

August  
2007

# GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

## CONNECTED

**"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true—even in his son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." (1 John 5:20)**

On Sundays, like you, I shake hands with a lot of people. Usually it's the standard handshake—right hand, fingers forward, palm to palm, and a grip which settles into place at the thumb notch. It's our way of connecting with people and opening communication. In fact, a handshake is a kind of communication. If I don't know the handshake I have a hard time connecting with certain people.

I grew up in Southern California in a school with a mixed population of Blacks, Asians, Whites, Chicanos, and probably a few extraterrestrials. Every week there was a new handshake.

Today we have the "high five" and the "low five." There is that kind of thing guys do when they run out onto a basketball court rather like the motion of a little baby sitting in a sink with a pan of water.

Then there is the handshake I can never can figure out. It starts with a regular grip, moves to a finger grab, and then to a kind of arm wrestling configuration.

If I tried that I might not make so good a connection. Sometimes our efforts are like trying to fit a USB cable into a wall socket. It doesn't work

One of the great yearnings common to people everywhere is the desire to be "connected."

That's another way of saying we want to have a place and purpose to life, to have some roots, to know the signs, passwords, and handshakes that place us into the company of people who are "with it."

It's a bad thing to be disconnected. It's scary.

We often say of people with real problems that they have a "loose connection" somewhere. But that is sometimes the way we feel—as though all the wires are down. It may be that people aren't talking to us or somehow the things we hear just aren't making sense. A breakdown in a family can leave someone terribly disconnected.

We can well imagine the disciples of Jesus were feeling horribly disconnected the night He was betrayed and they ran every which way. The connection was broken.

But the worst breaking of a man came when Jesus himself hung there on a cross and cried out, "My God, my God,



why have you forsaken me."

The connection between God and man had quite literally gone dead!

Jesus knows what being "disconnected" means.

But God never meant for you to be out of touch or disconnected. You and I were not created to live separate lives unrelated to each other. Rather Jesus tied us all to Himself, took all the "loose ends" of our lives, all the uncompleted tasks, all the ruptured friendships, all the unanswered questions, and all our past failures and future fears – buried them in his own flesh and swept us all into His accomplished resurrection.

As far as God is concerned, there isn't a "loose end" among us. God has handed over to us the life of His Son. To be a Christian is to be connected to the living God. That's what St. John means in this little verse when he says, "We are in him ... even in his son, Jesus Christ."

So how do we stay connected? To God and to those solid Christian connections with people? Through God's Word and Holy Communion. That's how God touches us. Our unity is in what we teach and believe in our Lutheran Church. John said here, "God has come and given us understanding." An understanding of what? That he is true God and eternal life.

You and I are connected by faith to the unchanging promises of God. We are not only connected to one another now, we are united with Christians all the way back over the centuries. That connection is certainly stronger than any handshake. In fact, it doesn't shake at all. It is the unshakable bond we are given in Christ.

Yet it remains a "grasp." St. Paul wrote, "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (Eph. 3:17-18) That "grasp" of faith is the greatest connection any of us have.

God bless you forever through Him.

*Pastor*

# The Board of What?

The Board of Parish Education is sort of a hidden Board in our church; not that it is meant to be. Many people could probably easily name the Board of Youth, Elders, Stewardship, etc. as leadership entities of our church, but the Board of Parish Education?

The truth is that this *IS* a very important panel. The main responsibility of the Board of Parish Education is finding and providing avenues for members to continue their personal study of God's Word outside of the regular worship service. This means offering opportunities for Adult Bible studies, Sunday school, devotions to suggest for use in the home, and more.



In the past two years the Board of Parish Education has tried some valuable new things, but we've barely scratched the surface of possibilities. There are wonderful Bible courses waiting to be studied, curriculums ready to be explored. There are ideas of having small-group Bible studies in people's homes, creating a mentoring program between church families and school families, and providing Bible study opportunities for our shut-in members.

But the Board of Parish Education has several difficult tasks.

## 1) **Finding service-minded people for the Board.**

Currently, there is no one. What does that mean for the future of parish education? Would we stop having a Christian Education Hour? Or omit Sunday School? Of course not.

Proverbs 4:1-2, 11-13 says,

*Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.*

Clearly, eliminating our Christian Education opportunities and times is not an option. We pray that individuals will step forward to fill the open vacancies. The work is not so difficult or time-consuming, but it needs to be done.

## 2) **Encouraging God's people to participate in offered study opportunities.**

How sad to state that stimulate interest in Christian education has to be tireless. God's Word is the most thrilling book we've ever been given. It is not merely mystery, romance, or action adventure. It is divine light. It is the Voice and Truth of the eternal God.

Did you know the Bible, the world's best-selling book, is also the world's most shoplifted? In so many places around the world people can't wait to get their hands on a Bible. And yet we have it...so why are there those who care so little?

As a new year of Parish Education begins, it is our prayer that you may all see the benefits of gathering with others in continued study of God's Word, and make it a priority for you and your whole family. A Parish Education Course Guide will soon be available with information on the studies to be offered. Also, please keep the Board of Parish Education in prayer that leaders for the Board and for our different studies may be found, and that God's guidance will be sought in all that we do. God bless our Grace Lutheran family.

# Lutheran Hour Ministries Workshop Coming to Grace – September 29th



Grace Lutheran Church is proud to host the workshop entitled “Equipping to Share” presented by Lutheran Hour Ministries on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 2:30.

Every day we run into “mission moments” – those moments when God provides us the opportunity to share the Gospel with a lost or unchurched person.

If you feel tongue-tied and a little fearful when it comes to sharing your faith with others, you're not alone. LHM speaker and wonderful presenter, Kaye Wolff, will lead us as in a thought provoking and fun day of exploring and identifying everyday mission moments.

