



Grace Notes

September 2009

Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 7 Issue 9



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.



Jens Michael Sharbono
son of
Doug & Kristin Sharbono
Born: 11/20/2008
Baptized: 8/5/2009



Kristi Krause, Raine &
Autumn Foy-Krause
transfer to Immanuel
Lutheran Church,
Wahpeton, ND



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:	6/30/09	7/31/09
Receipts	\$132,745	\$149,284
Expenditures	\$150,962	\$167,251
Difference	-\$18,217	-\$17,967

Perspectives

It's amazing how our perspectives play such an important part in the way we view the experiences in our lives. It reminds me of the time when a Sunday School teacher asked her 1st grade class to draw and color a picture of the flight of Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus into Egypt in order to get out of the wicked King Herod's country. As she was walking around looking at the pictures the children were drawing, she noticed one young lad drawing a picture of an airplane in the clouds. Perplexed, the teacher asked him what he was drawing.

"It's Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus on their way to Egypt!" the boy responded.

"But they're in an airplane," said the teacher. "They didn't have airplanes back in Jesus' day!"

"But you told us to draw a picture of the flight of Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus into Egypt!" said the boy.

Caught off guard, the teacher thought for a minute and then responded (trying to out-smart the lad), "But if Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus are flying to Egypt, who is driving the airplane?"

"Who else?" said the boy confidently. "Pontius the Pilate!"

Like this little boy we all look at things from our own perspectives on the basis of what we've learned and experienced. While this is natural for us to do, we must be careful when we approach God in this way. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

Too many times we come to God seeking the answers to the various problems we may have or the circumstances we may be in only to experience frustration. We may pray and pray until we feel "all prayed out." Or we talk to others until we feel "all counseled out." Finally, when we've "come to the end of our rope" we throw our hands up in despair and don't know what to do anymore. We give up!

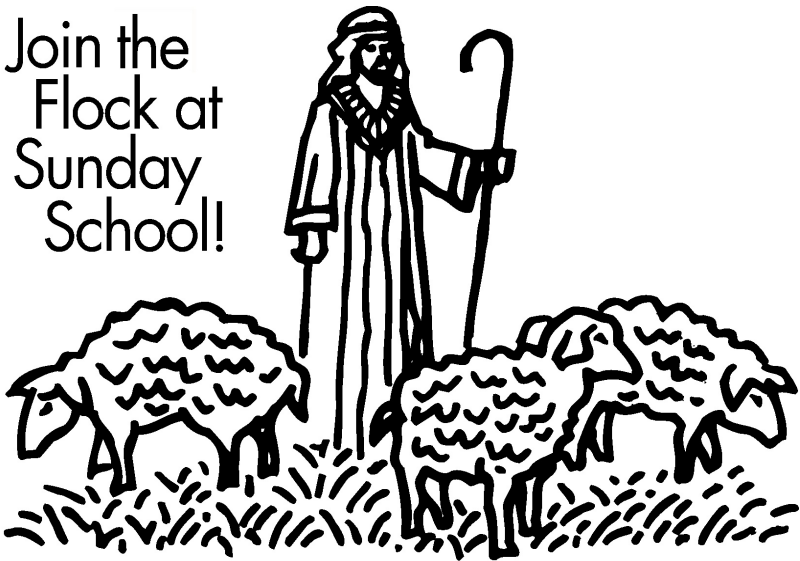
Actually, that is where God wants us many times in our lives—at a point where we're ready to give up our own ideas and perspectives. It is only when we're at that point that we are ready and open to accept God's perspective on the situation. God's perspective is given to us in His Word. God's Word is what reveals His Will for our lives. Perspectives are developed by what we hear, see, read and experience in a day. Think about how much time a person spends each day reading the

newspaper, watching the news, talk shows and documentaries on the TV, listening to “talk radio” and reading magazines. Now compare that with the amount of time they spend reading God’s Word. Which do you think will influence their perspective of life more?

Most of the information we receive in the media is negative, filled with information about crimes, violence, disasters, etc. Much of the “counsel” which we receive in the media could easily fall under the scrutiny of the LORD’s question to Job and his friends in Job 38:2 → *Who is this that darkens My counsel with words without knowledge?* It’s no wonder so many people live life in such a despairing way. If they don’t connect to the LORD through His Word they have not connected to the only One Who can deal with all this sinful mess in which we live!!

To take on God’s perspectives we must seek His perspectives by reading and applying His Word to our lives every day. The more time we spend in God’s Word the more we will be concerned about doing things God’s way. Likewise, the less time we spend in God’s Word the less concern we’ll have for doing things God’s Ways. This is why we offer Bible study classes of various kinds (they’re on the calendar attached with this newsletter.) You have the chance to come together and help each other learn more about God’s perspective of things. For instance, on Sunday mornings we have regular Sunday School classes for children ages 3 through 103! Perspectives are important. But you’ll never know God’s perspectives on things if you don’t look at His Word. Don’t you think that it’s time to commit yourself to looking at things from God’s perspective?

