



# Grace Notes

December 2010

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 9 Issue 12



**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:**

**Edwin Geizler**

**Born: 12/2/1915**

**Died: 10/27/2010**

**Funeral: 10/30/2010**



**Thomas Thoemke**

**Born: 1/1/1976**

**Died: 11/17/2010**

**Funeral: 11/22/2010**

**Transfer out:** Brandon Fairbanks to Trinity, Rochester, MN  
 Brit & Keri Stevens, Connor, Emilee and Benjamin to Immanuel, Fargo  
 Patrick & Melanie Nichols, Evan to Beautiful Savior, Fargo



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

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>		
<b>Year-To-Date as of:</b>	<b>9/30/10</b>	<b>10/31/10</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$206,132</b>	<b>\$228,035</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$213,060</b>	<b>\$236,961</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$6,928</b>	<b>-\$8,926</b>

## A CONFIRMAND PROFILE AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

This past school year we had 5 junior confirmands. Each of these young men and women were required to write an essay about their understanding of a faith relationship with Jesus. These essays were read the Wednesday evening before Confirmation Sunday. This month's newsletter highlights confirmand Jonathan Luthi and his essay.

This past year Jonathan attended Oak Grove School. He is the son of John & Susan Luthi. Jonathan is currently attending Fargo North High School.

Jonathan's interests and hobbies include: baseball; basketball; playing guitar; hanging out with friends; and involvement with Civil Air Patrol.

Jonathan's Essay:

There are many reasons for my desire to be a member of the Lutheran church. My faith in Jesus is probably the biggest one. I will talk about that and also what confirmation means to me, what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper, and why it is important to take it often.



It is important for me to believe in Jesus because he is the Lord and savior who died on the cross to save me from my sins so that I can live with Him forever in paradise. This is important to me because I believe Jesus is Lord and I want to live with him forever in heaven. Even though I deserve to burn in hell, I know through my faith in what Jesus did for me, I will live in Heaven with my Lord, Jesus Christ.

It is very important to become confirmed in the church. According to question 306 in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, confirmation is a public rite in the church preceded by a period of instruction designed to help me as a baptized Christian identify with the teachings of the Christian church in the Christian community. Basically what this means is that I am confessing my faith before others publicly, and also that I learn this in confirmation class.

The Bible teaches a lot about the Lord's Supper and why it is important. The Bible says that by taking the bread, which is His body, and the wine, which is His blood, we receive the forgiveness of sins, remember Him and make our faith public. This, like confirmation, is a public rite. If you take communion but do not believe in what it means, that is like slapping God in the face. It is important to take the Lord's Supper often because it is important to show our faith often and to practice close communing, or taking communion with others of the same belief.

As you can see, there are many reasons for my faith, my belief in Jesus as my savior, and the importance of confirmation and communion. I, as well as all other believers in Christ, are blessed that Jesus cared enough to die to save us from our sins.

Dear Grace & LYF members,

Merry Christmas! May the Lord Bless and keep you always!

We wish you a merry Christmas...What does that mean? (Does this sound like confirmation memory work?) Christ is with us every day, every moment and in every part of our lives. The Lord is there to bring us joy and happiness, but most importantly God's grace! We live under God's grace not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. May the joy of Christmas last a life time!

In Christ,

Jane

Things coming up....

Jr LYF - December 11, 5:30 - 8:00 pm Christmas party at church: potluck meal (bring a dish to share), games and white elephant gift exchange.

Sr LYF - December 5, 4:00 - 8:00 pm Zone LYF Christmas Party at Immanuel: Potluck meal, Christmas caroling at a nursing home, Bible study, delicious potluck, goofy gift exchange and fun games. Registration forms are in the office or from Jane.

December 8 - Serving the Advent meal - on the menu:

Sloppy Joes, chips, applesauce, and bars

December 17, beginning at 5:30 pm we will meet for our Cookie Bake Christmas Party. Bring a batch or two of your favorite Christmas Cookie dough to bake and a white elephant gift to exchange. Parents are welcome to help! We will be selling our goodies following worship on the 19th./dozen



*Christmas Cookie & Candy Bake Sale!*

*Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> following Worship*

The Sr Youth are getting together to bake up a storm - of cookies and candies. They will be selling the goods following worship on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December for \$3.50 a dozen until they are gone! Look for spritz, peanut butter blossoms, caramels, sugar cookies, gingerbread boys, pretzel rods, ... you get the idea!



# December 2010

## Serve the Lord with gladness!

### Psalm 100:2

“(The angel said,) ‘She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the name Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.’”

