

July  
2006

# GRACE SPOTLIGHTER



## THIS SUMMER, TAKE A BREATH— THE AROMA OF LIFE

A good number of people in the Bible are named Simon. Two disciples as well as a brother of Jesus were all named Simon. Judas Iscariot's father had the name. One sorcerer in Samaria was named Simon. So was the man forced to carry Jesus' cross.

Another Simon in the Bible was a tanner who lived in the ocean-side city of Joppa [Acts

10]. His "house by the sea" sounds like a nice place, doesn't it, like a summer getaway? But a tanner is about the stinkiest line of work there is. Yet, Acts tells us Simon, the fisherman (also a stinky vocation), was a house guest there.

Pastors visit many homes. What an assortment of people we are too. At Grace we have lots of shared names. Just in the As and Bs we have Als, Ashleys, Barbs, Bens, Bettys, Bills, Bonnies, Brandons, Brendas, and Brians. What an menagerie we are too.

Years ago, I visited the home of some church members who were hog farmers. I don't know if they had more flies or dirty dishes. Vinyl kitchen chairs seemed lubricated for lack of a good wash.

But what faithful, believing Christians these "stinky" people were—maybe the most jolly family I ever knew. They were Christians who lived by faith.

They had the gifts of the Living God and received His divine service joyfully and openly. God's grace and the love of Christ were the real deal in their house. They trusted God not to be partial toward only tidy, scrubbed, and orderly folks. They knew He comes to us where we are and as we are.

God sees the home of a young family with all the mess and toys around. It's OK. He isn't put off by clutter or dust in an old folk's house. Jesus doesn't favor somebody because of his name or circumstances. Nor does Jesus confuse you with others who may share your particular first name.

We're alike. We're all stinky. That's the first thing we confess to God. We don't mean it the way boisterous children may be referred to as "little stinkers." We mean the real nasty smell of original sin.

Simon, the sorcerer, was stinky with his lust for supernatural powers. Simon, the father of Judas, was stinky to raise such a greedy, wicked son. Carrying a cross stinks no matter what your name. How stinky the disciple's denial of Jesus!

How much our sins offend God's senses too! The first thing we say to Him in the liturgy is, "I stink."

But we're also alike in our baptism. Cleaned and disinfected by Christ's righteousness, God says to you in the liturgy, "You are

washed, but you are justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of our God." And, "For as many of you as have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ."

The very essence of purity is yours.

You know, people around Bay City have been known to complain about the smell of beet processing. That's probably nothing compared with the "plug your nose, crying eyes, almost suffocating stink" Simon, the tanner, lived with every day.

Yet, Simon Peter stayed with him. Among Christians such things don't really matter. It is the shared name and righteousness of Christ which count.

Don't apologize for the appearance of your house. It doesn't matter. The Lord's Supper has the aroma of salvation even if celebrated among clutter. Actually, it is into these messy, unruly lives of our that our Lord has come.

God's own Son was born in a stinky place, wasn't He? But Jesus remained the spotless Lamb of God. When He ordered Lazarus' grave opened, the good-housekeeper, Martha, worried about "bad odor." But that didn't stop Jesus. He came to fill our hearts with His Spirit, our ears with His Word, our minds with his truth, and even our noses with the fragrance of life.

Jesus was buried with spices and raised with no whiff of decay. Maybe it's unfortunate our churches have given up the occasional use of incense. Stained glass for the eye, musical instruments for the ear, sacramental elements for our touch and taste—why not a fragrance also? Just asking,

Christ is the Rose of Sharon. He is the pleasing aroma by whom God says, "Never again will I curse the ground because of man." (Gen 8:21) Because of Him, you are not just another stinker. Your sins are forgiven. Your life is united with the one whom God raised from the dead, never to decay." (Acts 13:34) .

In fact, the New Testament says even you are "to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved." (2 Cor. 2:15) Your knowledge of Him is "the fragrance of life."

