

May
2007

GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MISSIONARY PASTOR



Pastor Wade Seaver is Grace's Assistant Pastor for Missionary Service, conducting ministry in Ansbach, Germany. He and his family live in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria.

The Prime Paradox

Then comes winter. Winters in Michigan and Germany can be brutal. Yes, this past one was a bit strange, but normally everything dies. The earth and waters freeze. Trees and plants go bare. And darkness is more prevalent than light during this season.

But after this "death" comes spring, and boy what a lovely spring we're having! Did you know the word for spring in Latin is "Lent"? So it even turns out that the Life of the Church – the Life of Christ and the Life of His People – reflects this cycle. Advent occurs in the winter, usually in December, leading up till Christmas. This is the time when the world is the darkest, which gives great meaning to God sending His Son, the Light of the World, at this time to shine in the darkness. The Prophet Isaiah said, "Arise, shine. Your Light has come. The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great Light."

After Christmastide comes Lent, when the days get longer and more light is given. Easter, the day of the resurrection of Jesus, occurs at this time. But three days before Easter is Good Friday, another example of death preceding true life.

So here we are enjoying this wonderful spring weather, which brings me to my final thought – the death to life Sacrament of Holy Baptism. In our two years here in Germany we have grown quite close to the family of a fellow theologian and parishioner. They recently had their third child and

surprised me by asking me to be the godfather (Pate, or Taufpate, in German) of their son Notker. I happily accepted, and it was a beautiful ceremony.

But while baptisms are joyous events with happy parents, godparents, grandparents and the like, I couldn't help but take note at the role of death-to-life in this blessed sacrament.

You know, water not only washes and cleans, but it destroys and kills. Human beings cannot survive in water. We die if we breath it in. Floods are devastating. Remember back in the 80s when Auburn was flooded? Lots of people had water-filled basements, which soaked everything from furniture to paper files. It also had the odor of death.

St. Paul says that in baptism we are baptized into Christ's death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead we too might walk in newness of life (Rom 6). In baptism we die. It is necessary to die in order to live, to really live. Then are we raised.

So, what about you? Are you living to die, or are you dying to live?

Enjoy the paradox!

A paradox is a statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory or absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth. A pastor in Milwaukee once wrote a book called *Dying to Live*. It's a catchy title because it's a paradox. What do life and death have to do with each other? Aren't they opposites?

I once did a Lenten sermon series on the paradoxes of the Christian Faith, like "Why do we need forgiveness if we've already been forgiven?" Perhaps the greatest paradox of all is the incarnation of Our Lord. Is Jesus a man or is He God? To which we answer, "Yes!" Both are 100% true, though scoffers would call this fuzzy math.

But the paradox of dying in order to really live is particularly on my mind today. Have you ever noticed how the cycle of death-to-life occurs in nature? Consider how a beautiful butterfly emerges from an ugly caterpillar. Also consider how pretty the fall leaves are. Did you know that what causes this beautiful coloration is the fact that they are dying?



ASCENSION FESTIVAL WORSHIP

TO DRAW TOGETHER THREE CONGREGATIONS

GRACE HOSTS TRINITY & ST. JOHN, THURS., MAY 17TH, 7:00 P.M.

The Ascension of our Lord is an event often forgotten in our present church calendar. We rightly should regard it most highly since it celebrates the culmination of Christ's life on earth and represents the completion of His work that He came to accomplish for our salvation.

The annual festival of the Ascension is the celebration of Christ's coronation in heaven, his return in glory among the angels and elders of the Kingdom of God who all fell in worship before Him. Christ ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. (Ephesians 4:10)

To observe this triumph of the Christ and mark as holy the Day of Christ's Ascension, Grace has extended an invitation to our brothers and sisters at Trinity, Monitor and St. John, Amelith to worship with us that day.

This year for the first time, we will conduct a joint Ascension Festival Service at Grace, enlisting the participation of these two valued congregations with us. The service format will be generally that of a hymn festival with choirs, musicians, and pastors taking part. We will be singing many great hymns of the church year augmented by the choral singers from our three churches employing anthems by each choir, including one anthem sung by all choirs.

