

January  
2006

# GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

## Jesus Doesn't Look That Important



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Imagine for a minute someone asks you to do something very important. Would you do it?

If in the middle of an ice storm dangerous electric wires came down and an officer asked you to keep guard so no one would accidentally step on it until a repair crew could arrive, would you do it?

Would you keep guard? It's very important. Someone's life could depend on it. Would you?

Imagine being told about a child having a difficult time learning to read who needs someone to help. You are asked by a teacher if you would. It's very important. Someone's future depends on it. Would you do it?

Helping people away from danger or guiding someone to learn are important things. If someone asked you to do an important thing, would you?

Doing something important is much better than just looking important.

Jesus didn't look very important when he was born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Jesus didn't look very important when hunted by Herod's soldiers and having his life threatened.

Neither did Jesus look very important when he hung on a cross and gave His life there for you.

But Christ certainly was doing something important. He was doing the work of Savior—giving his life for us.

Only one person could do such an important thing, and when God the Father asked his Son if he would do this important work, Jesus said, "Yes, I'll do it. Send me."

We, on the other hand, get into a bad habit of saying, "I won't," even if God asks us to speak for him, give our neighbor a hand, or be responsible for the welfare of God's

people.

Perhaps you've heard the story of the Little Red Hen. It's about a little red hen, a pig, a cat, and a duck. The hen finds a grain of wheat and asked, "Who will plant this grain of wheat? When the grain grew, the hen asked "Who will cut the wheat? Soon it was ready to be ground into flour. "Who will take the wheat to the mill? she asks. It came back from the mill, "Who will make the flour into bread?"

But the refrain from the barnyard every time, was "I won't." "I won't," said the pig. "I won't," said the cat, etc. Only when it was time to eat the bread were the hog and others ready.

"I won't" are sad words not just when selfish story animals say them, but especially if we say them.

"Here I am. Send me," are faithful words. They are happy because Jesus said them when we needed a Savior. And those same words sound just as happy when they come from your lips too.

One day Isaiah heard God asking someone to do something important, something very important.

God asked, "Who shall I send this time?" He was wondering, not about who the Savior who would come but who would speak up for God and talk to people about God's promise in the Savior.

It was important. Did Isaiah do it?

Isaiah said, "Here I am. Send me." Isaiah was offering to do something important because God asked.

At first Isaiah would never

have volunteered. He believed he was in big trouble with God. He was ashamed of his sin. He was afraid he couldn't do anything important for God because he was a rotten guy. Then he learned God had forgiven him.

There is the difference.

Never expect someone who doesn't believe they need or have God's forgiveness to do anything important.

Without Christ, it will always come back to "I won't." Without I don't have the time, or I don't have the talent, or I don't have the will.

The important work will always be done by those who confess, "I do have my Lord's pardon. I do have His forgiveness and love. And I do have His Spirit."

Isaiah didn't have to go get in trouble with God. He came from God to be a blessing to others.

Dear Grace people, think of church not so much as a place where you go to but where you come from. You come from your baptism. You come from your growth in God's Word. You come from the Table of His Grace.

It is from His presence, the child of God prays, "Send me, Lord."

The world needs more Christians like that. In fact, that's the only kind of Christian there is. May God grant us to be so throughout 2006 and beyond.

## Can We Choose Good Friends for Our Children?

### Principal's Report

Raise your hand if your child has ever said, "But, it was Billy's idea!" Raise it again if you replied, "If Billy told you to jump in the lake, would you do that too?" Generations ago, marriages were arranged. It never occurred to parents that their children could be trusted to make such an important decision as a life partner. Nearly everyday at school, our children choose a partner. They choose someone to play with, have fun with, learn with, and sometimes, even get in trouble with. Sometimes this friend becomes a friend for life, and sometimes this friend affects your child's life.

