



July 2009

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 8 Issue 7

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:

Brandon Fairbanks
received by transfer
from the Church of Christ the
King, Duluth, MN

Jacob James Peterson
son of
Mindy Kitsch & John Peterson
Born: 4/28/09
Baptized: 6/21/09

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: Pastor's study: 297-6885
Email: david.suelzle@gracefargo.org Home: 205-1853

Treasurer's Report	
Year-To-Date as of:	5/31/09
Receipts	\$111,277
Expenditures	\$128,726
Difference	-\$17,449

Office hours are 9 am to 3 pm
Monday through Friday
Deadlines:
Sunday bulletin - Wed. at noon
Newsletter - 20th each month

In God We Trust?

When's the last time you took a good look at the money which so quickly passes through your hands? Take out a coin from your pocket (or a bill of some kind) and you will find printed on it somewhere the words, "IN GOD WE TRUST."



"IN GOD WE TRUST"—words which so beautifully remind us of the *Meaning of the 1st Commandment: We should fear, love and trust in God above all things*. It is a great statement of our profession that the God Who created us will *richly and daily provide me with all that I need to support this body and life* (from the Meaning to the 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed).

During the month of July many people's thoughts, attention and plans are focused on the 4th of July—*Independence Day*. It marks the anniversary of our "freedom" from the governing power of England in 1776. We celebrate the fact that we live in a country where we are "free" to think as we please, speak as we please, believe as we please, etc. **as long as** it does not infringe on the rights of those around us. The sad part about this day is that the 4th of July has become simply a "3 day weekend" for many which gives us another excuse to "celebrate" with one more party.

It is interesting that a nation which has such a difficult time defining exactly who this God in whom we're supposed to trust actually is, confesses on its money that it does trust in God and even pledges allegiance to "one nation under God." It is also interesting that this God has no morals—considering the fact that the government cannot be controlled by any moral beliefs but simply runs on the basis of so-called empirically proven objectives and "facts" which appear to simply be the relative opinions of the "many". With many of the processes of our judicial system and the "moral" judgements being made by the people who are supposed to represent us, we begin to wonder who really is the God in whom we trust and under whom our nation stands. These considerations have moved many people to define our nation's God as "secular humanism" or some other kind of humanistic philosophy which

promotes a self-gratifying life.

God says in Colossians 2:8—*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human traditions and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.* What has happened to our nation who is supposed to trust in God and stand under Him? When the people who make up this nation do not take their relationship with Jesus Christ seriously and let a “secular humanistic” philosophy (which is based on human rationalistic *principles of this world*) become the standard, they leave Christ behind. Or else they re-define, re-interpret, or change what Jesus says to conform to this philosophy. When people take on this philosophy they soon discover that their “freedom” is in trouble.

What does it mean, then, when we read on our money “IN GOD WE TRUST?” God gives us guidance of what this means in 2 Chronicles 7:14—*If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

God is not looking for a revolution in the lives of our people—but for a recreation of peoples’ hearts and lives! He’s not looking for a separation of Church and State—since both have been established by Him with specific purposes—but for each to fulfill their God-given functions side by side! God is not looking for people who don’t “mix religion with politics”—but for people who will let God’s Word and Will influence and guide every area of their lives! God is not looking for people who trust in God as they perceive Him—but for people who confess their trust in God as He has revealed Himself to us in His Word, in the Person & Work of Jesus and through His actions in our daily lives!! If a nation claims God’s name then He wants that nation to humble themselves before Him in prayer, recognizing Who He is as they seek His forgiveness through Christ in their daily lives! Then we can truly confess “IN GOD WE TRUST!!”

DO NOT USE YOUR
FREEDOM
AS A COVER-UP
FOR EVIL; LIVE AS
SERVANTS OF GOD.

1 Peter 2:16, NIV



Dear Grace and LYF members,

As my wedding date approaches, I have been reminiscing about being single. I have many fond memories - most of which have to do with the youth! I just want to say that singleness is not a disease. God allowed me to enjoy many blessings: going on servant events, traveling to the National Youth Gatherings, Sunday morning Bible class, the Jr LYF gatherings, Y-nights . . . these are just a few of my favorite memories, and that is mainly because of the youth. I see how God has blessed each one of them. They each have unique and special gifts and I have enjoyed watching them blossom and grow in their faith. God has blessed me with them.

