

WAS JESUS A CHRISTIAN?

Let's get something clear. What makes anyone a Christian?

Going to church can't be what you believe. On any given Lord's Day, two thirds of God's people aren't present for His Word and Sacrament. Half we virtually never see. Yet, every person in our church will say they are a Christian. How so?

You can't think Bible study makes anyone a Christian when even fewer attend than come to church. So, what does?

Will giving up something for Lent make anyone a Christian? Wow, that thought hasn't been taken seriously for a long time. Since few to none of us sacrifice anything for Lent—we can't believe a church tradition makes anyone a true child of God.

St. Paul came right to this point in one of his New Testament letters. He asked the Galatians, "I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?"

Just one thing I want to know, he asked. How did you come to have God in your life? How can you say, "I am a Christian"?

Was it by doing something because you thought it was what God wanted? Do you feel what somebody does like going to church, or what they don't do, like abstaining from something during Lent is what honors and pleases God? If that's how you see it—we've got to get something clear.

God tells us in his Word. "I desire.... acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings" [Hosea 6:6]. Unfortunately, the children of Israel made a habit of disobeying God's will for their lives. They thought an occasional display of piety—making a sacrifice—would hide their life of sin from God. It didn't. God was able to look right into their hearts and see their sacrifices were just a show. There was no true love for him, no true faith in him.

God isn't interested in outward displays. Just going to church never made anyone a Christian. In fact, the practice is downright deadly if people think it proves they are "spiritual" by what they do.

We need to be crystal clear about something. If someone has no interest in God—no

interest in his Word, no interest in worshipping him, no hunger for His sacrament—then what they do or don't do won't make a particle of difference with God and only make a bad situation worse.

The key word in St. Paul's question is *receive*, "Did you receive (by law or by faith)?" The clear answer by a Christian is that I received God's Spirit by faith, by believing what God tells me.

The message of Lent, the message of the Gospel, and the only thing which makes us a Christian can be summarized in three words—*Christ for us*.

Christ *lived* for us. Christ obeyed God's Law. He upheld every Commandments. Not only didn't he sin, he didn't even want to sin. Unlike our lives which fall apart with repeated flaws and failures, Christ's life was the only one that ever met the standard of perfection God sets for each of us.

Christ also *died* for us. God's Word says perfect people don't die. But on a cross Jesus died in as ugly a manner as could be possible.

So, was Jesus a Christian?

If he wasn't guilty of sin, if Jesus wasn't a slime-ball, why did he suffer and die? Jesus was guilty of sin... but just not *his* sin. Christ died for *our* sin. For us, Christ was treated like scum.

Paul writes, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" [2 Cor. 5:21]

God credited Jesus with our sin. In God's eyes, Jesus wasn't a Christian. On the cross, Jesus was treated as every unbeliever deserves to be treated. The consequence for us, however, is that through faith God credits us with Christ's righteousness.

It is through faith that you have become a Christian—not by what you do but by what he did *for* you. You are a Christian through faith which rest in Christ. Such faith is a gift to you no less than the gift of Christ—faith given to you in your baptism.

The essence of faith is *receiving*.

Jesus said to the blind man, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." [Luke 18:42]



On Easter day, Jesus came to his disciples, breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." [John 20:22]

Peter urged the people to believe when he said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." [Acts 2:38]

What's the point then of Sunday worship? To receive Christ! What's the use of Bible study? To receive Christ! What's the point of observing Lent? Again, to receive again the undeserved mercies of our Lord. Giving up something for Lent is good only if we receive Him who is so much better in its place.

Ask yourself; am I receiving all Christ offers? If you have been cutting yourself off from His gifts by absence from his house or putting the Scripture on ice, then hear the call of this Lenten-tide, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." [Heb. 4:16]

Christ means for you to receive all that He has done for you. Unconditionally, He wants you to be the Christian he sacrificed His life for you to be.

God bless your
observance of Lent,
Pastor

JESUS, WHY?

With Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, March 1, we begin forty days of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's passion.

The theme for the Lenten midweek series will be

“Jesus, Why?”

Our Lord, Himself cried from an utterly human heart at the cross, “My God, my God, why....?”

During the coming penitential season, we probe what God's divine purpose or motive may be for things which so deeply puzzle us such as why do families crumble, or why don't more people believe?