Join the
Flock at
Sunday
School!



Dear LYF & Grace Members,

Wow! Rally Sunday is just around the corner. School is starting . . . lake cabins are being winterized . . . we are all starting to think about fall & winter. We have so many things on our minds. Sometimes church and Sunday school are the last things we think about and many times we "forget" about them.

In our changing world, we have an unchanging God ("I the LORD do not change." Malachi 3:6a). He is always caring for us and loving us and forgiving us, even when we don't think about Him. His Love never changes and endures forever! He will never leave us or forsake us. He is always the same!

In Christ's Love,

Jane

Things coming up . . .

September 13 is "Education Sunday" where we start up Sunday School again. I am looking forward to Bible Study with the youth!



Jr. LYF

September 18 - 5:00 - 7:00 pm Pizza at the church and planning for the year!

Sr. LYF

September 2 following worship (about 8 pm) Planning meeting for our "fall retreat" to be held the weekend of Sept 13!

The Zone Fall Rally is tentatively set for Saturday, October 10.

More information will be coming!



September 2009
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Psalm 100:2

LWML News

Our family went "Back-to-school" shopping today, just like many other families, based on the crowd at Wal-Mart! Even though I've been out of school for many years (as my kids will tell you!), there's still something exciting about this time of year. Maybe it's the fresh start in a new classroom with a new teacher, or maybe it's the brand new "Number 2" pencils and other school supplies. But, after a summer off from the books, it also feels good to stretch our minds and learn something new. In the LWML, we treasure learning about our Savior by studying God's Word. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells us, "Come to me, all you who are weary, and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Learning about Jesus gives us rest--the peace of knowing that our sins are forgiven, that we are heaven-bound, and that we are dearly loved by our Heavenly Father. What a wonderful thing to learn about!

At our monthly Circle meetings, we use our LWML Quarterly Bible studies to study the Word. All women in the congregation are welcome to join us at any time, we'd love to have you! Please refer to the schedule below for times and places, and if you have any questions at all, feel free to call me at 237-4710 or e-mail at: jabrelje@msn.com.

Blessings,
Jan Brelje
LWML President

Circle Meetings:

Sat., Aug. 29, 9:00am at the Church

Tues., Sept. 8, 7:30pm at Dottie Sincebaugh's

Thurs., Sept. 10, 1:30pm at the Church

General Meeting

Tues., Sep. 29, 7:00pm - Business meeting and report on National LWML Convention.

Other events:

Sept. 11-13 - District Retreat in Carrington: Jan Struck, nationally known humorist is the guest presenter - lots of fun & fellowship!

Monthly Mission Projects for September:

Grace Lutheran School Student Assistance Funds

Missionaries:

Paul & Ali Federwitz

Sarah Longmire

Grace Lutheran School News



SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 31—Opening chapel service will be at 8:45 am that morning.

INSTALLATION SERVICE OF MR. JAMES KRUPSKI—

We will welcome our new principal and invite all of our church members to attend his installation service on Sunday, September 13th at 4 p.m. in the school gym. A reception will follow.

THE 34TH ANNUAL GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL SPAGHETTI DINNER is September 26 from 11 am to 7 pm. More information can be found later in this newsletter!

MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL FOR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL . . .

Mr. James Krupski was born to Rev. Otto and Grace Krupski in Berwyn, Illinois, on March 24, 1960. He was brought into the kingdom of Grace through baptism on April 3rd. He attended grade school at Garfield Public in Port Huron, Michigan and Calvary Lutheran in Lincoln Park, Michigan. Following graduation from Lutheran High School West in Detroit in 1978 he attended Concordia, Ann Arbor and Concordia River Forest from which he graduated in 1982. He received a Master's Degree in Education from Indiana University in 1997. During the course of his career, he has served in various congregations and schools in New Orleans, Louisiana, Adrian, Michigan, and Fort Wayne, Indiana as teacher and music director. He also served as History Department Chair and Student Activities Director at Lutheran High Northwest in Rochester Hills, MI. Beginning in 1997, Mr. Krupski has served as an administrator in elementary schools in Indiana, Ohio, and Colorado. In addition to these responsibilities, he has served as the secretary for the Board of Education of the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as well as chairman of the Ohio Principal's Conference, chairman of the Indianapolis Principal's Conference, treasurer of the Rocky Mountain District conference and chairman of the Lutheran Educational Administrator's of Denver.

Mr. Krupski is a strong believer in Lutheran Christian education and believes that every child is precious in the sight of their Lord and Savior.