Our challenge as parents is to help our children understand how friends influence each other. Whenever two or more people are together, one is influencing the other and that influence can be good or bad. They need to learn to discern good influence from bad and to hold themselves accountable for their actions when with friends. Help your child understand that being a good influence on friends is how he or she can follow God's directive to be salt and light to the world. (Matt. 5:13 - 16) Praise your child for following or leading a good example. And hold your child accountable for poor decisions made by a

group. If a child is not held responsible for the decision he or she made to follow with the group, then the child will not learn discernment.

The most effective way to teach a child is to model. You do want your children to get to know their friends and not just follow them blindly. Model this by getting to know the families or your child's friends. Become familiar with their values and parenting practices. Find out if their treasure lies here on earth or in heaven. Know where your children are and who they are with. Also, keep in touch with them. If you see behaviors that impress you or worry you, address this with your child. Avoid being judgmental; instead ask how your child felt about the situation. This way, your child examines the situation instead of teaching your child to simply accept your opinion. You are now modeling discernment.

As our children grow up they also grow away from us in certain ways. God's plan for parenting is one of love and protection. He models perfect love and helps us love and care for our children. As they grow away from us, they are still with God. "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."

January marks the beginning of our basketball season. The players are excited and the coaches are



enthusiastic. Teamwork, good sportsmanship, and an improvement of skills will be stressed. We truly hope and pray for a season of safety and friendly competition. Terry McNally, Paul Varner, Jim Heading, Craig Harrison, Rob Feinauer, Cam Morford, and Gary Roth, and will ably coach the players. We thank them for their many hours of dedicated service. The Grizzlies will play every Tuesday and Friday evening. Our first game of skill will be played on Tuesday, January 10 at Zion, Bay City.

The only calendar item this month is the end of our second quarter marking period. The last day of the quarter is January 20, with the students receiving them for take home the next week, January 27.

## Junior High Highlights

Religion for the month of January will return to our study of the life and times of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament. We are all His disciples, and we often need to be reminded that we



### Working Hard in Computer Class

need to seek to extend His kingdom here in Auburn. In our American History studies, the U.S. Constitution has been written and ratified as the law of the land. We spent nine class sessions reading and attempting to understand the importance of the time-tested document. We recently applied the Constitution to our lives as we

discussed what it means to be a citizen of the United States, civic virtue, and key democratic values that we all should have. As citizens, we must accept our own civic responsibilities. Only if government and citizens work together can we meet our needs as a democratic society. As we struggled with these comprehending these responsibilities, so did the young American country struggle with the implementation of the new

government as it sought to grow and stand alone in an ever changing world of the 1700s. Our students have so much looked forward to this month's science. We have one more chapter to complete our study of the plant kingdom. Then we will enter an exploration of the animal kingdom. This group includes those without backbones, invertebrates, and those with a backbone, vertebrates. As part of this study, toward the end of January, we will dissect six different animals: an earthworm, a starfish, a crayfish, a grasshopper, a perch, and a frog. Eighth grade algebra continues to work with solving linear equations. The seventh grade will soon be introduced to algebra. On an easier scale, they too will learn to solve linear equations with one variable.



## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Dear Friends in Christ:

The month of December was quite busy in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade room. The students created "Character Ties" for Reading, describing the main character in symbols on a paper neck tie. The results are displayed in the hallway across from our room – take a look! We were fortunate to have a naturalist from the Michigan United Conservation Club come and show us animals from Michigan. We saw a fox snake, a red shouldered hawk, a wood duck, a mink, as well as a huge snapping turtle! She explained the wetland ecosystem in our area and the fragile nature of our relationship with these animals. Our class enjoyed this presentation immensely and had many questions for the presenter! The students worked very hard on the Christmas

## January News

program and did a fine job. Our entire classroom participated in the pre-service music and praised the Lord in song. Thank you for sharing



your God-given musical talents. We also enjoyed the construction of centerpieces for the Christmas potluck. The children decorated gingerbread cottages and then put them into a village scene; we even displayed an old-fashioned church complete with steeple!