Please set aside the time every week for worship as we follow the way of the cross and humbly receive again the healing answers of His Word.

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Why Aren't We Better Disciples?

Luke 22:27-34

Lenten Midweek, March 8

Why Do We Get So Tired?

Matt. 26:41

Lenten Midweek, March 15

Why Does Our Witness Fail?

Luke 22:62

Lenten Midweek, March 22

Why Can't We Use the Power of the World?

John 18:36

Lenten Midweek, March 29

Why Do So Few Believe?

Luke 23:18

Lenten Midweek, April 5

Why Do Our Families Crumble?

John 19:26-27

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Why Should Discipleship Be So Hard?

John 13: 15

Good Friday, April 14

Why Death?

Luke 23:52-53

Easter Sunday, April 16

Why Seek the Living Among the Dead?

Virtual Tour of Hurricane Relief

“The most rewarding effort ever.” That's how one volunteer for Hurricane Relief described the volunteer work at Lamb of God Camp, Slidell, LA. What a great shock seeing the intensive damage to every home with a 21-mile radius. Completely gutting out a home for an elderly couple they never got to meet didn't lessen the sense of responsibility to help others.

All the houses in the area had been completely submerged in 20 feet of water and are just now being entered with so much to do. The work is backbreaking, filthy, and overwhelming, but crews step in and do it. They wear suits, respirators, goggles, rubber boots and gloves. The moldy, rancid air is not safe to breathe.

And yet the locals are so appreciative of all the help and want to express their thanks. Work has many years to be completely finished, but even one or two week volunteers are filled by a sense of gratitude they were able to give.

If you would to help the hurricane victims, continue to support the Lutheran World Relief, or consider your own trip south. You'd never forget it..

Here at Grace we plan a “virtual tour” to hurricane relief by a joint presentation in March by Ben Roth and Leroy Taglauer, both of whom served in relief efforts. Watch for the time one of the Sunday mornings.



What Makes God's House A Home?

What do we do together as a church? As least part of the answer to that question is found in Galatians 6:2— "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way. . . fulfill the law of Christ."

We are a congregation that does carry each other's burdens, and we can learn to do it even better. It is in this spirit that Grace is offering this winter: *Caring for Inactive Members: How to Make God's House a Home*. We hope many from the congregation will get involved in this course. We hope you will be involved.

Caring for Inactive Members will teach us how to relate to inactive members and welcome them home. The course content hints at the importance of the course and at its practical nature:

- Hopes and Expectations
- How to Handle Chance Encounters with Inactive Members
- How to Converse Comfortably
- How to Guarantee 100% Success
- How to Set Up Visits
- How to Invite Gently

Much, more takes place during the six hours of instruction. The topics offer vital knowledge every single person in our congregation needs to have because every one of us is responsible for making God's house a home. Every of us is responsible for carrying the burdens of our brothers and sisters in Christ. So often congregations come across in a judgmental way toward those individuals who have become inactive. This is neither Christian nor helpful. Developing greater understanding is essential, and that is one of the pillars of this course.

Who should take the course? You should, and so should every member of the congregation. The more who are aware of good and bad responses to those they haven't seen around church for a while, the better. The more who are aware of the topics covered in *Caring for Inactive Members*, the more they will be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Beginning Saturday, March 11th the class will meet for two consecutive weeks from 8 am until 12:00 noon in the Grace library.

This course will teach us to be deeply concerned about caring, in the way our Lord Jesus Christ cared. All of us will find beneficial spillover into other ministry areas and other areas of our lives.

The class will be taught by Pastor Reed and Linda Bebeau. Each session will be a combination of lecture, discussion and practical application.

A registration fee of \$15 will cover the cost of your participant manual and refreshments. In addition, we recommend purchasing an additional resource entitled: *Reopening the Back Door—Answers to Questions About Ministering to Inactive Members at a cost of \$12.00*. This is offers insightful responses to commonly asked questions.

If you would really like to attend but the costs are prohibitive, please contact either Linda Bebeau, Don Pfannes or Dale Pickelman regarding a scholarship.

Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing a great deal about this course. Sign up now to make sure you'll be included on the roster.

Here are what individuals from other congregations have said about this course:

"The written messages from formerly inactive members are especially moving and inspirational. I am anxious to put my training to work in our congregation as soon as possible. It's exciting!"

"I am eager to continue on with the course content—this material is so thought provoking. I was happy to be involved in the program!"