Note the time change from previous years when the service would be conducted on Ascension Eve. This year the service has been moved to the actual day of the Ascension: Thursday, May 17th. Come, join Pastors David Sherry, Stephen Starke and Pastor Reed, with the choirs and our guests to be part of this great church festival.



CONFIRMATION

Members of the Confirmation class for this year are preparing carefully for the celebration of Christ's Supper through catechism review, self-examination, and prayer. They invite you to join them for a reflection on the Small Catechism planned for Sunday, May 13, at 9:00 a.m. This will include recitation of the Chief Parts of the catechism, connecting again with the precious doctrines of our Christian faith. The Catechism Review will take place in the sanctuary between services.

These young people ask your prayers and celebration with them on the day of their Confirmation, Sunday, May 20 at the Divine Service (10:30 am). These young people are a vital part of the church. Your encouragement to them in word and example means a very great deal.

They are Andrew Balzer, Kevin Feinauer, Erin Kent (*not pictured*), Cory Liberacki, Haleigh McNally, Nathan Morford, Nolan Morford, Connor Peil, Jessica Ruff, and Elise Varner.

WE AGREE LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL

THE BLESSING OF UNITY IN WORD AND PRACTICE

I'm glad you have a moment with Pastor Seaver in this May issue of the *Spotlighter* (page 1). He carries out Christian ministry as an extension of Grace, and I trust you see and appreciate the pastoral heart with which he ministers.

It is certainly fortunate for the service men and German contacts Pastor Seaver meets to have a Lutheran pastor actively serving there.

Pastor Seaver is working in very challenging surroundings hard for us to comprehend.

The church in Germany like much of Europe has been devalued in the minds of many people. Germany is deeply secularized and the church is often mistakenly thought as only a humanitarian institution otherwise insignificant to daily living.

What can be done for those who won't listen or practice?

Same as always! Go to them, baptize, teach, and remain confident God is at work through His Word. Pray that repentance will follow and help people have connection to the Lord's gifts. That's our practice.

It is why we called Pastor Seaver as our missionary pastor.

The presence of confessional Lutheranism hasn't vanished in Germany, but voices of clear, orthodox, Lutheran preaching and practice are widely scattered.

Pastor Seaver is an exception. He preaches the cross. Jesus and only Jesus is central to his catechizing those new to the faith. He faithfully delivers the holy sacraments which is the only way the church is nourished or a man's ministry judged.

Yes, mission work is an uphill climb.

Because the Germany government funds the state church, most citizens simply consider themselves "members" without any impulse to actually participate in Word and Sacrament.

The liberalization of the culture has leached into the minds and values of people which sounds familiar on this side of the

ocean too, doesn't it, where living the faith is just as challenging.

In certain aspects, the German mission field is quite different. But basically, the needs of people are the same everywhere.

What's the problem? The short answer is human sin! It's power is great, and it blankets everyone. In guilt and death we can't tell people apart since we're all the same.

The answer: Christ! He is where the world divides.

The living are those baptized in Him. The happy are those at his Table. The strong are those in His Word. The secure are those in his presence, and the healthy are those forgiven. We know because we have been given Christ and have His saving faith. The Gospel is what we share.

Now, I don't know how to speak German. And You don't know how to read Greek. Many Germans probably know a little English but not terribly well our vernacular. I assume Pastor Seaver talks German with an American accent although it sounds fluent to me.

But what counts is the content—that we confess together the doctrine of Christ and his sacrificing love. We sing deeply of what God reveals... that God became man and gives sinners His righteousness by what He earned and now freely grants. We share the privilege to kneel in homage before our Savior and receive his mercy. How more blessed could anybody be!

I know Pastor Seaver agrees 1000%. That's why I value him as a colleague, friend, and brother in Christ. His work is on the opposite side of the globe from ours, but we all walk together in the doctrine and ways of Christ. We have the supreme blessing of unity in Word and Practice.

The fact that you also agree is cause for my deepest joys in the ministry and why I treasure you as Christ's beloved people.

Pastor Reed

PASTOR REED TO RIDE FROM ANN ARBOR TO THE BRIDGE

Late this month, we'll go with our pastor on an adventure. Provisional approval has been given by the Board of Elders for a special benefit bike ride beginning Memorial Day, Monday, May 28,

Starting on the campus of our Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Pastor will ride his bike 300 miles north to the Mackinaw Bridge between the back-to-back festival Sundays of Pentecost (May 27) and Trinity Sunday (June 3).