Faith Empowers God's Stewards

The writer of Hebrews defines faith:

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith enables us to be God-pleasing stewards. “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”

(Hebrews 11:6). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is known as the “Faith Chapter.” From Abel down through the ages, the writer names the heroes of faith, listing their accomplishments, preceding each one with “by faith.”

Through faith, we understand that our stewardship is God working in and through us. It is not what we do, not what we give, not how we serve – but what God does, what God gives, how God serves, and our response to His love and gifts to us. God has shown us His plan for our lives. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). This is the definition of stewardship: doing the good works which God has prepared for us to do. God empowers and equips us to be faithful stewards. God has chosen us to carry out His work on earth. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

It is through faith that our pastor confidently enters the pulpit to speak forth the Word of the Lord. It is God’s message, God’s gift, and he is only the channel through which it flows. Through faith, the servant humbly steps forward to serve. His only motive is that God may receive the glory as he offers his hands, feet, lips, his whole body, soul, and mind in service. Through faith, the teacher diligently prepares her lessons, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, studying the Word of God, and looking into the hearts of her students. God creates the learning; His Spirit creates the faith. As stewards, we are the faithful vessels that God uses. Through faith, God can make us into His faithful stewards.

Now, faith is
being sure
of what we hope for...
Hebrews 11:1

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Are you a caregiver for your elderly parent or a sick family member? **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** is an educational six week series designed to provide caregivers with the tools needed to take care of themselves. The program will help family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, communicate feelings better, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources. Class dates are Thursdays, beginning September 17th through October 22nd from 10:00 - 12:30. Classes will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead in the CLC classrooms. Class fee is \$15.00. Please call class facilitators for more information on the class and questions regarding respite care – Pat Frazee 236.2005 or Ellie McCann 236.2009



Lutherans For Life Annual Dessert Banquet

Sunday, October 11 “Validating Life” First Lutheran Church
7:00 pm 619 Broadway N, Fargo

Keynote speaker this year is John Eidsmoe who will speak on
“Validating Life – what makes a person valuable?”

The author of 12 books, John Eidsmoe is a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel who teaches Constitutional Law at the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in Montgomery, Alabama, where his students have twice given him the Outstanding Professor Award. He and his wife, Marlene have three adult children and live in Alabama.

Special music will be provided by the Sorensen children from Horace Lutheran. These children sing as sweet as angels – and promise to entertain!

Contact Kim Wagner at 701.866.4747 to pre-register or you are welcome to register at the door. There is no cost for the banquet; a free will donation will be taken to support their mission: “witnessing to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God”.



CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

CHOIR WILL RESUME REHEARSALS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2009
AFTER CHURCH TIL ABOUT 12:15
OPEN TO 7TH GRADE AND UP



CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE STARTING SOMETIME IN
SEPTEMBER - WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR DETAILS!



Hospice Red River Valley is in need of volunteer support to assist patients by giving wheelchair rides, taking patients to coffee, reading to patients and/ or just be a friend/ sitting with the patient so the caregiver can take a break. Hairstylists are also needed to provide haircuts for our patients. Training and ongoing support provided. Scheduling visits is flexible. Please contact Muriel Leach at 701-356-1565 or mleach@hrrv.org. Also, see our website for more info at www.hrrv.org.



Free Fall Festival at Rheault Farm
Sunday, Sept 20th
2:00 - 5:00pm
(or whenever you would like to leave)



This event is for families with young children who would like to get to know one another better while doing something fun.

Let's meet at the farm (2902 25th St SW in Fargo) at 2:00pm. Activities include a straw bale maze, creating autumn theme crafts, a barrel train, and picking your favorite pumpkin! Hope to see you there.



Couple's Fellowship is planning a Riverboat tour!!
Sunday, September 13
4:00 - 7 pm
Meet at the church
Supper and childcare will be provided.
Sign up in the Narthex.

Worship Opportunities

You can hear the moans and groans already! It is back to the same old grind. The kids have to go back to school. Cabins are being closed for the winter. Vacation days have been used up. The less scheduled days of summer are behind us. Hopefully, the moaning and groaning about the end of summer does not apply to worship services and hearing God's Word. Hearing and studying that Word is essential to our relationship with God. As the summer comes to a close, Grace Lutheran Church turns to the following Sunday School and worship service schedule beginning September 6:

Sundays - 10:00 am

Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sundays - 8:45 am



QUARTERLY *Meeting*

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING
will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27
following the
NEW MEMBER WELCOME
DESSERT BUFFET
after Worship.

There are several meetings that need to take place before the Voters' meeting. These are marked on the calendar - take note of them here as well:

Sept. 8 - Elders Meeting - 7:00 pm

Sept. 14 - Board of Evangelism - 6:15 pm

Board of Stewardship - 7:00 pm

Sept. 17 - Parish Planning Council Meeting - 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Sept. 21 - Board of Ed Meeting - 6:30 pm

Sept. 22 - Executive Board Meeting - 7:00 pm



LIFE WALK - FIRSTCHOICE CLINIC

Saturday, September 19, 2009 at Lindenwood Park Main Shelter.