So, I turn a corner, knowing that God will continue to bless me in my ministry with the youth, but now increasing my joy with a family of my own - a husband and step-children. As the close of my single days is slowly approaching, the newness of God's continued blessings will roll on and on! I look forward to the wonderful blessings that only HE can give.

I would like to invite all the members of Grace to our wedding on August 14, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

Love in Christ,
Jane

Upcoming events:

Sr LYF - Feed My Starving Children/Valley Fair - July 8-9. We are leaving from Beautiful Savior at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 7/8. Cost is \$65 + 5 meals (\$35 if you allow \$7/meal) Please register as soon as possible or let me know if you are going by June 30.

Jr. LYF Pool Party - July 17 -1:00 - 3:30 pm. Meet at church, we will walk to and from Island Park Pool. In case of rain, we will watch a movie at church.



June 2008
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Psalm 100:2

LWML News . . .

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of teaching a few lessons for Vacation Bible School. One of the lessons I was assigned was the story of creation. What a wonderful lesson, and what a wonderful time of the year to teach it! As I look out my window this evening, I see green grass, green leaves, sunshine, and birds (and, maybe a squirrel or two!). What a beautiful sight, especially after the long, cold winter, and the sandbags and dikes of spring! As always, I am so thankful to God, our creator. He created a world that not only produces and sustains life, but he also made it full of sights, sounds and scents for our senses to enjoy. What a loving God we have! Remember Him and give Him thanks this summer, as you travel on vacation, go to the Lakes, or just relax in your backyard.

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good...”

Genesis 1:31

Jan Brelje

LWML President

Upcoming events:

Mon., July 20, 7:00pm: All circles Bible study. We will meet at the church, and enjoy our Quarterly Bible study, and plenty of fellowship! All ladies are invited and welcome to attend!

Monthly projects:

ND District Full Time Church Workers' Scholarship Fund

Paul and Ali Federwitz

Sarah Longmire

Minnesota Foodshare Update

In tough economic times, Minnesota March Foodshare collected 4.6 million pounds of food. In addition \$7.4 million was raised. Each dollar translates to 4 pounds of food - which means almost 34.3 million pounds of food was donated to food pantries across

Minnesota and eastern North Dakota.

Thank you to all who gave this past March - the Lord certainly took your offering and multiplied it!



Grow With Us!

We've got Great things going at Grace Lutheran School:

We're excited about our new logo!

We're delighted to welcome our new principal, Jim Krupski!

We're blessed to be growing!

We know that class sizes are increasing in the Fargo Moorhead area. It's a difficult situation for any educator. The GLS School Board, made up of educators, parents and community volunteers has examined the class size issue. The Board decided that Grace will continue with smaller classes in our early education programs, and to demonstrate that commitment they have done the following:

- 1. Continue with both AM & PM Preschool Classes**
- 2. Continue with our innovative Pre-Kindergarten Class**
- 3. Grow 2 Kindergarten Classes**
- 4. Grow 2 First Grade Classes**

We still have a few spots in all grade levels!! If you are interested in learning more about our school, or know someone who might be interested in a GLS education, please don't hesitate to contact Kris in the school office (232-7747)

We are blessed to count you and this church as a part of our Grace Lutheran School family. You are in our prayers, and we ask that you remember us in yours!

Crosspointe Lutheran

Thank you for your on-going support of Crosspointe's ministry. Your partnership in the Gospel is a great encouragement and a constant

reminder of how God abundantly and graciously provides through His people. As a church plant that has its roots at the district level, it is an immense blessing to share in God's work with so many individuals and congregations in the Fargo area and across the State of North Dakota.

This spring Crosspointe celebrated its first year of ministry. Our first worship service was held on March 16, 2008 - Palm Sunday. This year we scheduled two birthday parties, one according to the twelve-month-calendar and a second according to the liturgical calendar. As we celebrated, it was evident that God continues to do great things in our midst and He has given us many reasons to rejoice. Our worshiping community continues to grow and God continues to give us a heart for connecting the unchurched to His love revealed in Jesus. This June Crosspointe is engaging in a Conversation With Luke. Worshipers are being encouraged to read a portion of Luke each day with a plan that will help them read through the book in under twenty-four days with a commitment of under ten minutes a day. A study guide is prepared each week to take the readers deeper into Scripture and there is also a "Family Option" that presents shorted passages for parents to read with their children. During June we are also holding a Wednesday night Bible Study that allows us to gather together to explore various themes in Luke and the Sunday morning messages are all being drawn from Luke. This month we also kick off our summer Sundaes and S'mores events that gather worshipers and residents of our neighborhood for some summer fun. Our coed sand-volleyball team has shown great improvement in our second year in a city-rec league. We are above .500 and each week take water bottles for players on the other team to enjoy. We also have much to look forward to. I am very excited to be

nearing the start of Communion. We have spent time studying what God's Word has to say about the practice so that we can remain faithful to our doctrine while maintaining a missional approach to ministry and a welcoming atmosphere.

