



Grace Notes

November 2011

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 10 Issue 11

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 - Transfers Out:

Larry & Sharon Haarstad, Sarah, Kristofer to Beautiful Savior, Fargo

Laura (Engelstad) Lucas to Holy Cross, Kearney, KS

Transfers In:

Paul & Kay Brown from Pacific Hills Lutheran, Omaha, NE

Profession of Faith:

Dana Higgins from HLS Rural Luth. Ministry, Lysne, MN

Steven & Theresa Opatril, Jake from HLS Rural Luth. Ministry, Lysne, MN

October



Weddings

Wanda Abraham & Ralph Mitchell

October 8, 2011

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 - 20th of the month at noon

Treasurer's Report

Year-To-Date as of:	8/31/10	9/30/11
Receipts	\$205,596	\$223,989
Expenditures	\$205,339	\$231,153
Difference	+\$257	-\$7,164
Extra-Ordinary Income (House & Cemetery plots)		\$117,600

A CONFIRMAND PROFILE AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

Last spring we had 6 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 Caleb Laude and his essay.

Caleb is the son of Michelle Laude and is attending Fargo North High School.

Caleb's interests and hobbies include: reading, writing, drawing, listening to music and learning about the history of anything. At this point in his life Caleb has aspirations to be a journalist. — **Pastor**
Caleb's Essay:

It is important for me to believe in Jesus Christ because without Jesus I would be damned to hell forever. You see, when Adam and Eve sinned for the first time in the Garden of Eden, humanity fell into a world of sin and damnation. So, to save His people from the grave God sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us on the cross and pay for the debt that Adam and Eve had made all those years ago.

Other things are important to God, though. Other than believing in Jesus, God commands good works. Not to get into Heaven but as a natural fruit of faith, as the Bible tells us.

Before He died Jesus administered the first Lord's Supper to His disciples at their Passover meal. The Bible tells us this: And during supper Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "Take and eat, this is My body shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." After supper He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you. This is My blood of the covenant poured for all for the forgiveness of sins." The Lord's Supper is very important because eating The Lord's Supper acknowledges that I am making a public and open repentance of my sins, but also because Jesus commands I take The Lord's Supper often in remembrance of Him.

Other things are important to God too. Other than believing in Jesus, God commands good works. Not to get into Heaven but as a natural fruit of faith, as the Bible tells us.

It is important to for me to be confirmed in the Christian Faith

because being confirmed is the start of a long life involved with the church as a whole. It is also important because if I don't get confirmed then I can't partake in The Lord's Supper.

That isn't the only thing that makes Confirmation important, though. When I get confirmed I become a member of this congregation. It is important for me to be a part of a congregation because being with a congregation and worshiping with one strengthens my belief in Jesus and God. It also exposes me to other believers that believe the same things I believe in.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 7:00 PM
ELDER PIE SOCIAL TO FOLLOW IN BASEMENT



Sunday School Snippets

Perfect Attendance - September

Anna Sharbono

Story Platt

William Hankel

Abigail Sharbono

Noah Platt

Mason Martinson

Ellie Eichhorn

Jacob Schaefer

Alex Eichhorn

Madison Bakke

Kaylee Sharbono

Luke Bakke

Brett Meers

Memory verse for November:

1 Thessalonians 5:18

“Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Preschool through 2nd grade memorize:

“Give thanks in all things”

Sunday, November 27 will be a special activity on “Giving Thanks”. The Sunday School children will be making ornaments for the sanctuary’s trees during November to hang on the trees on December 4.

Upcoming Youth Events:

November 13th: Movie night at 5 pm for Jr LYF

November 19th: City wide treasure hunt for Sr LYF parent
volunteers needed to drive, if you can help please contact
Larissa or Brianna

November 19th: Zone Jr LYF 1st Annual Grace Gym Night 6:30 -
9:30 pm \$5 will cover food for event - More info to come

November 27th: Sr LYF ushering

Looking ahead to December, the Sr LYF will be serving an
Advent meal.

Treat Calendar for November:

Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27
Colton S. Matt/Luke B.	Colton S. Matt/Luke B.	Potluck & Voters' Mtg	Nate W. Brady S.



The New Life Center has a capacity of 96 persons per night
and are currently sheltering over 100 persons per night.
Grace will be collecting Christmas gifts for the New Life
Center. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the box in the
Narthex by December 7.

They are looking for the following items:

Stocking Caps

Gloves (ski gloves or work gloves)

Socks (crew socks not tube socks)

Long underwear (medium or large only - NOT XL)

Disposable razors



MARK THE DATE - NOV. 26 - 4 PM
CONGREGATIONAL DECORATING
OF THE CHANCEL FOR ADVENT



November 2011

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Psalm 100:2

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”

Colossians 2:6-7

Thanksgiving appears to be the forgotten holiday. Sandwiched between the over-the-top costumes, decorations, gifts and parties of both Halloween and Christmas, a simple day to give thanks just doesn't have a chance. Maybe that's why I like Thanksgiving so much! It is not so commercialized and canned. In fact, I think the world outside of Christianity probably doesn't understand it at all. After all, “thank” is a transitive verb; you can't just be thankful, you have to be thankful to someone. As Christians, we know who to thank! We thank our God and Father for all the good gifts he has given us, and in particular, we thank him for the gift of his son, Jesus, whose death and resurrection gives us the certainty of heaven.