YES, I am interested in taking part in the course, *Caring for Inactive Members: How to Make God's House a Home*.

Name: _____

- Enclosed is my check for the registration.
- I'll bring the registration fee to the class
- Please contact me regarding a scholarship.

Leave on the Ushers Desk or contact the church office to enroll.

The Dress Code Debate

Principal's Report

In my classroom this past week, as we were going over the planned activities for Lutheran Schools Week, the issue of the dress code again came up. "Why can't we wear . . . for Crazy Dress Day?" This entire discussion got me thinking a little about dress codes, what we wear, and why we wear it.

For a long time, schools didn't worry about dress codes or uniforms, but I'm quite sure that nearly every school now has one. At certain schools, some students are put in dangerous situations by wearing the wrong clothing or gang color. Some want to rebel by dressing like the hoodlums they admire. Some are sadly mistaken by the world view that suggestive clothing looks "cute" on little children. The end result is that schools are reworking their dress codes, keeping up with current trends and regulating what children are allowed to wear in school. Still other schools have abandoned the cumbersome procedure entirely and require all students to wear uniforms.

As parents, our goal regarding dress involves teaching our children respect. We want our children to choose appropriate clothing styles for appropriate reasons. The clothing options at stores do not always support this goal however. Styles that appear appropriate for high school students are increasingly being pushed onto younger and younger students.

Most children do not understand the meaning behind these styles, but it is our duty as parents to set standards for dress that teach our children what is appropriate. We need to be strong and not give in to trendy



Class Spelling Bee Winners!

styles when those styles are clearly inappropriate. Children respect and appreciate these kinds of boundaries. The intent of dress codes is to create an environment that is conducive to respect for school, teachers, classmates, self, and God.

Our annual school spelling bee was held at the end of February. Individual grade competitions were held to determine the finalists for the school bee. Our congratulations go out to all of them. A special pat on the back goes to the winners: Bailey Heading (3rd), Dylan Jean (4th), Diondra Heading (5th), Emily Brandt (6th), Andrew Balzer (7th), and Sydney Koch (8th). The over-all spelling champion was Andrew Balzer.

The school has planned numerous activities for Lutheran Schools Week, March 5 – 10. The following is a brief summation of the events:

Sunday – March 5
THE LORD'S DAY – SCHOOL ART FAIR AWARDS
Special Worship Service in praise to God for our school.

Full school participation in vocal praise to God, including the Orff Choir, during

this special 10:30 worship service.

After the service, join our art instructor, Mr. Eric Larsen, as he presents awards to the winning entries for our second annual Grace Art Fair. The projects are all on display in the gym, where the awards will take place.

Monday – March 6
SCHOOL BREAKFAST DAY
School Breakfast served at 8:45 in the gym. Come to school hungry for pancakes, scrambled eggs, toast and juice.

Tuesday – March 7
CRAZY DRESS DAY
Wear your clothes backwards, clash your colors, wear a hat or a tie or even your sunglasses (within the dress code please).

Wednesday – March 8
SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY
Competition and awards for the highest percentage of school color support. Bring your favorite slippers and pillow as we DEAR for an hour with popcorn provided.
(Drop Everything And Read)

Thursday – March 9
JOINT WORSHIP/DRESS UP DAY
Wear your best as we join all area Lutheran Schools in praise to God for our Lutheran Schools at Valley Lutheran High School beginning at 9:30. Our hand bells will participate in leading this worship experience. A special performance by the Fitz Family will follow. Bus transportation will be provided.

Friday – March 10
VIDEO DAY
Classrooms will break into two groups to enjoy a video. Afterwards, it will be time for ice cream sundaes.

JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS

By nature we are led to seek salvation through our own means, which is impossible. But God has accomplished the impossible for us. By grace through faith, our salvation is free and certain through the merits of Jesus Christ. This message comes through loud and clear during Mach's religion instructions. The idea of "Manifest Destiny" filled the minds of most Americans during the mid-1800s. The idea that America had the right to spread across the continent was widely acknowledged. This finally occurred in 1853 when we controlled all of the land that today makes up the contiguous forty-eight states. All of our students have observed a variety of animals in their neighborhoods. We have all seen birds at a feeder, cats

licking their paws, dogs running back and forth. We will study the unique characteristics of birds and mammals. Science will explore how they are adapted to reproduce and live in many different environments. Eighth grade algebra makes the connection between algebraic equations and their geometric models. Students will identify coordinates and locate points on the coordi-



Over-All

Spelling

Cham-
pion

Andrew
Balzer



7 & 8 Grade Class Spelling Competitors

nate plane, identify the domain and range of a relation, and solve linear equations for a specific variable. The seventh graders will again work with solving algebraic equations, this time with integers, both positive and negative numbers.