Crosspointe's ministry will also see a significant change in July as we become a multi-staff ministry. A part-time Worship Arts Coordinator has been hired to help enhance our worship life and fulfill our mission to impact lives with the love of Jesus. We are also hoping for a completed constitution and by-laws and the official welcoming of members around Reformation Day.

Again, we are deeply grateful for your partnership in ministry. Your support is a terrific reminder of God's goodness and provision and of the unity among God's people. I pray that God continues to bless the ministry of your congregation during this Pentecost season and that the Holy Spirit enables you and equips you to proclaim throughout the whole city what Jesus has done for you (Luke 8:39).

God's peace and joy,
Pastor Mike Giddings



**Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church**

**PATRIOTIC
Worship Service**

8:30 PM

Offering for
Churches United
Patriotic Music
Food &
Fun Activities

ALL ARE WELCOME

1000 South 14th Street
Moorhead, MN 218-233-7569

★★★ Enjoy MSUM Fireworks from our Lawn ★★★
Bring a lawn chair

2nd Annual Lutheran Night at the Redhawks



What: Pre-game Picnic & Baseball Game
(reserved seating) for only \$7!!

Date: Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 at
Newman Outdoor Field,
1515 15th Ave North, Fargo

Time: 5:30 pm – Gate opens
5:45 pm – Picnic begins

(use East Entrance – by playground)

7:05 pm – Game starts

Tickets are \$7 and must be paid for when you reserve. Please make the check payable to Ruth Walsh. Deadline for reserving tickets is July 8, 2009. If you would like to sit with the members of Grace Lutheran Church, please sign up in the Narthex before July 8. Indicate if handicap seating is necessary - there is an elevator, but there are steps to the reserved seating section. Children 2 and under are free!



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Let's thrive.®

Vacation Bible School was a great time this year! We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, but especially the following who gave of themselves to make VBS possible:

Janice Brelje

Kathy Cziok

Sue Groom

Corey Isaak

Andrea Jones

Alexis Martinson

Jolene Richardson

Becca Sande

Pam Smith

Megan Smelser

Dave Suelzle

Jeff Walsh

Larissa Brelje

Shelley Dahl-Monroe

Greta Herschlip

Sheryl Jones

Jane Krause

Brady Meers

Lisa Sande

Connie Smallarz

Colton Smith

Jon Smelser

Ronda Suelzle

Nate Walsh

Josh Brelje

Tyla Dahl-Monroe

Pamela Herschlip

Brianna Jones

Karen Lougheed

Amy Muchow

Erynn Sande

Samantha Smallarz

Becca Smelser

Sue Smelser

Carolyn Walsh

Ruth Walsh

Giving a Cup of Cold Water

During Jesus' last three years on earth, He spent much time nourishing and teaching His disciples. Only when they were prepared to go out into the world to preach, teach, and heal did he send them. Leaving without provisions, the disciples were totally dependent upon those whom the Lord would send them for their support. The disciples relied upon the power of the Gospel to move the hearts of their listeners who would willingly provide for their needs. They were to travel light and trust in the Lord.

In Matthew 6:40-42 Jesus, referring to His disciples, said, "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives the One who sent Me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Jesus told His disciples that whoever gives to you is also giving to Him. Although support today doesn't fund the work of the 12 original disciples, we assist the spreading of the Gospel by supporting today's disciples and missionaries around the world. As we provide for church workers locally and abroad in the name of Jesus, we are serving the Lord Himself.

As we express our Christian faith through our giving and serving, God is pleased. God notices every act of compassion and kindness that we express. In the verse above, He refers to even the simple gesture of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty person. Through our faith, we are empowered to do acts of service. When we act in response to the Lord and not for recognition, God will bless us. Having already been assured of salvation by God's grace through faith, blessings such as peace, contentment, patience, and hope are added rewards.

Only a small number of people make their living as full-time church workers, but we all are given the privilege and opportunity to be Christ's ambassadors. May God bless us all as we work to further His kingdom.