*Bethany telling about her Character-Tie*

*Mr. Wolf working with the band.*

January has much in store for our room as well! We will be researching and writing state reports. Our study of the English Colonies will continue in Social Studies as we

learn about the founders of our great nation. Science class will take us into an in-depth look at volcanoes and our dynamic planet Earth.

Wishing all of you God's richest blessings in the New Year!

Mrs. Van Sickle

## Happy New Year!

Can you believe it? It's 2006 already! The school year is just flying by. Instead of explaining what Room 4 will be up to this January, I'd like to talk about how we ended 2005.

December was a busy month for us. We had Hollyland Mall, a wetlands presentation, caroling, the Christmas program, and a celebration.

Students enjoyed the Hollyland Mall December 6. They had an opportunity to shop for gifts for their family. Thank you to everyone who made that day possible, whether by selling your crafts, wrapping up gifts, or donating boxes.

Thursday, December 8, grades 2-8 gathered into the library for a presentation on Michigan Wetlands. Students became acquainted with a snapping turtle, a drake wood duck, a fox snake, and a red shouldered hawk.

On Tuesday, December 13,

grades 2-4 joined 5-6 and K-1 at the Plainview Senior Neighborhood. They spent the afternoon singing Christmas carols and passing out candy cane crafts. The residents really loved the



## Singing At Plainview Neighborhood

students add-ons to "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Students had a lot of fun and would like to say thank you to Mrs. Vansickle for inviting us and the Plainview Senior Neighborhood for having us.

The students did a spectacular job on their Christmas program. The second graders (Morgan, Olivia, Kaylee, and Lucas) were the little angels. Third graders (Bailey, Danielle, Branden) and Melissa

played the shepherds, and all the students did a beautiful job with their recitations and songs. They had a lot to memorize in a short amount of time. Their hard work and dedication really showed. What better way is there to end the year than with a party? And that's exactly what Room 4 did! Linda Jean and Katrina Larsen planned a nice party for our room. Students made crafts, opened gifts, and played bingo. I

would like to thank all students and their families for the wonderful gifts I received.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and look forward to the brand new year we begin with Christ in our hearts.

## K, 1 & 2 News



We were happy to see so many of you attend our Christmas Program, "The Trees of Christmas". We spent many mornings practicing in church to bring you the news of the greatest gift at Christmas, Jesus, our Savior. We pray that your heart was

touched by our message.

December was a busy time for us as we practiced for the Christmas program. However, we did manage to put in some study time. Kindergarten continues to work on learning one new word each week and learning the sounds for the letters. They also continue to learn their numbers through 50. 1<sup>st</sup> grade is half way through their second reading book. They also continue to measure objects in inches and tell time to the hour and half hour. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is at the end of their second reading unit. They continue to improve their writing skills. Miss Rudick gives a lot of writing assignments!

We also found time to go caroling at Plainview Senior Neighborhood with the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. We had fun singing to the residents and visiting with them. We even brought Santa along to entertain them!

Of course, after our Christmas Program,



Lucas Weiss as Santa at Plainview Neighborhood

our next big event was our Christmas parties. Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade had their party the afternoon of December 21<sup>st</sup>. Of course we enjoyed opening gifts and eating treats, but the most fun activity was having an extra recess! It was cold, but playing out in the