5th & 6th Grade News

The 5th and 6th graders began the month of February giving praise to God in song. The students did an outstanding job singing "Earth and All Stars" acappella for the congregation. Ms Rudick did a fine job leading them and was pleased that ALL were in attendance. Thank you to all of our students and their families!

We had special guests join our classroom this month as well. Two Chippewa Nature Center guides came to present a traveling program entitled Michigan Geol-



Chippewa Nature Guide
Danielle & Elyssa

February News

ogy. The students discussed the types of rocks found in Michigan, identified and classified rocks and minerals, and even attempted to change a solid to a liquid with only the heat of their own hands! The program was educational and enjoyable, thank you CPTL for funding this learning program for our class!

The highlight of our month was our play productions. The students worked very hard on taking a classic fairy tale and giving it a creative new twist. The folk tales chosen were: Jack and the Beanstalk – better known as *Jill and the Beanstalk*; Rapunzel – A.K.A. *The Sisters, a Rapunzel Remake*; Cinderella – or *Cinderella Remix*, and The Ugly Duckling, newly titled *Stripes the Horse*. They worked in small groups to write dialogue for their scripts, created backdrops for their audience, and performed the stories for our kindergarten – 2nd grade students. This took tremendous teamwork and creativity, not to mention acting ability. I commend all the students for their hard work and wonderful results. As you can see in the photos, the plays were entertaining and creative!

Our Grace Spelling Bee was held on Wednesday, February 22nd with Diondra Heading winning the title of best speller for the 5th grade, and Emily Brandt for the 6th.



5 & 6 Graders per
forming their plays!



Congratulations to all participants, and God be with those who compete in March for the Bay-Midland Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee!

Winter Squall and February's Fun!

We received quite a storm in February. The affects varied from student to student, depending on where they live. Pupils wrote a journal and told their stories about what went on at their house.

Melissa said, "Talk about cold. The generator only ran the fridge, the freezer, the sump pump, and the heater. But the heater only produced enough heat so that the pipes didn't freeze."

Matthew commented, "When I looked outside I saw the tree branches covered with ice. It looked pretty. But after a few hours passed without electricity I went bananas."

On Monday, February 14, we went bowling at Valley Lanes in Midland. The students had a ball. Most of our students bowled with bumpers, but some refused. Danielle, Bailey, and Branden decided to bowl without them. Bailey admitted that she had gotten more gutters than she would've liked but stated, "I just don't like bumpers." Way to challenge yourselves students!

On February 22nd, Grace had its annual spelling bee. It was rescheduled due to the ice storm. Fourth grade participants were: Matthew, Dylan, Travis, Reid, and Melissa. Third grade spellers were Danielle, Bailey, and Branden.

Congratulations to our winners, Dylan and Bailey, and to all our participants! You did an outstanding job!

I also wanted to take a moment to congratulate and recognize our basketball players. Our B team basketball players are: Travis, Reid, Matthew, Branden, and Melissa. They've played hard and had a lot of fun. It was a great season.

We've also reached the midterm for the third quarter. At the middle of every quarter the top Accelerated Readers in the

Reid & Travis partying down!



Our Super Spellers! Dylan & Bailey

class are recognized. Matthew, Bailey, and Lucas are the winners from our room. Matthew and Bailey selected slurpees as their prizes, but Lucas went for thirty minutes of electronic gaming. Way to go students! Keep on reading!

This month, we are looking forward to Lutheran Schools Week. Instead of ending Lutheran Schools Week with our students singing at the service, we thought we would kick off the week that way. On Sunday, March 5, students will be greeting our members, passing out bulletins, and acting as ushers. We hope to see you there.

Ms. Corinne Schroeder

K, 1 & 2 News

Can you believe it? We have passed the 100th day of school! On February 7th we had a 100th day celebration. Each student brought in 100 things to glue onto a poster. We have most of the posters still displayed in the hallway. Unfortunately, some of the posters were too heavy. We also counted out 100 M&M's, 100 raisins, and 100 skittles. Of course, we ate them after we counted them. What an exciting day!!!