The ride is being planned under the theme "*A Song of Grace Abounding.*" Aspects of this crazy enterprise will be outlined at the Voters' Assembly on May 6, following which members of the congregation will be welcomed to participate (or sympathize).

The benefit will be a fun occasion where Grace people can follow mile by mile through a special web link to our Grace web page.

We only mean to pinch your curiosity here. But the Voters will have a chance to hear more and get our own Pastor "*Lance Armstrong*" Reed rolling up the miles.



*Summer Worship
Schedule
begins May 27,
Pentecost.
One united
Communion Service
9:00 a.m.
continuing through
September 2.*

The Lost Art of Visual Spatial Skills

Principal Peter Fredrich

Visual spatial skills are a description of how our brains understand, manipulate, interpret, and use the things we see. It is about how we use mental pictures to understand abstract concepts. For example, in science we understand earthquakes by picturing large plates in the earth bumping against each other. In math, we understand fractions by visualizing a circle cut into pie shapes. In reading we make a mental map of the story and its characters.

Children who have difficulties with visual spatial skills have difficulties in many areas of learning and working. Design work is difficult because a picture of the final project cannot be imagined. Computer work is affected because those skills require us to do more than what is on the screen. Experiments can be a challenge because they require prediction and planning.

The advantages of good visual spatial skills are many. Children are more able to draw, complete puzzles, notice detail, and recognize patterns. Being able to predict, plan, mentally imagine, reason logically, and feel comfortable with directions are skills that make for better students in nearly every subject.

God created us to be three dimensional beings active in our world. Our society, however, has become increasingly dependent on two dimensional television, video, and computer screens. Our children need to move, work and play to develop their brains in this important area.

Any sports activity will use and encourage visual spatial skills. Encourage playing for health and enjoyment and deemphasize winning, and the benefits will be even stronger. The good, old wooden blocks we remember from kindergarten are wonderful tools for developing visual analogies. The plastic blocks are great when small motor skills have developed. For children not interested in either of the above,

art projects provide opportunities to promote development. Art kits are nice but most children are just as happy with a table full of paper, glue, tape, and markers. Don't throw away cardboard until it has been recycled through an arts and crafts table.

If building things is good, than taking them apart is good medicine too. A couple of kids can have a blast with safety glasses, a screw driver, and an old broken clock radio. Everything from chess to checkers to tic-tac-toe are great strategy games that can be part of a family game night. Jigsaw puzzles are an excellent family activity. Different ages working together will discover that the puzzle is more easily completed. Voice or instrument lessons are an excellent investment too. Cooking, and kitchen activities give good practiced in visual spatial skill, especially those of planning and attention to detail.

Anything parents can do to help children reach their learning potential will also help them serve God. Visual spatial skills will help you child to understand and live Scripture. God knows the plans He has for your children. Plans for them to find rewarding work and service, as well as plans for them to be able to provide for their families and to support the work of His church. It is a blessing to be a part of God's plan for our children. He has also blessed us with a Lutheran church and school that can help you in this most important of endeavors. God's design of a healthy family encourages learning that develops a child in faith as well as other areas. Praise God for His love, care, planning and support in the awesome job of raising children!

The annual music festival for grades 3 – 8 was held, last Friday at Immanuel, Bay City. Miss Rudick was very thorough in the preparation of our students. Musical competitions were by our Youth Choir, 7th and 8th grades hand bells, as well as numerous vocal and instrumental groups. Students not participating in the festival had class as usual. Our annual Jump Rope for Heart is on May 4. Over the past seven years, we have raised over \$13,000.00 to support the American Heart Association. The Ele-

mentary Band Concert that involves Grace's bands and the bands of six other area Lutheran schools will be performed at V.L.H.S. on May 15th, beginning at 7:30.

Our school has seen a positive growth in population during the year. Since September, we have added four additional students. We hope that they will stay with next year and years to come. We have had two kindergarten round-ups and we look to add 4 or 5 new students at that level next year.

