



October 2009

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 8 Issue 10



**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 by Holy Baptism on September 13:

Monty Lee Waggoner, Jr. son of Monty & Linda Waggoner

Cora Anne Waggoner, daughter of Monty & Cassandra Waggoner

Released: Preston & Rebecca Kranz, Conrad, Lincoln, Nadia, Camille, and

Asher to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Fargo

David & Janet Marshke to Dilworth Lutheran Church, Dilworth

Death: Eugene D. Morken 8/8/1934 - 8/28/2009 Funeral 9/1/2009



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:

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

**Treasurer's Report**

<b>Year-To-Date as of:</b>	<b>7/31/09</b>	<b>8/31/09</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$149,284</b>	<b>\$171,891</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$167,251</b>	<b>\$184,193</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$17,967</b>	<b>-\$12,302</b>

*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus . . . For we maintain that man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. (Romans 3:21-24, 8)*

For many people today, including Christians, October 31<sup>st</sup> is viewed simply as Halloween—a day where children (and sometimes adults) dress up in costumes, go to parties and/or go “trick or treating” to get stocked up on their candy supply for the year. In fact, October 31<sup>st</sup> has become so noted for the celebration of Halloween that it has become **very** big business!

However, for the Christian, October 31<sup>st</sup> should be a date with more meaning than this. In fact, one specific event which took place on this day many years ago has a lot to do with our identity as Lutheran Christians! This event has given direction for millions of people in regard to their eternal salvation!!

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed some statements to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany—a place where all kinds of public notices were posted. They were 95 statements (known as *The 95 Theses*) about teachings and practices taking place in the Roman Catholic Church. He wanted to discuss these issues with the church officials and leaders because of some struggles he encountered with some of the teachings, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. But why would he decide to do this?



Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in a German town called Eisleben. While studying to become a lawyer he left the University to join a monastery—he became a monk. Luther was like you and me—a sinful human being who struggled with his sinfulness in relationship to the demands of our holy and perfect God-Creator. However, under the system in which he was raised (in the Roman Catholic Church) he continually felt lost, since the Roman Catholic Church stressed attaining perfection before God in its teaching and practice based upon human works. The Roman Catholic Church stressed the teaching that a person is saved by good works—doing the best you can do in order to obtain God’s favor and forgiveness. Luther, however, never felt like he could do enough to “make it up” to God for his sins and thereby gain God’s forgiveness—and, believe me, he tried!! Becoming a monk (leaving

the world for a life totally dedicated to God in seclusion); becoming a priest (which was considered the purest vocation a man could have); his acts of penance (different religious functions or deeds which a person does to “make up”—that is, do satisfaction for his/her sins); all these and more efforts brought Luther no peace before his holy God-Creator.

One day, while Luther was in a library, he found a Bible chained to a wall. As he read it he found out the answer to his struggle—he read about how we can’t purchase or earn God’s forgiveness. God **declares** us righteous and forgiven totally because of what Christ did for us through His suffering, death and resurrection! This new found revelation brought him the peace with his holy God-Creator which he had long searched for in his lifetime. From this time on, he saw the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church in a new light!!

Luther never wanted to start a new church body called *Lutheran*. However, after many endeavors to discuss the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church with its leaders, they eventually excommunicated him and issued a papal ban which gave anyone the power to kill Luther on the spot if they saw him. He wanted to see his Church’s teachings and practices be re-formed in keeping with the teachings of God’s Word. That’s why it is called *The Reformation*. As Luther’s concerns and God’s Word were published, more and more people came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Many Roman Catholic Christians decided to follow the teachings of Scripture and worked at reforming their churches and their lives in keeping with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!!



...but my righteous one  
shall live by faith...  
-Hebrews 10:38

Thus you have October 31<sup>st</sup> as the traditional date of the start of *The Reformation*—a date which should remind us of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, the free gift of forgiveness which is ours by grace through faith in Him **alone** and the power of this Gospel message for all people of all times!!!

We are *Reformation* people not because we call ourselves *Lutherans* but because we continue to confess that we are saved by grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone, on the basis of the promises of God’s written Word alone!!! October 31<sup>st</sup> is not a day where we “reform” ourselves by means of a costume, but a date which reminds us of how God reforms our sinful lives by the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel—the **Good News of Jesus Christ!!!**

Dear LYF and Grace Members,

Deer hunting season is soon approaching. It reminds me that we as people are always "hunting" for a new thing to make us happy. Maybe it is a new shirt or car, a different house, or just more money. These things are just temporary fixes, they wear out or get used up and we are on the hunt again! What we really need is Christ and HIS love – which we already have. He has created us, finds us when we wander, showed us He truly loves us by taking our sin on Himself and dying on the cross. He is the only thing that we need even though Satan wants us to be unhappy. We can't find or buy enough things. to ever make us happy. True happiness comes only from the Lord.