8:30 am Registration, 9:00 - 10:00 am Walk.

\$150 or more in pledges will receive a t-shirt. For more information contact Jolene Richardson - jorich3707@msn.com or FirstChoice Clinic at 237-5902.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

The Lutheran Witness is the periodical of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. It is an excellent magazine filled with articles, devotional studies, news items, and much, much more mailed out 11 times a year.

The cost is \$18.96 per year - a bargain at over \$4.00 off the regular subscription price. The ND District is no longer handling the subscriptions for the Lutheran Witness. However, these subscriptions will come with the ND District insert, as they have in the past.

If you are interested in a subscription, fill out the following coupon and place it and a check for \$18.96 payable to *Grace Lutheran Church* in the collection plate, or send to the office. Please write: *Lutheran Witness* on the memo line. This form will also be available in the Narthex at church.

The deadline for new subscriptions and renewals is Thursday, September 24, 2009.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Lutheran Witness Subscription Form
\$18.96

Welcome to LCMS World Relief and Human Care's Congregation Preparedness and Volunteer Training program. Together we will walk through a straight forward simple training program designed to help you and your congregation prepare for a disaster and to help you develop an "outreach ministry" before a disaster strikes.



This training is part of a Synod-wide disaster response initiative facilitated by a network of District Disaster Response Coordinators and Teams under the direction of LCMS

Mercy forever.

World Relief and Human Care. At the close of the program, you will receive a certificate of completion and a special volunteer credential issued by LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

This training will help you focus on the most important thing to remember as you prepare for or respond to a disaster in your community or beyond. At the center of our congregation preparedness and volunteer training is just one thing—MERCY! Christ's mercy is the basis for everything we say or do.

Showing mercy/compassion to everyone connects the hurting and helpless with the gospel of Jesus. Disasters span the globe: no nation, no state, no community, no person is exempt. From Taiwan to Texas, from Mexico to Minnesota, from India to Indiana, an unparalleled opportunity stands before us to share Christ by sharing Christian care in times of disaster. Christian Care crosses the boundaries of culture, language, social class, skin color, or religion to reach the heart of men, women, and children.

This one 4 hour training event will help you and your congregation prepare for a disaster and equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike your community.

The all new Congregation Preparedness training , "Be Aware, Be Prepared, Live by Faith", will address key areas like:

- 1) Christian Care in Times of Disaster
- 2) Congregation Preparedness
- 3) Personal Safety and Security
- 4) Meeting Immediate & Unmet Needs
- 5) Meeting Community Needs



The revised "Lutheran Early Response Team" basic training exceeds the minimum new guidelines for disaster volunteers by focusing on five important areas:



- 1) Work Site and Personal Safety
- 2) General Clean up/Debris Removal
- 3) Tarp & Patch Training
- 4) Flood/Hurricane Clean Up Training
- 5) Chain Saw Training

Congregation Preparedness and Volunteer Training Event

Two trainings events will be offered: (1) Saturday, September 26 from 8:30am – 12:30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 1258 North Broadway in Fargo. (2) Sunday, September 27 the workshop will be repeated at Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck at 413 East Ave D from 1:30pm-5:30pm.

Please contact Vicki at the ND District Office in Fargo by phone at 701-293-9001 or by email: ndlcms@ideaone.net to register in advance. Or, return the form below by mail or fax.

Registration is \$10 per person which includes the new "Preparing to Meet the Challenge" manual complete with checklists and handouts plus one LCMS World Relief and Human Care "Volunteer" T-shirt per participant. Checks payable to: ND District LC-MS.

(You may also register by mail. Send this form to PO Box 9029, Fargo, ND 58106 or fax to 701-293-9022)

Disaster Preparedness Training Event Registration

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

I/we will attend in: Fargo _____

Bismarck _____

Homeland Security will require that volunteers responding to disasters to be trained beginning January 1, 2010.

Benvenuto!



The 34th Annual
Grace Lutheran School
Spaghetti Dinner is
COMING SOON!!

WELCOME to our table!

We've Got Great Things Going At Grace!!

When: Saturday, Sept. 26th
Time: 11 AM to 7 PM
Where: Grace Lutheran School
1025 14th Avenue South
Cost: Adults - \$7.50 / Child - \$4.00

We can always use more help for this event!
Please contact the school if you want to share your time & talent!

All proceeds benefit Grace Lutheran School

Tickets On Sale Now

Available through your local GLS student,
Church School Board Member
or by calling Grace Lutheran School
701.232.7747