Special Person's Day is May 24th. Activities of the day include a worship service, classroom visitation, a great lunch, and a presentation of the musical "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit" the story of David and Goliath. The musical will be presented by grades 5 – 8. There will be an additional presentation in the evening for other family and friends. The following day, Friday, May 25th, the school children will go to Williams Township Park for our picnic complete with hot dogs, chips, leftovers from Special Persons Day, with a lot of fun and games. Memorial Day is May 28th and there will be no classes in session.

Graduation Day will be June 3rd at the conclusion of the 9:00 worship service. We are graduating nine eighth graders. The graduates are: Andrew Balzer, Kevin Feinauer, Cory Liberacki, Haleigh McNally, Nathan Morford, Nolan Morford, Connor Peil, Jessica Ruff, and Elise Varner. The class valedictorian and salutatorian have not yet been determined.

The last day of school is Friday, June 8th. Both Thursday and Friday will be half days with a noon dismissal. Thursday is a half day so that the teachers can tabulate, average, and record all grades. Report cards will be distributed on the last day of school to all students. All tuition and registration payments must be made before your student receives their final report cards.



Our concluding lessons will focus on the kings that ruled Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. We, as these kings were, are human: we sin and rebel against God, when we recognize our sins, we seek His forgiveness and love. It is sometimes a hard lesson to learn. Approximately 3 billion people, or half the world's population, are under the age of 25. With such a large portion of the population at or near childbearing age, the current population explosion is likely to continue and may even gain momentum. All of those additional people will help change the environment by requiring more food, using more water,

JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS

adding more pollution to the environment, and creating thousands of tons of garbage and waste. Our science studies look at the population growth and what each one of us can do to assure that future generations will have the natural resources they will need. Our American history studies have brought us to World War II. Our goal is to complete our history book and end with the Bush era and our participation in Iraq. There is a great deal of activities going on yet this school year. We participated

in the annual Lutheran Schools' Music Festival April 27. The entire school will participate in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart May 4. Then there's track practice and meets, Questioning Sunday May 13, Confirmation May 20, Special Person's Day May 24, School Picnic May 25, class trip to Michigan Adventure in Muskegon June 1, and graduation June 3. Oh, and we still have a lot of class work to complete as well. If we can just stay focused, it will be a great last six weeks filled with learning and great experiences.

5th & 6th Grade Happenings

We hope your Easter festivities were wonderful and filled with the joy of Christ's victory over death for us! Our school spent Holy Week off on spring break this year. Upon returning to school we took our Stanford Achievement Tests. The students worked diligently and completed the grueling week of testing. The results of these evaluations will be back before the end of the school year. To help us celebrate completing the exams, Mrs. Jean planned a class party. The kids were given costumes to wear to act out a murder mystery involving fairy tale characters. What a great time we had!

Take a look at our Pinocchio (Joshua Storey) and Sherlock Holmes and his trusty assistant Dr. Watson (Ben Hyatt, and Mick Klann). We found out "who



dun it," our own Bethany Weiss as Cinderella!

In Social Studies we are studying the Middle Ages and the



Renaissance in Europe. Students have designed and built castles and are in the process of creating a shield and sword as well. Famous people of this era are be-



coming familiar to our class, such as: Leonardo daVinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Nicholas Copernicus, and William Shakespeare, just to name a few.

Our class planned and put on the Charity Fun Fair on Friday, April 20th.

Below are photos of the great time that all enjoyed. We were able to collect money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as well as the Grace Lutheran School Playground Fund.

Thanks for all of you who so generously supported our efforts, the volunteers that made it possible and the families that came out to enjoy the event.

Memories Of 2007 Charity Fun Fair



A future golfer gets a hole-in-one!

Becca Hunt gives her nephew a tattoo!



Bailey Heading plays a cheerful clown!



The Pocket Lady (AKA Paula Wegener) and Ms. Rudick give the camera a big smile!



Miss Rudick's Classroom News

What a busy and exciting time we have had! At the end of March we went on a field trip to Chippewa Nature Center. We attended their "Sugarbush" program. We learned how maple syrup is made and how to identify different trees by their branches! We walked around looking for trees and then went to the place where they make the maple syrup. It was really fun!

On March 29th we had our first Kindergarten Round Up. Raven Eaton came and spent the day with us. The Kindergarteners really enjoyed helping her and showing her what we do in Kindergarten.