May we always depend on HIM, the One who gives us real joy.

In Christ's love,  
Jane

### THINGS COMING UP

JR LYF:

Oct 22 - Oct 24: ND District LC-MS 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Gathering which will be held in Bismarck at the Doublewood. This year's theme is "Mirrors of His Grace" based on Ephesians 2:4-5.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to attend.

The cost for this event is \$135 which covers your hotel room, Friday's meals, Saturday's breakfast and three snacks, pizza and admission to the YMCA and the cost of the program. Church will pay half of this amount - make your check for \$67.50 payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Additional cost will be Thursday supper and Saturday lunch as well as transportation cost.

SR LYF:

Oct 11: 5:00 - 6:30 pm National Youth Gathering Meeting for parents and youth. We will be discussing costs, raising funds, etc. We plan to be done in time for those who wish to go to the Lutherans for Life Dessert Banquet at First Lutheran to be able to do so! Come with ideas!



October promises to be a busy month for the Ladies in the LWML! First of all, we celebrate LWML Sunday October 4. This is our opportunity to give thanks to God for his great blessings to the LWML. For example, our current bi-annual Mite Box goal is \$1.85 million! These mites will travel the world, sharing the gospel with people from Texas to Africa and from Florida to India. No matter how high we set our goal, the Lord's blessings help us to meet it. In our own unit, we have been richly blessed with wonderful, energetic members who are committed to our mission and to each other! What a blessing it is to lead this organization as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness"

October 10 is our zone Fall Rally at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, with registration beginning at 8:30am, and opening devotions at 9:00. The ingathering will be items for the YWCA Women's Shelter, including diaper wipes, #5 & 6 diapers (larger sizes), 4T and 5T size pull-ups, hair conditioner, hair brushes, shave cream and face wash . At registration, a free-will offering will be taken to help pay expenses for the presenters, who are from the Assembly of Leaders. A mite offering will be taken during the opening devotion.

Our Fall Festival is scheduled for October 17, so get busy finishing your craft projects! We will meet on October 9 at 6:30 pm to help assemble mixes for the sale. A list of needed ingredients will be available at our September 29 meeting, or contact Ruth W or Wanda A for our needs. We will set up on Friday, October 16 at 6:00 pm, so please drop off your donations of craft projects and baked goods by then. Circle chairmen will have information on other food donations needed for the lunch, as well as sign up forms for helping. This has been a big fund raiser for us, so please all continue to share your time and talents as we prepare! Don't forget to invite family and friends for a delicious luncheon, including home-made pies, and shopping for fun crafts and baked goods!

Upcoming events: All Circles meet at Church this month!

Oct 3 - 9:00 am (K. Lougheed)	Oct 6 - 7:30 pm (B. Drager)	Oct 8 - 1:30 pm (E. Zitzow, A. Thomaier)
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Oct 4 - LWML Sunday	Oct 10: Fall Rally @ Beautiful Savior
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<u>FALL FESTIVAL DATES</u>	Oct 9: 6:30 pm - Mix Assembly
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Oct. 16: 6:00 pm - Set Up	Oct 17: 8:30 am - 2 pm - Fall Festival
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<u>MISSION PROJECTS:</u> Paul and Ali Federwitz	Lutherans for Life	Coins for Christ Sarah Longmire
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# Humble Stewards

As stewards, we are the recipients and caretakers of God's goodness, love, mercy, and grace. Stewards are managers of God's creation. We acknowledge God as the owner; therefore, we are to act not as owners but as managers because our lives and resources are simply on loan from Him.

The book of Daniel gives an account of a man who failed to recognize God as Creator and provider and exalted himself. King Nebuchadnezzar, walking on the roof of "his" royal palace, surveying "his" kingdom, was overcome by pride as he announced, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty" (Daniel 4:30)? He thought he was asking a rhetorical question, but God condemned him to live like an animal as a consequence of his pride.

Pride is destructive. It destroys gratitude to God for all His kindness to us. It destroys our desire and ability to serve others. It destroys contentment for it feeds our competitive nature so that we are not satisfied with just being wealthy or intelligent, but we want to be wealthier and more intelligent than anyone else.

Pride has no place in the life of a servant. First Peter 5:6 reads, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time." It is God alone Who can exalt us (Psalm 75:7). If Christ Himself, God's only begotten Son, humbled Himself, should we not follow His example and humble ourselves? Because Christ humbled Himself, God exalted Him (Philippians 2:9)

David, the shepherd-king, put our situation in proper perspective: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him" (Psalm 8:3-4)? The inference is that we are insignificant, yet David goes on to remind us of what we can be proud: "You made [us] ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under [our] feet."

Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God's goodness. In the words of Martin Luther, humility is the decision to "let God be God". We are stewards through humility. We are to honor Him with what we have, what we are, and what He will make of us.

Greetings in Christ from Crosspointe;

It is with joy that I share with you some of the great things God is doing among the people of Crosspointe. My excitement is still running high from a huge milestone for the ministry as Holy Communion was celebrated for the first time in September. What a blessing to gather at the altar as community of faith to receive God's gracious gifts. In September we also kicked off our Sunday morning Sunday School and adult Bible Study prior to worship. Over the past two months we have also had two events that provided great interaction with the community. In August we did a prayer walk on the campuses of NDSU, MSUM, and Concordia. This was a powerful evening of lifting up the students, faculty, and staff in prayer. In September we held an ice cream social and invited our immediate neighbors in the Sincebaugh subdivision. The evening was a great way to help Crosspointe kids and families get to know one another and a number of the neighbors were appreciative of the event.

Crosspointe thanks you for your on-going support of its ministry. Your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support demonstrate both the goodness of God and the benefits of the church working together. Please pray that God continues to grant wisdom as the ministry grows and expands so that Crosspointe would remain faithful to our head, Jesus Christ... that we would be a people anchored in the Word, united in faith, and sent into the world to share the love and truth of Jesus.

Pastor Mike Giddings



THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH HAVE A LIMITED SUPPLY OF THE BEAUTIFUL 'GOD'S CREATION' CALENDARS WHICH FEATURE FABULOUS PHOTOGRAPHY COMBINED WITH THE WORD. THEY ARE ALSO HAVE A FEW SETS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM THE SAME

MANUFACTURER AS THE CALENDARS. THE CALENDARS ARE SELLING FOR \$7 EACH AND A SET OF 12 CHRISTMAS CARDS SELLS FOR \$6. YOU MAY PURCHASE THESE FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE BASEMENT ON SUNDAYS.



# Fall Festival

sponsored by Grace Lutheran LWML  
in support of mission projects

Saturday, October 17, 2009

8:30 am to 2:00 pm



Continental Breakfast served 8:30-10:30 am  
(Cinnamon Roll/Coffee/Juice - \$2)



Luncheon served 10:30 am - 2:00 pm  
Choose 3 of the following  
(Prize winning chili/homemade chicken  
noodle soup/hot turkey bun/cinnamon  
roll/cornbread muffin/piece of pie)  
served with coffee/lemonade for \$5



Bake sale - home baked goods



Craft bazaar sale



Grace Lutheran Church basement  
821 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Fargo ND



# Lutherans For Life

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dessert Banquet  
Pro-Life Celebration**

**Please join us...**

**Sunday  
October 11th ~ 7:00 P.M.**

**First Lutheran Church  
619 Broadway North ~ Fargo, ND**



**Lt. Col. John Eidsmoe**

## ***VALIDATING LIFE What gives LIFE Value?***

Free-will offering will be taken to support  
the ministry of F-M Lutherans for Life

***To register or for information:  
Call Hope at 218.790.5271***

**"We are the clay, you are the potter,  
we are the work of your hand."**

**Isaiah 64:8**

Help us to give glory to God and beautify our church on Sunday mornings!



The LWML has the responsibility of providing flowers for the church altar – and we need your help! Please sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex for a Sunday that you'd like to provide flowers. The flower chairman will contact you prior to that Sunday, to see if they can help. You can make arrangements yourself with a florist, using the church vase liners or other vases. Or, you can ask the flower chairman for help in selecting and purchasing the flowers. Donations towards the purchase of flowers are always welcome, too; donations can simply be put in an envelope marked "LWML flowers" and placed in the collection plate. Flowers are a great way to give thanks to God for a special day or for special people in our lives!



Caregivers, follow the yellow brick road to the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Caregiver conference on Thursday, October 29 at the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N, Moorhead. It will last from 9 am to 3 pm. This congerence is free and open to caregiveres currently caring for a loved one. There will be vendors, speakers and lunch is provided. For reservations call Julie at 299-5514



Baby Shower for Ali Arndt  
Saturday, October 3

2 - 4 pm in Fellowship Hall

RSVP to Rachel @ 237-6747



**Did you notice?**

**There is a parish planning calendar on the wall between the offices for you to write your events on. These calendar pages will be replaced monthly with the next year's calendar. Events written on the calendar will show up on the newsletter calendars and the weekly events in the bulletin.**