I think that's why Simon the fisherman and Simon the tanner enjoyed each other's company. These men in their work knew some pretty pungent smells and confessed in their flesh the worse stink of sin. But they also knew they shared, in Christ, the fragrance of life and the sweet smelling aroma of the King's house at which they were both guests—as are you!

So, if ever you're choked by work, pause for time with your Lord and that wonderful breath of fresh air. If you feel like homelife, health, or affairs sometimes "stink," draw breath from the Spirit of Christ. The scent of salvation and the aroma of life in Him are heady and aromatic—to savor with every breath.

God bless your summer with just such a breather.

— *Pastor*

## Call Meeting Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:45AM

An official announcement of President Steven VanTol has been the setting of a special meeting for: The members, of Grace Lutheran Church, to consider extending a call to Wade Seaver to be an Assistant Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church.

### *Letter from the President*

Dear members of Grace,

I feel extending a call to Wade Seaver to be an Assistant Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church is a very important decision of the congregation. I also feel we should have as much participation of our membership in the decision as possible. Therefore the Call meeting is scheduled to immediately follow the July 9<sup>th</sup> service. Pastor Reed has agreed to complete the service at 9:45 as communion will not be served.

Our new President, Kim Herbolzheimer, will start the call meeting. The meeting will start with a brief review of the reason to extend a call to Wade Seaver. The actual wording of the call document will be presented. Then any additional questions by the members present will be addressed. After addressing the questions voting will be by a ballot to be marked for a yes or no vote. The ballots will be collected and immediately counted. The results will be announced and the meeting concluded with the appropriate prayers.

I would anticipate the meeting to be concluded by 10:30. The actual conclusion will depend on the time for questions by you, the membership.

To help explain the procedures for the call process the following excerpts from the constitution and By-Laws are included here for your review.

#### Constitution ARTICLE IV, Section C. Voting Members

All communicant members of Grace Lutheran Church Auburn, Michigan who have reached their 18th year of age, shall be entitled to vote.

#### By-Laws ARTICLE I, Section B Voting membership

Any adult member of Grace Lutheran Church Auburn, Michigan is a voting member. When legally required, actual voting may be restricted to those of legal age.

#### Constitution ARTICLE VI - Section A. Right of Call

The right of calling pastors and teachers shall be vested in the congregation and shall never be delegated to a smaller body or an individual.

#### By-Laws ARTICLE III, Section C. Subsections e to g Calling of Workers

e. The initial vote shall consider all listed candidates and continue until one has a two-thirds majority of those present. If such majority is not reached on a particular ballot, the names of the two candidates receiving fewest votes shall be dropped from the next ballot, in the event of three (3) remaining candidates, the one receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped until there are only two candidates remaining, and voting shall continue in like manner until a two-thirds majority is reached. At that time, the chairman of the meeting shall call upon those present to make the Call unanimous. f. The Call shall then be extended to the selected candidate according to the terms and conditions decided upon by recommendation of the Call Committee. The Voters' Assembly shall make the actual decision regarding the details of the Call. g. Such details are notifying the candidate, gathering additional information from the Call list, receiving additional nominations from members, requesting additional names from the District President, or variations to the above procedure shall be determined by the Executive Board or Voters' Assembly. No individual or committee shall have authority to negotiate any details of the Call with the Called candidate without the express knowledge and consent of the Voters' Assembly.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to the call meeting please talk with me, President Steven VanTol until June 30, 2006 then Vice President on July 1, 2006.