Our second Kindergarten Round Up was on April 19th. Ethan Kent and Alexis Vance visited us on that day. The Kindergarten students were kept busy once again showing them what we do during our Kindergarten day. One of our 2nd grade students, Casey, especially enjoyed their visit because Ethan is his little brother!

Our Kindergarten students are continuing to learn! During Achievement Testing week, the Kindergarten students had their own packets to complete. It was amazing how well they worked independently while

Miss Rudick was administering Achievement Tests to the 1st and 2nd grade students. There were many different kinds of activities in their packets and they all did extremely well! Good work Kindergarten!



Jacob concentrating on achievement tests.



Molly & Eden working together

Our 1st grade students continue to work hard also. This was their first year taking Achievement Tests. They were all a bit nervous at first, but after the first test they realized that they knew or were familiar with much of the information. Miss Rudick also explained that there would be some things they weren't sure of and that they should just do their best. 1st grade has also been working very hard on their reading and math skills. You should see these guys read! They are each taking Accelerated Reader tests about once a week!

Achievement Tests were not much of a problem for our 2nd grade students. They have taken these tests before and did not

let the tests stress them out too much. They were good examples for the 1st grade students who were a bit stressed out at first. 2nd grade also continues to work hard. They are especially focusing on writing complete and correct sentences about one topic. Spelling is also an issue in these sentences. It is so easy to write a word the way we think it is written rather than the correct way. As we get closer to the end of the school year, it seems we get busier. However, we are having fun in the process!

From Ms. Schroeder's Class

We all have stories to tell, whether they be the stories of our lives, stories that make us laugh, stories that make us cry, or stories that we create with our imagination. Story telling is an art inspired by our daily lives and the people who surround us and encourage us. Who or what inspires a person to become an author?

In Room 4 the inspiration to write has been flowing. The students have been writing for real purposes. Some students have written and illustrated books for Scholastic's *Kids as Authors* competition. Other students wrote stories to submit to the *Young Times* publishing in the *Bay City*

Times. Second grade wrote "how to" stories. Third and fourth grade helped them edit their stories and put them into a slide show on a computer program called Kid Pix. All of these students did a fine job. Being an author is a tremendous accomplishment. It takes hard work, writing, re-writing, editing, and publishing. Students must collaborate with others. Writing teaches life skills like perseverance and collaboration. I am so proud of them for what they have accomplished.



Playing Twister on Game Day

In math, third grade is working with mixed numbers, learning how to add and subtract them. Fourth grade is learning about decimals, how to read them, write them as fractions, and how to add and subtract them. Second grade is still in the process of refining their subtraction with borrowing skills, but they are also learning how to multiply and divide. They have learned zeros, ones, twos, and threes!

In science class we're wrapping up our study of the sun, moon, and earth. Next we will look more closely at the earth and its water cycle. In social studies we continue to study states and regions.

Now that spring is here, so is the warm weather! Students have really enjoyed being able to play outdoors without their coats. In addition, it gives us the opportunity to move our

physical education class outside. It won't be long before we need to take the Presidential Fitness test, so we've been doing some running around the school grounds. The students have really persevered. They stay right with me as I lead them around. I encourage them to jog, but let them know that if they need to slow it down they may fast walk. They've really done a nice job staying with me. We are blessed physically by our Lord and need to keep the bodies He has blessed us with healthy. In addition to exercise, I encourage students to eat healthy, and drink plenty of water. Lastly, I would like to wish all moms a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for everything that you do and for shaping us into the people we are today.



Kids as Authors

CPTL NEWS

"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 to work together to provide the best possible education for our children.

The main purpose of the League shall be to promote the welfare of Children, especially to bring a closer relationship among parents, teachers and the Church; that parents and teachers may cooperate more effectively in Christian training.

All parents of students enrolled at Grace are members of the league. CPTL meets during the months of September, November, February and April.

CPTL Meetings

Always started with Devotions.

A great way to meet other parents.

Hear teacher and principal reports

Find out what the Grace School Board is doing.

Updates on Technology and the Computer Lab.

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.