We also enjoyed watching some skits the 5th and 6th grade students put on for us. The skits were remade fairy tales. The 5th and 6th grade students worked very hard on their props and scripts. We had a lot of fun watching them and were very impressed at how much work they put into their skits.

The last Sunday in January was very special for our classroom. Olivia Mantei, one of our 2nd grade students, was baptized along with her sister Molly, who will be in Kindergarten next year. We were so happy for her and were proud



to be able to sing a special baptismal song called "See This Wonder in the Making" during the church service. We thought it was even more special because Olivia would remember her baptism and her friends were able to be at the service for her baptism.

Our 2nd grade students are especially excited that they are now able to write all of their words in cursive if they want to. Learning cursive this year was a very exciting task for them. They also continue to complete more writing projects. They are looking forward to having their first spelling bee in the classroom in March.

Our 1st grade students are really taking off with their reading. They are an exceptional group of readers. Their parents say that they read every chance they get at home. They are also working hard learning addition and sub-

traction facts. They have made addition flash cards through their 10's facts. They will begin working on their subtraction flash cards soon.

Our Kindergarten students are also learning more words and have even begun to read very simple books to the 1st and 2nd grade students. They have especially enjoyed reading books by using only the pictures and making up a story to go with the pictures. They have now learned their numbers through 100 and are learning their first addition facts.

All of our students continue to work hard. They are looking forward to the first Kindergarten Round up on March 21st. That will be a time when prospective Kindergarten students and their parents can come in to observe our classroom during the school day. If you know of any students for our Kindergarten next year, be certain to tell them about our Kindergarten Round up on March 21st and April 20th. Let Miss Rudick know too. She would be more than happy to contact them and give them more information.



Given in Memory

Laurence Varner
By
Ray & Deb Garcia

Lenten Suppers

Good News! You don't have to cook for the family before church on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and Wednesday, March 22nd. The Youth group will be serving a chicken noodle and bean soup with grilled cheese sandwiches on Ash Wednesday and Spaghetti later in the month. So come and join us promptly from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm for food and fellowship before worship. Free will donations are always welcome. Can't wait to see you there!

Grace Lutheran Youth

This month in youth we have had our monthly meeting and discussed what upcoming events we will be having.

We had our Super bowl subs this year. It was a great success and we had a great turn out for workers. We would like to thank the people who purchased subs and hope you will want to buy them again next year.

We are having a soup supper for the beginning of Lent. This is going to March 1st. It is going to start at 5:30 before the church service, any left over soup will be sold by the quart. Also, we will be having a spaghetti dinner later in the month which will also start at 5:30 and we invite the congregations to come. We don't have a price, this is free will donation.

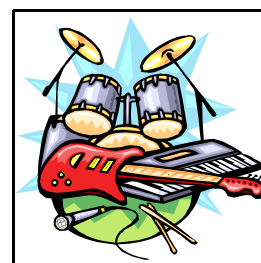
We also are having a youth lock in and we are inviting 3 area churches to come. It is going be run by "New Crew" a group out of Concordia Ann Arbor. We had

them last year and had a great time. We are hoping for a great turn out and a chance to meet new teens.

We also have been discussing a summer trip which is still in the works. It will be a service event but we still have to narrow it down. We will keep the congregation posted on what we are doing.

If you have any pop cans to get rid of drop them off to the box by the large kitchen. We will be happy to return them.

We also have found out very good news. We found out Lost and Found, our youth's favorite Christian band; will be performing at Zion Beaver. We are planning on going to this concert. Aaron Stanford Youth Reporter



Lost
and
Found

Grace Lutheran 28th Annual Fish Fry

It's time for the finest fish fry around. In fact this year will be Grace's 28th annual fish fry. Help us celebrate that milestone by joining us on Friday, March 10. We will be serving from 4:30-7:00 pm. We offer fantastic fish with an assortment of side dishes, and incredible desserts. The prices are Adults & Take-outs \$7.50, Seniors \$7.00, Ages 6-12 \$3.50, and under 6 free. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the school office. Tell your family and friends to join us for an evening of wonderful food and fellowship.

Our Fish Fry would not be a success without your help! We



are in need of volunteers on Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex for duties and times. You can also help by donating supplies, check out the food and supply donations list also in the Narthex.