In Christ,

Steven VanTol



### **Given in Memory**

**Ed Kent**

By

Gordon & Marge Marner

Kevin & Brandon Huber

Roberta Wallace & Isaiah Huber

Ron & Bonnie Grappin

Roland LaVier

Donna Geneseo

Kent, Hazel, & Amy Grappin

Margaret, Ron, Pam & Michael

Kent

Bill & Elaine Schmidt

Josie Leonard

Gloria Rybkowski

Dave & Joann Grappin

Bill & Wanda Horetshd

KKA & J Flowers

**Fred Horneber**

By

Pam Horneber

**Char Polhe**

By

Bonnie Cole

**Jim Wackerly**

By

Marie Wackerly & Gladys Sobek

Don Wackerly & Sandy Harrison

## **July Dates to Remember**

July 4

**Independence Day**

July 9

**10:00 Call Meeting of the Congregation**

July 16

**6:00 pm Vacation Bible School "Treasure Cove"**

July 20

**8:00 pm Closing of VBS with Ice Cream Social**

## **Serve-a-thon**

This summer the Youth have welcomed the idea of helping out their own church membership. As all may well know, the church is under tremendous financial strain. Bills are not being paid and projects are not able to be accomplished.

To help the church during this time, the Youth will be serving in a Serve-a-thon. The Serve-a-thon entails each Youth member working on different maintenance projects at church, but receives pledges from other members of the church for the number of hours they work on the project.

The Youth will be working on general cleaning, painting, and water-proofing the Ark, as well as other possible projects, while being guided by helpful adult supervision. This will be carried out on Friday, July 20 ~ 6 pm-9 pm, Saturday, July 21 ~ 9 am-4 pm, and Sunday, July 22 ~ Noon-4 pm.

This is meant for a fun and constructive way to raise money for a large upcoming expense of a new roof on the church building. As the Youth members raise money for the project, they are also helping with the maintenance of the actual church.

They will also be inviting members of the church to help in this project, not only in pledges but with the projects at church. Each Youth member that receives help from another member will increase their pledges by the amount of time that another church member helps them. This is an excellent way for young and old members that are unable to help financially to become involved in the project.

Continue to look for more details in July as these dates draw closer... If you have any questions or any possible projects, please contact Sarah Van-Tol, 837-9633.





# Notes



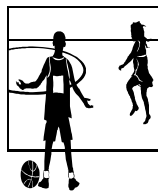
## 27th Annual Amelith Athletic Club Tournament

St. John is hosting their 27<sup>th</sup> annual picnic and ball tournament on July 20-through the 23. There is men's slow-pitch and ladies modified softball, and some general rules that we follow. If you have a team please contact Gene Engerer at 989-791-5823 (wk) or 989-684-5748,(home).

There will also be our wonderful BBQ chicken for sale during the weekend. Come on over and join the festivities.

## Brad Strand Basketball Camp

St. Paul is having their annual basketball camp on July 26-28. Brad Strand and his family will again be the leaders for camp. Grades 1-4 will be from 9 am- 12 pm and 5-8 graders 1 pm - 3 pm. The cost is \$30.00. Registration forms are in the church office. Any questions phone 989-686-7140.



## Ladies of the Congregation

The Ladies of Grace every year sponsor a bazaar & cookie room. Plans for this year's bazaar are already started. This is on only money making event the ladies of the church have and it is a large undertaking, so we hope to have a lot of eager hands to help again this year. This event helps in several areas of the church, school and missions. We are losing our chairperson for the cookies. Anyone interested in chairperson or the cookies or would like to help chair or would be interested in helping in any other way, please contact Carol Mularz 662-7915.

# CPTL

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it..." *Proverbs 22:6*

## What is CPTL?

The Grace Christian Parent Teacher League is the gathering group of all parents of Grace Students and our dedicated faculty working together to provide the best possible education for our children. All parents of students enrolled at Grace are members of the league. CPTL meets during the months of September, November, February and April. Please watch future newsletters for meeting reminders.

CPTL has funded the following items/programs during the last year; all school field trips and assemblies, monetary donations to VBS, science kit rentals, library supplies, fertilizer/chemicals for soccer field, digital camera and printer, kitchen improvements.