## Memorials



Soli Deo Gloria

### Given in Memory

#### Ralph Buzzard

By  
Ruth Roth

#### Gladys Laramore

By  
Donna Geneseo

#### Harriet Begick

By  
Ray & Kathy Alexander

#### Lucille Schutt

By  
Ray & Kathy Alexander

#### Karin Feinauer

By  
Tom & Jan Olson  
Gordon & Marge Marner  
Jack & Bonnie Greanleaf

Ernie & Karla Weiss  
Jim & Rosemary Hoff  
Eugene Joyce Potzger  
Gordon & Fay Schroeder  
Ron & Madeline Lynch  
John & Rosalie Schmidt  
Pat & Brook Adamski  
Brian & Carol Kloha  
Len & Irma Bubbitz  
Eldor & Gertrude Wegener  
Dick & Maggie Sampson  
Mary Machul  
Steve & Beth LaFramboise  
Jim & Donna Johnson  
Harlan & Rosie Taglauer  
Henry & Bev Kohm  
Barbara Mitchell  
Don & Darlene Pfannes  
Bob & Olive Schmidt  
Roy & Polly Behmlander  
Bob & Darlene Feinauer  
Don & Barb Rytlewski  
John & Lois Schmidt  
Paul & Linda Varner  
Duane & Lynn Schmidt  
Cliff & Jan Vennix  
Robert Feinauer, Jr.  
Kay Kleinert  
Lee & Cherye Krueger  
Chris & Debbie Schmidt  
Earl & Irene Schmidt  
Mike & Margie Schmidt

Ralph & Agnes Wackerly  
Hattie Adamski  
Sherry Satkowiak  
Wanita Smith  
John & Beth Olson  
Nancy Adanski  
Lois Cushway  
Roger & GeriAnne Schmidt  
Terry & Dan Fryzel  
Mike Schmidt  
Angelita Schatzer  
Clarence & Donna Feinauer  
Loretta Reinecke  
James Feinauer  
David & Liuss Matonek  
Jerome & Beverly Dasky  
Chris & Robyn Moyer  
Terry & Diane McNally  
Bob & Kathy Fritz  
Greg & Lynette Sampson  
Dr. Karen & Brad Gougeon  
Craig & Carol Harrison  
Donna Geneseo & Ken Smith  
Dr. John & Kay Pfenninger

#### Dale Geneseo

By  
Donna Geneseo

#### Malinda Davies

By  
Herb Taglauer



# Notes

## Board of Elementary Education

The Board of Elementary Education, Mr. Fredrich, and our teachers have been working on our accreditation for our school for some time. We expect to submit our package to the National Schools Accreditation (NSLA) in January. The NSLA will conduct our site visit and evaluation in April. This process will also result in accreditation from the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools (MANS). If anyone has questions or concerns regarding our school, please contact a member of the Elementary Education, (Karla Weiss, Diane McNally, Sue Roth, Judy Lance, Mary Jo Brandt, Rhonda Klann) or Mr. Fredrich.

## Caring Tree

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts to this year's Giving Tree. Through your generosity, we were able to deliver 80 gifts to eighteen area families this past week and help make their Christmases a little brighter. Thank you also to those of you who helped organize, sort, and make deliveries.

## Ladies of Grace

All women of the church are invited to our regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm. Deb VanTol will be speaking on her experiences in teaching troubled children. Come and join us.

## Ladies Quilting

The women will start back quilting on January 17. Come and help us make quilts for World Relief, no skills needed just helping hands. We start at 9:00 a. m., and if you can stay late bring a sack lunch. We will be meeting every third Tuesday through May.

## Thank You

The Ladies of Grace would like to thank all of the people that have donated cookies to the Lutheran Boy's Home this past year. These boys truly welcome the homemade goodies that we make for them. Look for a new sign-up sheet coming soon to the usher's desk.

## Christmas Decorations

A big thank you to all the people who helped set up the tree and decorate the church for the Christmas season. (Linda Bebeau, Alyssa Bebeau, Cherye Krueger, John Gengler, Connie Gengler,

Deb VanTol, Sarah VanTol, Virginia Behmlander, Carol Mularz, Ron Mularz, Seven Mularz, Traci Mularz, Polly Eichinger, & Martin Eichinger.) It looks beautiful. Thanks also to all who donated the poinsettias for the altar area.

We will be taking down Christmas decorations on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 9:00 am. All helping hands welcome.