CPTL's major funding comes from our annual Fish Fry, Meijer Community Rewards Program, and SCRIP Purchases.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! To the Grace Congregation for their support of these fundraisers, especially the Fish Fry. Thank you for the donations and for volunteering your time. With everyone's help, we were able to serve over 800 meals.



**CAM
MORFORD
DISHING
UP
SOME HOT
FISH**

**SUE ROTH COOKING UP
SOME BACON FOR
GERMAN POTATO SALAD**



**BOB SCHMIDT & LES GRAY
HELPING CUT UP FISH**

What is Scrip?

Scrip is a program to purchase gift cards/certificates for use at various businesses. Our CPTL receives a percentage profit from the purchases. The profit then is divided between the CPTL general fund and registration fees for those families who purchase SCRIP.

Who can participate?

Any member/non member of Grace can purchase SCRIP. The forms are available on the usher's desk in the narthex. Please leave your order form and check made out to Grace CPTL in the office or it can also be given to Ann Balzer-Scrip Program Coordinator. If you have any questions on how the program works please ask either Ann or Karla Weiss. This is a very easy to help our CPTL raise funds to be used in our school.

Ladies, Consider This . . .

Question: Where can you go to get out of the house, dine on good food, be entertained, and talk as much as you like without restrictions?: The answer is the Grace Ladies' Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, May 8, at 12 noon in the school library. Come by yourself or bring a friend or two. Just let Rosie Taglauer, Darlene Pfannes, or Sue Reed know by Sunday, May 6, if you can come. We'll look forward to seeing you then.

Vacation Bible School

The theme of this year's VBS is "Raindrops to Rainbows" and an organizational meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 pm. The Evangelism Board is asking all persons who have eben involved with past VBS programs to please attend as well as any other interested members. We are looking for parents ,teens, and grandparents/retirees to help out in whatever capacity they can.

We are tentively planning for another evening VBS beginning the Sunday night of the Corn Festival parade, July 15, and continuing through Thursday, July 19 but are open to other suggestions as well. Even though the week gets a bit hectic, anyone involved in the past bible schools can attest to what a truly rewarding experience it has been.

So, please mark your calendars and put on your thinking caps for float ideas as well. This year's parade theme is: "Horsepower to Cornpower." Some years we have used our VBS Theme for the float..

What is a Mite ?

Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6651.31 in 1930. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and by-laws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.



At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through voluntary offerings. Instead of "mite boxes" some societies called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thank offering boxes." The first Mite Box design had space for districts to imprint local messages. In publications and speeches, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day
- Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted
- Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day or bring them to church at any time.

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

Mite boxes are available to all. They are on the table by the coat rack.

Sunsational Summer Fun

Grace Lutheran will be hosting a variety of events throughout the summer for our congregational family and the community of Auburn. Mark your calendars with the following dates* for some great summer activities. Plans are just beginning, so watch for more details to come in the weeks ahead.



Tues, June 12th

Outdoor Movie Night



Thurs, July 12th

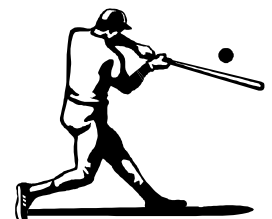
Tailgate Party & Fireworks Show

Sun, July 15th

Cornfest Parade

Sun, July 15th – Thurs, July 19th Vacation Bible School

Sun, August 19th Annual Outdoor Worship Service & Vintage Baseball

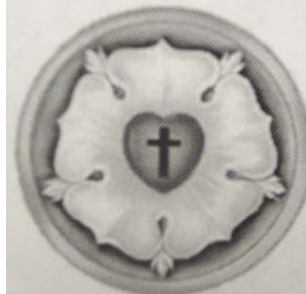


*Dates are all subject to change as plans are finalized.

SIMPLY GIVING

Through the Simply Giving program you will find that its safe and a simple way for members to give their gifts to the Lord, even if on a vacation or out of the area for a Sunday and forgot to bring the gift to the Lord's house.

Signing up for this program is easy, if you have a computer just download a application fill in and send to the address on the form. Or, talk to someone in the church office, or Don Pfannes, also changes can be made at any time.