I also would like to give thanks to God for the generous support of this congregation for our Fall Festival. Because of you, we are able to continue to support our missionaries, mission projects, and provide help to the hungry and hurting in our community. What a blessing you are to us!

In Christ,

Jan Brelje

Upcoming Events...

Tues., Nov. 8: 7:00 pm Circle @ S. Jones

Thurs., Nov. 3: 1:30 pm Circle (L. Agather/Open)

Sat., Nov. 5: 9:00 am Circle (Open)

Sat., Nov. 12: 10:00 am General meeting with speaker Todd Figenser who will give us a presentation and answer our questions on our Muslim neighbors, here and abroad. Todd works with the Office of Homeland Security, and has had extensive experiences in the Middle East. All are welcome, yes, even men! Exec. Committee at 9:30 am

Sun., Nov. 20: Loaf Sunday, enjoy a loaf of home-baked bread compliments of the LWML!

Wed., Nov. 30: 6:00 pm LWML serves the Advent supper meal

Monthly Mission projects: Coins for Christ

Missionaries: Paul & Ali Federwitz (Africa)

Andy & Stephanie Jones (Germany) Carolyn Walsh (Botswana)

Grace School Notes:

The students at Grace Lutheran School are working their way through the first semester! The school is also buzzing with excitement about the 2011 Fill the Dome competition and would love to have your support – feel free to drop off non-perishable food items at the school and we'll get them to the Dome.

Mark your calendars for our Christmas Program to be held on December 15 and 16 at the school.

Planning is well under way for the 14th Annual GLS Auction. The event is on Saturday, February 25th at the Ramada Plaza & Suites Crystal Ballroom. If you want to be part of the team please contact Cari Drees at 480.748.0383 – we'd love to have you!

We are blessed to partner with the Red River Valley Lutheran School Association churches to provide Christian education for our families. We appreciate your prayers, and welcome your questions, comments and visits to our school. We love to show off the great things that we have going at Grace!

We're constantly updating our website! Check us on at www.gracelutheralschool.org. We'd love to hear your opinion regarding the site and welcome compliments and concerns! Email to marketing@gracels.com for suggestions.

Are you a GLS fan on Facebook yet? This is a great way to find out what is happening and check out pictures of current activities! We have many GLS alumni on the site, and they are sharing their stories of their time at GLS as well! Find us at www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranSchool Fargo We've got GREAT things going at Grace & we'd love to share them with you!



2nd Annual Christmas Boutique

Thursday, November 17

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Grace Lutheran School

1025 14th Avenue South

Invite Your Friends!



Shop a variety of vendors
Proceeds support Grace Lutheran School!

Missionary News:

From Andy & Stephanie Jones:

Thank you very much for allowing us to come visit you this past summer and share about our experiences in Turkey and our new work in Frankfurt, Germany and all of Eurasia. We were immensely blessed by the Christian fellowship with you and we look forward to our next meeting.

We arrived in Frankfurt on August 12. We quickly found a nice apartment and moved in August 24. We live about 15 minutes from downtown Frankfurt in a village called Stierstadt (which means Bull City). We have settled in quickly because we began serving with the ministries here shortly after our arrival.

We send out monthly newsletters. If you would like to receive them personally, email us! Read more frequent updates about our work and our interactions with the culture at our personal blog:

twostorytellers.wordpress.com/. Stephanie has been working on an LCMS Eurasia blog, featuring LCMS work in 24 different countries: eurasiablog.lcms.org/.

Thanks again for all of your prayers and your support. God's blessings to you as you follow Jesus.

Andy and Stephanie Jones

stephanie.jones@lcmsintl.org

andrew.jones@lcmsintl.org



From Carolyn Walsh:

(A little background might in understanding what follows - Carolyn left Fargo on October 11, 2011 and spent 27 hours on flights that ended in Windhoek, Namibia about 10:30 pm local time. She spent that first night in a hotel - with a large spider - and the next ten days at a retreat where all the LBT missionaries from Botswana were in attendance. This allowed her to get to know the missionaries she will be learning under. Carolyn has arrived in Kang, Botswana where she will be until April of 2012. She is interning under Pastor Rich and Maya Rudowske. Jayne White, a volunteer missionary tutor for the Rudowske family is her roommate. More information on the Rudowskes, Veiths and Jayne and their newsletters can be found at www.lbt.org/missionaries/ - Ruth) Life here is going pretty well so far. It's a little stressful, but that's what I expected. It's slightly overwhelming, but I'm adjusting a little more every day (praise the Lord!). It's still really weird to see donkeys, chickens, goats, and dogs roaming the streets at will. There are goats that live in the bushes along my walk to the Bible Society office every day - those bushes smell terrible!