Matthew 1:21

The world loves Christmas! If you don't believe me, just look around, anytime after Halloween! The stores are packed with decorations and “holiday” music, the newspaper is crammed with advertisements, the neighborhoods are brightly lit. Even the most secular businesses celebrate Christmas parties, and put up trees. Even though many of these traditions are not really Christian in nature, it is acceptable in our culture to enjoy the Christmas holiday. Sometimes, I think the idea of Christmas—of a cute, cuddly baby being born in a barn, of all places—just appeals to people. Although we Christians also feel the appeal of newborn babies, we see the baby Jesus in a different light. The gift of God, in baby Jesus, becomes even more precious to us when we see the cross that looms behind the manger. Jesus birth is just the first step in his earthly life, the life that will end (briefly!) at Calvary; the life that brings us eternal life. So, I pray that God will bless your Christmas celebrations this year—and that you will remember both the cross and Easter morning while you celebrate the birth of our Savior!

In Christ,  
Jan Brelje

#### Upcoming events...

12/1, 6 pm: LWML serves Advent meal. Offering goes to “Coins for Christ”

12/4, 11:30 am: Advent Potluck Luncheon. All Ladies invited! Enjoy singing, delicious foods, and fellowship with us! (Executive Committee meets at 11:00). We will have an ingathering of clothing items for the homeless shelters (hooded sweatshirts are especially welcome, as are caps, gloves and socks)

12/18, 9 am: Pack and deliver Christmas baskets. Donations of cookies are needed for our baskets!

#### Monthly mission projects...

Christmas baskets

Pastor Carl Kay in Thailand

Paul and Ali Federwitz in Ghana

Our final “Coins for Christ” Sunday/Wednesday for 2010  
will be December 1 & 5.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



This is my favorite time of year! Our Sunday School is planning a month of celebration as we rejoice in our Savior's birth. We will be enjoying family fellowship, tree decorating, giving to others, and our beautiful Sunday School Christmas Service. Parents, we need all students at our upcoming practices. Thank you for helping your children with their parts and song lyrics!

~email me with any questions~  
kristi.pronovost@gracefargo.org



Mark your calendars!

## DECEMBER 5TH:

- Final day to donate items for the mitten tree!
- The students will decorate the sanctuary trees during service with their hand-made ornaments
- 2pm: **SS Christmas Service practice** (ALL Students and teachers)
- 3pm: **SS Family Advent Party!**



## DECEMBER 12TH:

- 2pm - 3pm: **SS Christmas Service practice** (ALL Students and teachers)

## DECEMBER 19TH:

- 8:45am: **SS Christmas Service practice** (ALL Students and teachers - please arrive by 8:45, thank you!)
- 10:00am: **SS Christmas Service!**

**Please attend all Openings by 8:45am**  
**We need the time to practice our**  
**Christmas music. Thank you!**

# Sunday School Advent Party!!!



*Christmas Cookies*

*Hot Apple Cider*

*Family Advent Craft*

*Christmas Carols*

*Design Cards for our Shujins*



**Fun for the whole family!**

**December 5th**

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**3:00pm-4:00pm**

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(following the SS Christmas Service practice - 2pm)

*We look forward to seeing all of our  
SS parents, teachers, and students  
at this group event.*

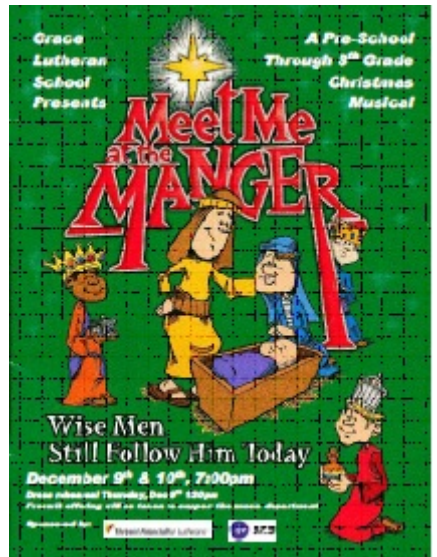
*Let's "prepare" for the  
Christmas season together!*



# Grace School Notes:

MRS. SCHOLTEN TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS AT GRACE: Before the Christmas Program on Thursday, December 9th, we will be recognizing Mrs. Scholten for 25 years of faithful service to her Lord at Grace Lutheran School. If you would like to send her a

personal thank you, please send it to the school office and we will include it in the packet that evening.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- |                                 |                       |      |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| December 9th & 10 <sup>th</sup> | Meet Me At The Manger | 7 pm |
| January 20 <sup>th</sup>        | Winter Band Concert   | 7 pm |
| February 26 <sup>th</sup>       | Annual Grace Auction  |      |



The Parish Fellowship committee invites you to join us: December 12, 2010 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm for Christmas Caroling (following Sunday School practice). Pizza and pop will be served following caroling. All are welcome. We will be visiting local nursing homes.