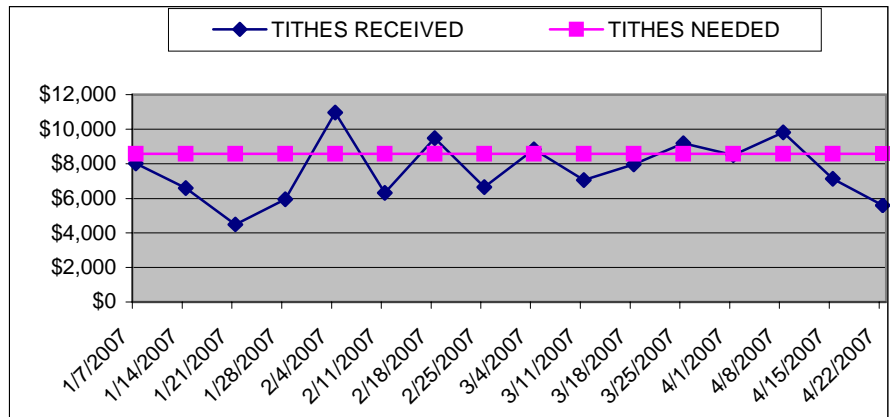
WEEK	TITHES RECEIVED	TITHES NEEDED
7-Jan-2007	\$8,020	\$8,575
14-Jan-2007	\$6,602	\$8,575
21-Jan-2007	\$4,488	\$8,575
28-Jan-2007	\$5,960	\$8,575
4-Feb-2007	\$10,964	\$8,575
11-Feb-2007	\$6,325	\$8,575
18-Feb-2007	\$9,494	\$8,575
25-Feb-2007	\$6,654	\$8,575
4-Mar-2007	\$8,847	\$8,575
11-Mar-2007	\$7,057	\$8,575
18-Mar-2007	\$7,966	\$8,575
25-Mar-2007	\$9,188	\$8,575
1-Apr-2007	\$8,497	\$8,575
8-Apr-2007	\$9,826	\$8,575
15-Apr-2007	\$7,130	\$8,575
22-Apr-2007	\$5,594	\$8,575



Given in Memory

Robert McNally
By
Nace & Renee DiNovo
Bonnie Cole

Bob Gripentrog
By
Rose McNally



Unpaidbills as of 2007 April 23

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	
VENDOR	Amount					
Valley Tuition	3395.00					
Michigan Dist LCMS		3,378.00	3,378.00	3,378.00		
Office Reimb	223.44					
Mileage Reimb	1,236.87					
Petty Cash	100.00					
Universal Building			1,818.00			
Midland Paper			122.67	62.25		
Pepper & Son's			79.17	36.49		
Entry Systems			480.00			
I K O N			454.60	477.33		
Morning Star Music			10.00			
Waste Management				79.42		
Chxtension Fund				2,628.00		
Consumers Energy				2,803.72		
Church Extension				2,628.00		
A T & T				183.84		
Michigan Dist LCMS				75.00	868.00	
B C B S				3,176.24		
Pastor Reed				76.05		
Green & Co.				1,933.56		
Concordia Plans				1,247.24		
Sub Teachers				120.00		
	4,955.31	3,378.00	6,342.44	18,905.14	868.00	34,448.89



**Elise Varner
and
Kevin Feinauer
Most Valuable
Player
Award
for
Basketball**

**Nolan Morford and Haleigh McNally
110% Award for Basketball**



Slate of Officers for May Election

As of this date the following Members have agreed to run for the following church offices:

- Congregational Secretary** - Connie Gengler
- Financial Secretary** - Sharon Pickelman
- Board of Elders** - Gene Meyer, Craig Harrison, Jim Kunding, Ernie Weiss
- Board of Elementary Education** - Rhonda Klann, Mary Jo Brandt
- Board of Youth** - Pam Whalen
- Board of Evangelism** - Betty Herbolshaimer, Gilbert Bartz, Donald Pfannes, Deb Pyle, Linda Varner
- Board of Property** - Jim Ralph
- Board of Stewardship** - Debbie Lindstrom
- Board of Finance** - Zac Varner

We still need nominations for the following positions. If you are interested in any of these positions please let Kim Herbolshaimer, Steven VanTol or Bob Krystosek know.