## Dear People of Grace Lutheran,

How I praise God for all He does! He provides for all of our needs, as well as so many of our "wants". One of the wants on our list was a successful community sing-a-long. Our goal is always to help bring more unity to our church families and our community by sharing the joy of Christmas and all that it means to us in the Christian world. The other goals for the event are to be an outreach to the unchurched, as well as for us to just have fun!

I am continually amazed at the dedication our lay people have toward this event. Thank you SO MUCH for all the work that you do.... The 22nd Annual Auburn Community Christmas Sing-A-Long was appreciated by so many in our community, and we have YOU to thank!

May God continue to bless each of you with His gift of Jesus throughout the coming year. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

In His Service, Diane Rostollan, Coordinator



## Have you received your stone for 2006?

*As you come to him, the living Stone- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. -*

*1 Peter 2:5*

During the close of the church year our stewardship theme focused on Living Stones. Each of us often resemble rocks—uniquely shaped with different characteristics. A rock is a “solid hard mass” similar to our sinful human hearts which do not by nature seek to do good. The good news is that the Lord Jesus loves us so much that he sends the Holy Spirit to us through our Baptism. He makes us “Living Stones” who are solid in the faith and confessions who willingly give of our financial offerings, time and talents in service for Him.

In November 339 packets were distributed to our Grace members requesting a faith promise of your intentions for support and service for 2006. A time and talent survey was also enclosed for us to update our database. The returned promise cards will not be opened or reviewed by the Stewardship committee and will be returned to you next fall as a reminder of your intentions and the Lord's blessings. We praise God for the return of 72 faith promise cards to date.

Becoming a “living stone” is not limited to a certain Sunday during the church year. As you are moved by the Holy Spirit to do so, complete your faith promise for 2006 and drop in the offering plate or return via mail. If you misplaced your packet, please contact Don Pfannes, Dale Pickelman or Linda Bebeau for a replacement. If you would like to indicate your interests and talents, visit <http://www.graceauburn.org> and download a copy of our time and talent survey.

Our Lord is faithful and He will enable your promise to work in amazing ways in 2006! We eagerly await your promise return, —we'll add your number to our display and give you a “rock” as a reminder of your promise for 2006.

**TOGETHER IN MISSION**

Jos, Nigeria

December 14, 2005

Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus' parting words before ascending to heaven were: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." This is what our lives and service in Africa is all about. Thank you for partnering with us in this endeavor! We can't be here without you!

Thank you for the financial contributions you have sent to LCMS World Mission in support of our work in Nigeria and other countries in West Africa. Thank you specifically for your [ongoing] contributions.

Presently I'm arranging to travel to Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone in January. We have a missionary who will be leaving Ghana at that time. We want to make sure their leaving goes as well as possible. I also need to meet with national church leaders in Liberia and Sierra Leone about their program for training pastors. They have a terrific training program that was established and administered by one of our missionaries. One of our major goals for 2006 is to help these churches make the transition from having the missionary run their training program to doing it themselves. This missionary and I concur that the Liberian and Sierra Leonean pastors, who have been working with him, are capable of running the entire program.

Transitions are always difficult. They are seldom problem free. And they usually require a significant amount of time and patience. Yet, the long-term effectiveness of this training program depends on this transition. We believe that God will guide and bless our efforts as we strive to bring His message of life and salvation to the hundreds and thousands of people living in the communities where we have Lutheran churches in Liberia and Sierra Leone and to the millions of people living in those lands.

Again, thank you for your support - your financial contributions and especially your prayers for the ministry here.