I would like to donate a poinsettia for Christmas.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Price of poinsettia - \$7.50  
Make checks payable to: Grace LWML  
Deadline for ordering is December 8.  
Plants will arrive on December 10 and may be taken home after the Christmas Day Festival Service.

Greetings in Christ from southwest Fargo;

It is with great joy and much thanksgiving that I share a quick update regarding the blessings and goodness of God that remain evident at Crosspointe. At the end of October, the North Dakota District Board of Directors approved the constitution and bylaws that had been submitted earlier in the year. That moves Crosspointe forward in the process of becoming a fully recognized congregation of the LCMS with the ability to receive members. In early 2011, that transition will be completed and celebrated and the congregation will continue with its mission to impact lives with the love of Jesus Christ.

As 2010 comes to a close, God continues to draw His people closer to Himself even as He equips and sends us into the world to declare His praises. Participation in Sunday morning worship, Bible Study, Sunday School, and Wednesday confirmation are all increasing. Small groups are connecting worshipers outside of Sunday mornings to strengthen their relationships with one another and their faith in God. Our partnerships in the community are creating great opportunities to share God's love with others.

A couple weeks ago, one local congregation marked its 50<sup>th</sup> year of ministry while another celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> this week. Thanksgiving is just over a week away and then we move into the season during which we rejoice in the coming of our Redeemer King and anticipate His return. The support provided to Crosspointe by other North Dakota congregations has brought on-going encouragement as it expands the capabilities of the ministry in its early stages. We are thankful for your partnership in the Gospel and pray that God continues to guide and bless your congregation through the Christmas season and in the year and years to come.

God's peace and joy, Pastor Mike

Crosspointe  
Lutheran

**We are collecting items for the local homeless shelters.**

**This year we are collecting the following for the New Life Center: white tube or dark socks, yellow flannel work gloves, stocking hats, winter gloves, warm long underwear (tops or bottoms).**

**We are collecting the following gift items for Churches United Christmas Store: (new unwrapped items only, please - be sure to mark them "Christmas Store" if you drop them off at the shelter and by December 15.)**

**General items: stationary; stamps; gift cards to Target etc or fast food restaurants; gift bags with personal care items; pillows; laundry baskets with detergent; family appropriate DVDs; towel sets, bus passes; mitten/scarf sets; blankets; book lights**

**Men: backpacks; duffel bags; thermal underwear (L-XXL); hooded sweatshirts; billfolds; reading glasses; socks-white tube or dark; winter/work gloves; stocking caps**

**Women: Sweatshirts (L-XXL); sweaters; socks; purses; personal care items; jewelry**

**Teens: Hooded sweatshirts; pajamas; hair supplies; fleece blankets; socks; t-shirts; movie passes; lotion; perfume; jewelry; watches; CDs**

**Children: Diapers (all sizes); sweatshirts; pajamas; socks; underwear; hair supplies**



### 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 Jan. 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.

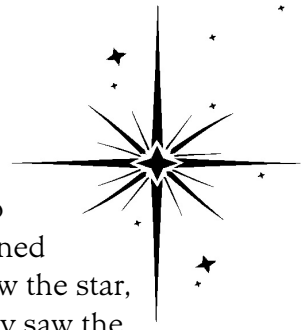
Location: Sunset Memorial Gardens, Fargo, ND. Garden Name: Last Supper. 46 B1 & 2. Location requires ground level markers. Map is located near church calendar in basement. George Cusher, President



**ON DEC. 2, WE WILL START A NEW BIBLE STUDY IN THURSDAY EVENING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY CALLED \*HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE\*, FEATURING DR. PAUL L. MAIER, A BIBLE STUDY FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES-MEN'S NETWORK. WATCH THE SUNDAY BULLETIN FOR MORE INFORMATION... WE WILL NOT MEET ON THURSDAY, DEC. 9, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND THE GRACE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MUSICAL!**

## Overjoyed by the Star

In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh" (Matthew 2:10-11).



What did the Wise Men from the East know about this Baby or His family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They were overjoyed."

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we "overjoyed" when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the shut-in, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. Let us "open our treasures" and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.