## What is Meijer Community Rewards?

Meijer Community Rewards is one program that our CPTL participates in. To date we have received \$3,167.03 from Meijer Community Rewards. If you are a member or friend of Grace you can be involved in the Community Rewards program. Do you shop at Meijer stores? If so please consider enrolling in this program. There is no cost to you to participate, each time you shop at Meijer show your card and you will help us earn rewards for qualified purchases. Enrollment forms can be found on the usher's desk in the narthex. Our organization code number is #159258. If you have any questions on the program please feel free to contact Ann Balzer or Karla Weiss.

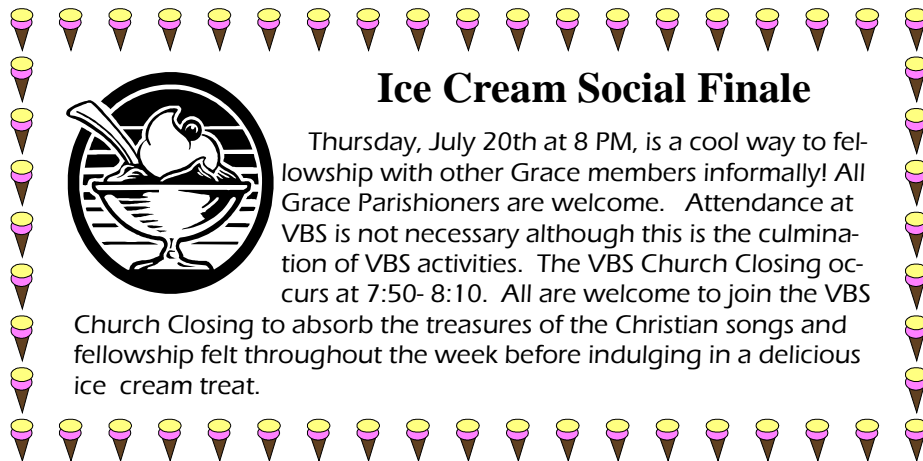

## Treasure Cove Invitation

Kids, young adults, and adults are invited to Treasure Cove Vacation Bible School, July 16-20 at 6-8:30PM. There is fun and activities for all ages. Anyone any age can bring a friend and receive a gift for you and your friend. The more you bring; the more prizes you win.



Young treasure cove seekers will have stimulating bible lessons, awesome games, luscious snacks, and cool crafts. Adventuresome and daring 6th to 8th graders will join the infamous "Fear Factor" activities. The most

mature treasure seekers (adults) will witness the excitement of all the youth while joining in opening devotions with the children and then retreating to a quieter spot for an adult version of treasure seekers. Look for pre-registration announcements in the Sunday bulletin. See you July 16th!

## Ice Cream Social Finale

Thursday, July 20th at 8 PM, is a cool way to fellowship with other Grace members informally! All Grace Parishioners are welcome. Attendance at VBS is not necessary although this is the culmination of VBS activities. The VBS Church Closing occurs at 7:50- 8:10. All are welcome to join the VBS Church Closing to absorb the treasures of the Christian songs and fellowship felt throughout the week before indulging in a delicious ice cream treat.

# Stewardship Is More Often “Caught” than “Taught”

Herb Mather in a 2001 book That's What My Mother Taught Me and Other Ways Generous Givers Develop affirmed the power of Christian examples.

During a two-year period, Mather interviewed over one hundred people who were described by their pastors as generous. Mather's conviction is that “generous people do not reason their way to generosity; the primary motivation for their generosity is not that they sat down with a financial analyst and determined that their act of giving money to a church was a prudent thing to do. Rather their act of giving itself is a wonderful mystery that goes way beyond simple rationality.

Many of the generous people had a sense of responsibility. They had an inner compulsion to 'give back' – not in the sense of paying God back for some specific good but in the sense of responding in a tangible way to blessings that have come and will come from God.”

It appears from a stewardship attitudes and practices survey of LCMS clergy that stewardship is often more “caught” than “taught!”