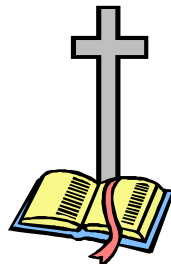
David and Joyce Erber  
LCMS World Mission  
Anglophone West Africa

*Below is a notice with English translation from the SELK News. The SELK is our partner church in Germany where Pfr. Wade M. Seaver, son of Grace congregation is being instrumental in founding new ministry. The Seaver family live in Neuendetelsau, Germany.*

**Englischsprachige Gottesdienste in Ansbach**

Am 1. Advent wurde in der St. Lukas-Kapelle in Ansbach, einem Gottesdienstort der Simon Petrus-Gemeinde Nürnberg der SELK, zum ersten Mal zu einem englischsprachigen lutherischen Gottesdienst eingeladen. Seit etwa einem Jahr wohnt Wade Seaver, Pastor der Lutherischen Kirche-Missouri Synode, einer Schwesterkirche der SELK, mit seiner Frau und vier Kindern in Ansbach und ist seitdem ständiger Gast der Ansbacher Gottesdienste der SELK. Nun bietet er für Angehörige der US-Army-Kaserne in Katterbach (bei Ansbach) und andere Interessierte sonntags lutherische Gottesdienste in englischer Sprache an. Am 1. Advent fand solch ein Gottesdienst erstmals statt. Etwa 20 Besuchende nahmen das Angebot an.

On the First Sunday in Advent, in the chapel of St. Luke, Ansbach, a preaching station of Simon-Peter (SELK) congregation of Nuernberg, for the first time a Lutheran Divine Service was invited/celebrated in English. For approximately one year Wade Seaver, a pastor of the LCMS—a sister church body of the SELK—has lived with his wife and four children in Ansbach and has since then been a permanent guest of the Ansbach eucharistic community of the SELK. Now he offers for citizens of the US-Army-Barracks in Ansbach/Katterbach as well as for any other interested folks, a Lutheran Divine Service in the English language every Sunday. On the First Sunday in Advent such a service took place for the first time. Twenty visitors were in attendance.

**A NEW BOOKLET FROM  
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES***Parenting with Purpose*

Without a doubt, parenting is hard. Yet, you wouldn't trade it for the world. Between paying bills, trips through the drive-thru, and juggling schedules, you may find yourself lost in such a whirlwind of immediacy that you lose focus. How can you love and protect your children in the best way? How do you parent them with *purpose*?

Take heart! Intentional, loving and perfect, God—your heavenly Father—loves and cares for you and your family. Inside this booklet, you'll discover practical insights to strengthen the way you relate to your children—helping you find the Christ—centered rhythm God intends for you and your family. (#6BE109)

 **LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**  
*People Of Christ With A Message Of Hope*

Grace Lutheran Church and School  
303 W. Ruth Street  
Auburn, Michigan 48611

Rev. David H. Reed, Pastor  
Mr. Peter Fredrich, Principal

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*January*

## ***January Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### **Birthdays**

1 Joel Herbolsheimer, Margaret Petrosky, 2 Casey Kent, 4 Larry Keidel, 6 Kaly Kraatz, 7 Diondra Heading, 8 Sara Katenhus, 8 Walter Barber, 9 Dorothy Greenleaf, Julie Walter, 10 Donald Rauschenberger Jr., Mirinda Taglauer, 11 Pamela Kent, 12 Kelly Arnold, Dustin Wegener, 13 Kevin Feinauer, Wesley Meyer, 15 Wanita Smith, 16 Kristina Leach, Nicole Meyer, Jessica Rolfe, 17 Bridgitte Feinauer, Jessica Wegener, 18 Gene Bartz, Scott Bickham, 21 GeriAnne Schmidt, Carlene Tocco, 22 Donald Pfannes, 22 Corey Arnold, 23 Brian Koehler, Paul Wood, 25 Jeanette Harper, Edyth Ousterhout, James Prah, Sheryl Seaver, Debra Stieve, 26 Eric Bejcek, Elaine Prah, 28 Kathleen Pickelman, 30 Debra Garcia, Nolan Pfundt, 31 Mark Horneber, Richard Klimaszewski

### **Anniversaries**

1 Dave & Kelly Arnold, 22 Doug & Kim Bejcek, 23 Scott & Wendy Martin, 26 Gene & Angela Meyer