Today I learned how to use the washing machine in my house (this means I can do my laundry myself, instead of giving it to my landlady's maids, which isn't bad, I just like doing things for myself, and so does my roommate. Doing my own laundry makes my life seem a little bit

more real and normal). My landlady's daughter is very sweet. She stops by to visit Jayne and me at least once a day. She also leaves us notes and candy sometimes. She collects stamps, so if you have any pretty American stamps that add up to the overseas shipping amount (\$.90 these days, I think? I could be wrong...everything is weird when you are dividing by 7), please use them (if you are planning to send letters, that is, if not, don't worry about it!☺).

Monday was my first day in the office. I don't really do much there besides study Setswana, since that's my main objective until I move north in April. So far it's going okay...I had my first test today, and I knew most of the stuff on the test. So far, Setswana is very logical, but you know how quickly logical language stuff can turn into a nightmare of craziness.

Let's see...what else...OH! A cockroach shot out of our air-conditioner and onto my roommate's bed yesterday afternoon. I thought it was dead, but it wasn't. My landlady's daughter and the older Rudowske girl dropped by to say "hi" right after it happened, so I didn't have a chance to move it. I was telling her what happened and it popped up and ran over to my bed and burrowed between the mattresses. At this point, we were all covering in the corner of the room. We stripped all of the sheets off of my bed and chased the little guy out of my house. The landlady's daughter beat it to death with a boot. So nasty, but it's Africa, so I suppose I should be thankful it was one cockroach and not something more deadly. Also, there is a hand-sized wall spider that lives in our kitchen. I've named him Hortensio. We keep him around because he eats other bugs (like cockroaches...the cockroach population of our kitchen has decreased significantly since he started living there). Wall spiders are not poisonous to humans, they actually run away from us. It's just a little terrifying to walk into your kitchen and have one of those things just hanging out on your wall. But the more spiders I kill, the more other bugs there are, so I try to keep spider killing to a minimum, since they are less likely to harm me than the other nasties that lurk in the sand. ☺ Anyway...The point of this is that I am adjusting, and I'm not nearly as disgusted and terrified by spiders as I was three weeks ago! I am working on a blog - <http://kiwis-n-oranges.tumblr.com/> - there is not much on it yet, be patient, life as well as the internet is much slower here in Africa!

Again, I thank you for your prayers and the support that you have given me. Please continue to keep me in your prayers that I may be a blessing to those around me and that the Lord would continue to use me in service to Him.

My address in Botswana is: Carolyn Walsh
c/o Rev. Rich Rudowske
PO BOX 286
Kang
Botswana

Peace, Carolyn



The WORD
of GOD

IS LIVING
and ACTIVE

HEBREW 4:12

Worship Opportunities

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Hebrews 10:25)

This Bible verse encourages Christians to worship with other Christians. It reminds us that the day of the Lord's return draws

closer. On that day, only those who believe in Jesus Christ will be saved. For faith to be healthy, the Word must be present. It must be heard and studied as we do each Sunday morning or Wednesday evening here at Grace Lutheran Church. Come, let us be in the Word together.

Worship Service Schedule:

Worship Services: Sunday - 10:00 am
Wednesday - 7:00 pm

Bible Study Schedule

Sunday School/Bible Class: Sunday - 8:45 am

Men's Bible Studies

Thursday at Main Ave. Fry'n Pan - 6:30 am

Thursday at church - 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Studies

Monday at church - 7:00 pm

Wednesday at church - 9:00 am



**QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
& POTLUCK MEAL
FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, 2011**



BRING A DISH TO SHARE!



Can I Be Trusted with Much?

When our bills are paid and we have money in the bank, we may feel secure and depend only on ourselves. In speaking about the curse of success, someone once said, "Ninety-nine people out of 100 can handle adversity whereas only one out of 100 can handle prosperity." The wealth that many seek can be more of a curse than a blessing.

God blesses us with work and the ability to earn our incomes. Unfortunately, we may foolishly begin to believe that we are solely responsible for the success we've achieved. As Moses wrote, "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the ability to produce wealth . . ." (Deuteronomy 8:18). We should understand that only by God's grace are we able to have a place to call home, a savings account, and a retirement plan. God's Word is clear that we are managers, not owners. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

Even though it is difficult to pass the test with money, the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, enables us to understand that all we are and have are gifts from God. Joseph provides us a good example of stewardship. Separated from his home and family, he still trusted God and feared Him, refusing to give in to the temptations that came with the position God enabled him to fill. As second in command in Egypt, one of the most powerful kingdoms of his day, he retained his humility, realizing that he was only the manager of Egypt's resources. But he managed those resources well, working at it "with all [his] heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23). Just as God empowered Joseph in his stewardship, so He does for us today, whether our resources are vast, as were Joseph's, or small.



**Advent is coming November 27!
Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent
devotional is available for
download at www.lhm.org.
If you would like a copy of the
devotional printed for your use,
please call the church office,
232-1516, to reserve a copy.
They will be printed the middle of the month and available
for pick-up on **Sunday, November 20.****

