fishermen, and even a tax collector. Paul wrote, "Brothers, think of what you when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . ." (1 Corinthians 1:26-28). The majority of God's work was done and continues to be done by the lowly and oppressed people.

Certainly, God can use celebrities and very successful people in His work. However, we need to remember that, even though we may not have accomplished anything of worldly significance, broken any records, or won any awards, God can use and transform us into effective workers in His kingdom. "I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). Society gives many accolades to those who succeed, but there is no greater honor or privilege than to be chosen as God's vehicle to spread the Gospel. As John states in his Gospel, it is Jesus Who does the choosing. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit" (John 15:16).

So why does God elevate the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: "so that no one may boast before Him." It is only by God's grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God's work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