- Special Accounts Treasurer
- Board of Elders
- Board of Finance
- Board of Parish Education
- Board of Property



**2007 Grace Lutheran
Spring Work Bee**

We will begin working at 9:00 a.m. Following is a listed of items that are being planned for the spring 2007 work bee to be scheduled for May 5, 2007:

1. General yard cleanup to include raking, tree trimming, & mulching where needed.
2. Clean the filters above the stove in the main kitchen.
3. Play ground work to include site preparation for the new slide, applying sealant to the ark, & inspect and repair swing sets as needed.
4. Clean and paint the outside wall on the west side of the church.

To complete the tasks listed above some equipment that will need to be provide from members are below;

1. Rakes
2. Shovels
3. Pitch forks
4. Wheelbarrows
5. Tree trimming equipment
6. Paint spraying equipment to be used for the ark sealant and painting the west church outside wall.
7. Power washing equipment



If you have any equipment associated with items 6 and 7 that

Upcoming Thrivent Events

Thrivent has two events planned that I wanted to share with you.

On July 28, 2007, Thrivent will be sponsoring a Christian Music Concert at Chippewassee Park in downtown Midland. The day starts at 2:00 p.m. with a skateboard demonstration by the King of King Skateboard ministry group. There will also be free of charge inflatable units (moonwalk, 33ft tonantic slide, and Iceberg obstacle) for the children to play on. The only charge will be if you choose, is to buy food from the vendors there.

On Oct.12-14, 2007, Thrivent and Michigan District of the Lutheran Church will partner to host the triennial Lutheran Adult Gathering at the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island.

The gathering is a wonderful adult event that occurs every 3 yrs. On the island. The Friday night cocktail hour and banquet will get everything started. Saturday will include Breakfast and another banquet in the evening. The scheduled speakers will be Rev. Dr. Don Muchow, Former Chief of Military Chaplains, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, Rev. Karl Galick, Danielle Tiejen of Youth Encounter, Kimberly Crane of Thrivent and Rev. Bill Yonker. The Gathering ends with Sunday morning breakfast and Services.

Registration will be available through the Michigan District web-site www.MichiganDistrict.org. I have more detailed information, if you wish to know more, call me at 662-4825. Paula Wegener

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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May

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Lula Hart, Benjamin Roth, Amy Sabourin, Gladys Sobek, Karen Stagrays, 2 Brianne Alexander, 3 Debra Dambro, Crystal Lynch, Pamela Whalen, Christopher Zielinski, 4 Crysta Clarey, Leonard LeBeau Sr, Cliff Vennix, Elyssa Weber, 5 Nathan Gray, 6 Karen Burch, 7 Michael Lynch, 9 David Dominowski, Richard Jezowski, 10 Irene Schmidt, 11 David Arnold, Susan Walter, 12 Brandon Hetzner, Susan Konsdorf, 13 Kayla Keidel, Paula Wegener, Zachary Willard, 14 Madison Fiebke, Pamela Horneber, Craig Liberacki, Duane Schmidt, Jason Wood, Mark Wood, 16 Earl Schmidt, Nancy Stark, 17 Shane Leach, Joshua Storey, 19 Linda Alexander, Virginia Behmlander, 20 Dawn Lechner, 22 Michael Hetzner, 23 Allan Brandt, Justin Herbolsheimer, Jesse Kalitta, Ty Melick, Gordon Schroeder, Christopher Stark, Michael Stark, 24 Barbara Bartz, Michael Bickham Sr, John Dominowski, Jacob Klann, Loretta Reinecke, David Styn, 25 Alan Garcia, Gloria Kundinger, Diane McNally, 27 Eric Petrosky, Janet Webb, 28 Mary Dengel, 30 Branden Storey

Anniversaries

2 Curtis & Christine Fiebke, 3 Christine & Brian Bachman, 5 Ervin & Judy Kuch, 7 Christopher & Coryn Lewicki, 8 Elmer & Ethel Smith, 12 James & Rhonda Klann, Duane & Lynn Schmidt, 13 William & Laurretta Friebe, 16 David & Paula Wegener, Harry & Hilda Wegener, 19 David & Cindy Styn, 21 David & Marcella Anderson, 26 James & Janet Webb, Matthew & Allison Wolf, 30 Dianna & Jim Heading, Ernest & Karla Weiss