A Weekend of Discovery- A lifetime of Love.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience that teaches couples how to communicate more effectively and build closeness and intimacy within the marriage relationship. Led by other couples who found the Weekend a blessing to their marriage, participants will learn from their life experiences in a setting which is very private and free from outside distractions. The next Weekend is scheduled for April 21-23 at the Days Inn in Traverse City. An additional 2006 Weekend is scheduled for September 29-October 1 at Camp Arcadia, Arcadia, Michigan (near Frankfurt). Register early- a place on the Weekend cannot be guaranteed after four weeks prior to the Weekend. For additional information and brochures contact Larry & Liz Grupe (586-566-1525), Ken & Deanna Warren (231-228-5270) or call 1-800-235-1010.s

Notes

Voters Assembly

Next Sunday, March 5, the voters assembly meeting will be in the chapel and start at 9:30. The annual reports from the boards and committees will be presented. Also to be presented is a resolution to the district in support of the new Lutheran Service Book. The finance reports and current board reports will be presented.

Trustee Happenings

The trustees are a busy group. Currently they are repairing and replacing ballasts in many of the light fixtures in the building. Those lights that appear burned out are not. They have old and faulty ballasts and unfortunately this means they don't light up when turned on. So be patient as this is a long and tedious job. Other assorted repairs are also ongoing. This is a very busy group but very much behind the scenes. So the next time you enter

the building and everything works, just know that sometime recently a trustee was busy making sure that things were in tip top shape. If you have any skills in electrical or carpentry please let the trustees know as they can always use your help.

Grace Hosts 4th Scrap Event

Kick Back and Scrap IV was a hit. We entertained 67 scrap bookers in our gym on Feb 11. They cut, they pasted, they created, they ate they drank and they were merry. The day was fun for all and profitable for the Hurricane Relief Fund. Our profits of \$1100 with some as yet to be determined Thrivent matching funds will be split between Capital Funds and Hurricane Relief. The organizers (Sue Roth and Deb Pyle) would like to thank all who contributed Baked Goods, pop, snacks, munchies, time, and good humor. Without all of you the day would not have been the success that it was. Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you. And just so you know we have another event scheduled for October 21, 2006. So mark you calendars, get your registrations ready and let's get scappin'.

Wild Game Dinner

Come Saturday, March 18, 2006, 6:30 pm at Valley Lutheran High School. Featured Entrees: Caribou, Alligator, Buffalo, Venison, Elk, Pheasant, Goose, Duck and Walleye. Tickets are \$25.00 each or \$40.00 a couple. The proceeds will go toward new classroom desks. Sponsored by the Parent Organization.

Valley Lutheran Antique Show

Valley Lutheran High School will be the location of the Saginaw Valley Antique Society's annual Antique Show on Saturday, March 25, 2006 from 9 am-4 pm. Valley's Parent Organization will host a luncheon from 11-1. Admission for the Antique show is \$3.00 and includes two free appraisals. If you have any questions, please call me at 790-1795 or e-mail at spartyland@ameritech.net.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Men's Club

8220 Holland Rd.
Saginaw, Mi
Chicken Barbeque
March 12, 2006
11:30-1:30
Take-out \$7.00
Dine-in \$7.00 Adult, \$4.00 ages 6-12, under 5 free
½ chicken and all the trimmings

Grace Member Wins National Award



Bob Krystosek, member of Grace and elder, works as a Senior Research Technologist for The Dow Chemical Company in Midland. He relocated here from Milwau-

kee, WI in 1981 and currently resides in Sanford with his wife Brenda. Bob has numerous hobbies including playing the guitar which we occasionally get the pleasure of experiencing during worship. Bob is also an active member of the American Chemical Society (ACS), a national organization which promotes the chemical enterprise and provides opportunities to develop leadership skills necessary to progress professionally. Bob has been active on the local level with the Mid-Michigan

Technician Group (MMTG) since 1993 and the National level with the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH) since 2000. In 2003, Bob won the Midland Local ACS Section award for Outstanding Chemical Technician. He also served as the chair of TECH in 2004.

This year, Bob has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the most prestigious award from the Division of Chemical Technicians, the National Chemical Technician Award. The award is presented annually to a chemical technician who has demonstrated an extremely high degree of pro-

fessionalism. Criteria used to judge the award include technical skills, communication skills, safety, reliability, leadership, teamwork, publications, and presentations. Additional professional and community activities are also considered.