Parents lead children by example. Spouses encourage and challenge one another. Members of congregations share the joys of God's generosity. When these things occur, generosity develops and disciples grow in their faith and trust in God's rich supply.

God's people realize they are stewards, or managers,

of all of life and life's resources, and through the Word grow as faithful

caretakers of God's bounty. The Holy Spirit works primarily through preaching, teaching, reading and studying of the Holy Scriptures and the blessed sacraments of Holy Baptism and The Lord's Supper. But The Holy Spirit also works through the mutual encouragement of God's people to raise up generous stewards.

Sometimes we hesitate about using testimonies and examples within a congregation for fear it might sound like “bragging” or “motivating people to become generous out of a sense of duty or guilt.”

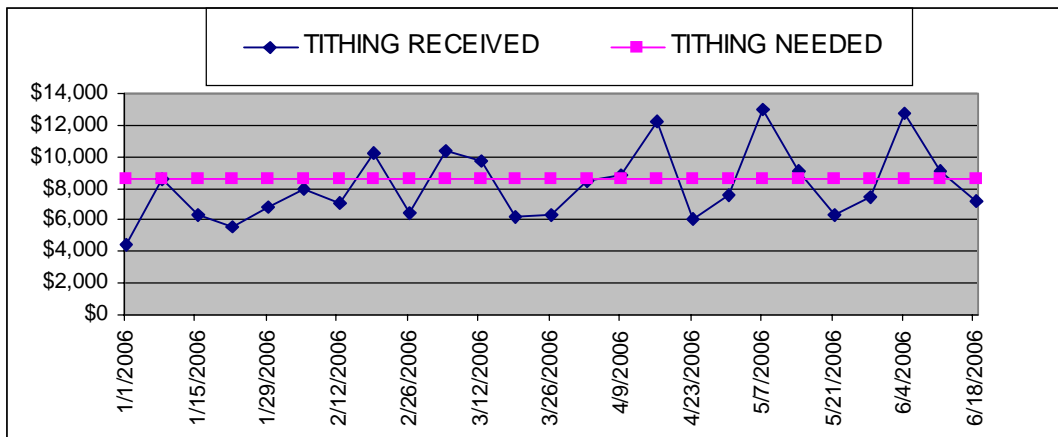
While using caution so that doesn't happen, there still is a benefit to sharing the story of how generosity is “caught” as well as “taught.”

St. Paul did not shy away from encouraging others to imitate him (1 Corinthians 4:16). The reason Paul was bold enough to write that was because he imitated Christ. Paul also encouraged his fellow Christians to “imitate God” (Ephesians 5:1).

Surely our God is generous in every way. His greatest act of generosity was to send His one and only Son to be the Savior of the world. His generosity extends also to our earthly lives as He lavishes gifts upon us for our enjoyment with the expectation that under His grace we will also be generous and willing to share.

## UNPAID BILLS as of 6/21/2006

	Mar 06	May 06	Jun 06
<b>Universal Building Maint</b>		<b>1212.00</b>	<b>606.00</b>
<b>Valley Lutheran Tuition</b>	<b>1940.00</b>		
<b>CPH</b>		<b>55.25</b>	
<b>IKON</b>		<b>743.58</b>	
<b>Indiana District</b>		<b>45.00</b>	
<b>Michigan District</b>			<b>230.00</b>
<b>Member Loans</b>			<b>5000.00</b>
<b>Missions</b>		<b>3283.00</b>	<b>3283.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1940.00</b>	<b>5338.83</b>	<b>9119.00</b>



# race Spotlighter

JULY 2006

JUNE 2006

## Welcome Freshmen!

On June 5th, the Youth Group welcomed five new youth members at a Mystery Dinner. The theme of the dinner remained a mystery to all youth members, new and old.

All of the Youth were welcomed by the soothing music, fantastically dressed youth leaders, stunning decorations, and were adorned with a leis as they walked into the Hawaiian themed dinner. Fun and games got the evening going and continued to keep the Youth guessing.