The award will be presented at a banquet to be held in Bob's honor on Sunday, March 26 at the upcoming spring ACS national meeting in Atlanta, GA. Brenda will accompany Bob to this event.

Congratulations Bob!

CPTL NEWS

Grace's Christian Parent Teacher League will have our next meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2006. The CPTL meets approximately four times during the school year to discuss activities and needs of Grace Lutheran Church and School. Please come and join us. We'd love to hear any new ideas and suggestions. We will be allocating our funds and having the Fish Fry wrap-up.

The major fund raiser for CPTL for the year is the fish

fry, and we use the money earned to help fund needed supplies and improvements for both the school and the church for the following year. Please join us. Although this event is a lot of work, it is also a lot of fun and a great opportunity for fellowship with the school and church families. And as the saying goes.....*Many Hands Make Light Work.*

One of the events that the CPTL has helped to fund for the children throughout the school year was Jack Burrus and his World of Robots who

visited us recently with a demonstration for all the children in the gym. Check out Grace's website for some pictures of the event.

CPTL also helps to fund many field trips for the various classes throughout the school year, along with extra funds for the teachers to purchase some extra things to make teaching and learning more fun; for example, science kits that really seem to be a big hit with the kids.

So, once again, please join us. We'd love to have your input.

Office Hours

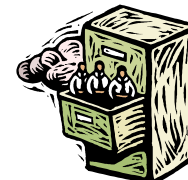
School
M-F 8:30- 12:30
Phone 662-4791

Office is not open when school is not in session

Church
M-F 8:30-12:30
Phone 662-6161

I will be in the office for the first few days of Spring break, not the last half.

Lynn



Erber Missionary Update Obot Idim, Nigeria February 16, 2006

Dear Partners In Mission,

Last week, on February 6th, I returned from a three week trip to Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In Liberia we are working with three different groups: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia (ELCL), The Universal House of Prayer (UHP) and The Church of God [Lutheran]. The ELCL was founded by our LCMS mission effort in Liberia. The other two groups have independent origins but have found their identity in Luther's Small

Catechism. One of our goals there is to encourage these three groups to work together and find ways to unify.

In Kayima, Sierra Leone, the 14 paramount rulers (highest level of chiefs) of the Kono people were also meeting there. So my meeting with the church leaders also gave me the opportunity to meet with the local community chief and elders, the local section chief and the 14 paramount rulers of the Kono people.

In each meeting I was able to speak about our Lord Jesus Christ. After I spoke to the paramount rulers, their spokesman thanked me for coming and

added that "even though there are two ways to heaven, through Jesus and Mohammed, . . .", he thanked me for the work we are doing there.

We must keep praying for

those who are lost, we must keep learning about God's Word and about people, and we must keep telling people about Jesus—[the only way to heaven]!

Thank you for your partnership in getting the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who are lost or uncommitted in West Africa.

Your partners in mission,

Pastor David and Joyce Erber



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Mr. Peter Fredrich, Principal

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March

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Emily Brandt, Alicia Leffler, Marie Wackerly, Thomas Wegener, 2 Skyler Steward, 3 Kevin Keidel, Shaun Ruff, 5 Sean Keidel, 6 Julia Hundley, Rachel Robson, 7 Barbara Reiss, Kelly Schroeder, 8 Fran Galke, 9 Edgar Wegener, Karla Weiss, 10 Donna Gene-seo, Jeffrey Vennix, 12 Polly Eichinger, Lynda Fletcher, Sharon Kayden, Travis McNally, Elise Varner, 14 Harlan Taglauer, Lynnsay Wegener, Kelly Whalen, 15 Melissa Garcia, 18 Brenda Gray, 19 Tracey Hopcroft, Turner Lechner, 22 Brad Collins, Gary Pyle, 23 Mary Jo Brandt, 24 Bailey Heading, 25 Jay Gripentrog, Melissa Vennix, 27 Iris Dominowski, Daniel Koehler, David Wegener, Darlene Pfannes, 29 Andrew Jelinek, Kayleen Kleinert

Anniversaries

6 Kerry & Tracey Story, 11 Mark & Gayle Wood, Paul & Linda Varner, 24 Gary & Susan Sauer