Each of the youth members ordered items on the menu in the Hawaiian language, including their silverware and napkins. Some were lucky enough to receive forks or spoons with their rice or messy dessert, while others unfortunately had

to make their way through the challenge. Not many were daring enough to scarf down the pineapple and Spam appetizers, but the meal was quite appetizing. It made for a very fun evening.



Getting-to-know-you with a guessing game at the Hawaiian Welcome Dinner.

## Youth Members Spend a Saturday with Habitat for Humanity

On the same weekend as the Freshmen Welcome, seven Youth and four adults set out to make a shed for the Habitat for Humanity house on 35th and Harrison. They were originally met with cloudy skies soggy conditions from rain, but it turned into a lovely day as the sun shone and the thunderclouds went around them.



Nearing the end of the project on a hot day.

On the site, which had the beginnings of two houses' foundations, the Youth, under the leadership of Mr. Sugden, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Whalen, set out to make a shed in one day. After the materials were received, the group made some excellent headway and built, sided, and roofed the shed by the early afternoon. Luckily, not many thumbs were left black after the long day of building had ended.

Homeowners were not on site for the building, but others who had already reaped this benefit came to visit while we worked. The Youth members received much thanks from these people and Habitat members.

Thanks for your help: Kye, Kevin, Drew, Brian, Kendra, Kirstin, and Jacob! You made a difference in one family's life in one afternoon.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Monthly Meeting 10 am	<b>July 9</b>
Serve-a-thon	<b>July 21-23</b>
Summer Trip	<b>TBA</b>

After church, Sunday Bible study will be discontinued in the summer, but short business meetings will be announced. Bible study will continue after Labor Day.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- We would like to say "goodbye" to the outgoing Seniors. May you continue to grow in God's spirit as you advance in your life. Come back and visit... Kendra Meyer, Jacob Schmidt, Aaron Stanford, Julie Walter, and Dustin Wegener.
- All Freshmen and other High School ages are invited to all upcoming youth events. If you, youth or parents, have any questions, please contact Sarah VanTol, Gayle Wood, Pam Whalen, or Angie Meyer.
- For any event, you are always invited to bring friends, but please inform the Youth leaders of these visitors.

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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*July*

## ***July Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### **Birthdays**

1 Alyssa Bebeau, Amie Keidel, Ty Melick, Gary Roth, 4 Kenneth Weber Jr., 5 Andrew Balzer, Lucille Koehler, Paula Ruff, 6 Marcella Anderson, Stacey Jezowski, Corinne Schroeder, 7 Megan Borchard, 8 Morgan Harrison, Ellen Reiss, 9 Debra Lindstrom, 10 Kevin Feinauer, Rodney Feinauer, Terry McNally, 11 Carol Mularz, 13 Paul Netkowski Jr, 15 Jerry Lynch, 16 Jim Wegener, 17 Judy Eichman, Kristen Glasser, 18 Catherine Sugden, 19 Cassidy Bachman, Rachel Kozuch, Amy Lynch, Phillip Pierce, 21 Brendan Harrison, Roland Reiss, 22 Wade Seaver, 23 Mary Keidel, James Ralph, 24 Kelly Robson, 25 Robert Feinauer, Cherye Krueger, 26 Evan Bickham, Brett Keidel, 28 Khristel Netkowski, Patsy Schroeder, Hunter Steward, 29 Cory Liberacki, Kirstin Meyer, Julie Stark, 29 Donna Wegener, 30 Shannon Gray, 31 Eugene Roberts,

### **Anniversaries**

3 Gil & Barb Bartz, 5 Justin & Melissa Garcia, 6 Steve & Deb VanTol, 7 Robert & Jeanette Harper, 17 Ken & Joy Marotzke, 19 Peter & Cynthia Fredrich, Bill & Elaine Schmidt,, 22 Dallas & Judy Eichman, Greg & Laurie Kozuch, 28 Steve & Sara Katenhus