She will provide practical and helpful tools to share the Gospel -- sometimes without saying a word.. Maybe it's at work, the local gym or even in your own family that God's leading you to share your faith.

“Equipping to Share” focuses on the fact that the Mission is God's, and the Power is God's. We are the privileged believers whom God has chosen not only to speak the Gospel, but to express the impact of Christ in our everyday relationships and encounters.

Participants will learn to better

- Express the Gospel and its impact in life
- Understand more about the lost and their worldviews
- Prepare for different types of “Mission Moments”
- Connect people into the church family

Join us on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> for a day of learning and fellowship. Complete the pre-registration form below (or give us a facsimile of the information) and leave it in the narthex or call the church office to register by phone. A continental breakfast will be available at 9 a.m. and lunch will be served as well. A \$7 registration fee per person will be collected at the opening of the seminar to defray the cost of the luncheon. If you have additional questions, please contact Linda Bebeau or Gil Bartz.

**Yes**, I would like to attend the upcoming Equipping to Share workshop.

No. of people Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

## Principal Report

Peter Fredrich

Grace Lutheran School will soon open her doors for the start of our 48<sup>th</sup> school year. All of our teachers are eagerly looking forward to "getting back at it"! They have been busy too, attending Saginaw Valley State University to improve their teaching skills and techniques.

Registration day is Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our goal is to handle all necessary paperwork as quickly and efficiently as possible. All students in the kindergarten, first, second, third, fifth, and seventh grades, as well as any new students, will receive a home visit from their teacher. Ms. Rudick, Ms. Schroeder, Mrs. VanSickle, or I will contact you in the near future to set up an appointment. The teacher will be bringing along all the necessary registration forms. Students who are in the fourth, sixth, and eighth grades will not receive a

home visit this year. All necessary forms that need to be filled out are printed in blue and can be found in your church mailbox. Fill them out at your leisure and bring them to school any time from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. registration day, Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For parents that pre-registered in March, the registration/technology fee remains \$275.00 per student and a deposit has already been paid. The registration/technology fee for those who did not pre-register will increase to \$285.00 per students. The New International Version (NIV) of the *Holy Bible* is required for grades 3 – 8. Students in grades 7 & 8 will also need a copy of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* for Confirmation instruction. Both of these will be available at registration. (We will no longer use *All God's People Sing* and instead use the new *Lutheran Service Book*. The Board of Elementary Education has purchased the new *LSB* for student use.)

We continue to provide all students with a subscription to

World Book Encyclopedia online. It can be accessed from your home computer. The web address is:

[www.worldbookonline.com](http://www.worldbookonline.com).

The school ID is "lutheran" and the password is "school".

We thank Mr. Craig Harrison and Mr. Terry McNally who will together direct our athletic program. They remind all athletes that a sports physical is required before they can participate in any practice or games.

Classes will begin September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 A.M., with opening worship at 9:30, and daily termination at 3:25 P.M. The school calendar for 2007 – 08 has not yet been approved by the Board of Elementary Education but they will be available at registration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office. I am at school most mornings until noon. We look forward to seeing you on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## School Children Mission for the month of September

This year our school children are collecting items for LWR Health Kits.

Each kit will contain the following items:

- ☐ One hand towel
- ☐ One washcloth
- ☐ One bath-size bar of any brand of soap

- ☐ One toothbrush
- ☐ One tube of toothpaste 5-7 oz.
- ☐ One comb
- ☐ One metal nail file, or nail clippers with file attached
- ☐ Six band-Aids, preferably 1/2 to 3/4 inches.

The Ladies of Grace will wrap up our items in the towel and tie them with yarn.



**F.Y.I.** Lutheran World Relief is no longer collecting used clothing for the Boxcar Loading.

**Welcome Pastor Seaver**

One year ago, on Sunday, July 9, 2006, Grace Lutheran Church extended a Divine Call to the Reverend Wade Seaver to be Assistant Pastor for

Missionary Service to Germany. Since that time, Pastor Seaver has labored in a Word and Sacrament



ministry serving military families and German contacts through the chapel in Ansbach at which he leads weekly divine services. After almost three years in Germany as a family, the Seavers will be having some vacation home to the United States soon, visiting family not only here in Michigan, but also in Indiana and Texas. The occasion makes it possible for Pastor Seaver to preach here at Grace the morning of Sunday, August 12. We are delighted for the opportunity. It so happens that weekend also is scheduled for the Grace Family Camp arranged much earlier. We couldn't foresee that, but nevertheless, we look forward to the visit of Pastor Seaver and family even if the time is brief.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE  
CHURCH PICNIC  
VINTAGE BASEBALL  
AUGUST 19**

Mark your calendar now for our church picnic on Sunday, August 19, 2007. Once again the day will begin with a 9:00 am out door church service (bring your lawn chairs if you have them) and will be followed by the potluck at about 11:00. Bring a dish to pass and your table setting. Drinks and hot dogs will be provided.



The Bay City Independents Vintage Baseball club will meet the Amazin' Grace ball club in a match scheduled for 1:00 pm. The match is played under the rules of the 1860's – no swearing, no spitting, no sliding, and NO gloves! The Independents are a fine group of young men. Come out and enjoy a wonderful and entertaining afternoon.

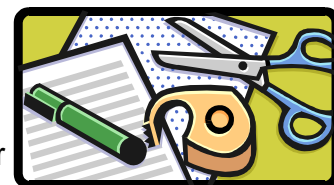
Calling all bakers! Enter your favorite pie in a pie baking contest. If you are interested, talk to Deb Garcia. All bakers will need to enter two identical pies. One pie for the judges and the other pie will be auctioned off in a silent auction.



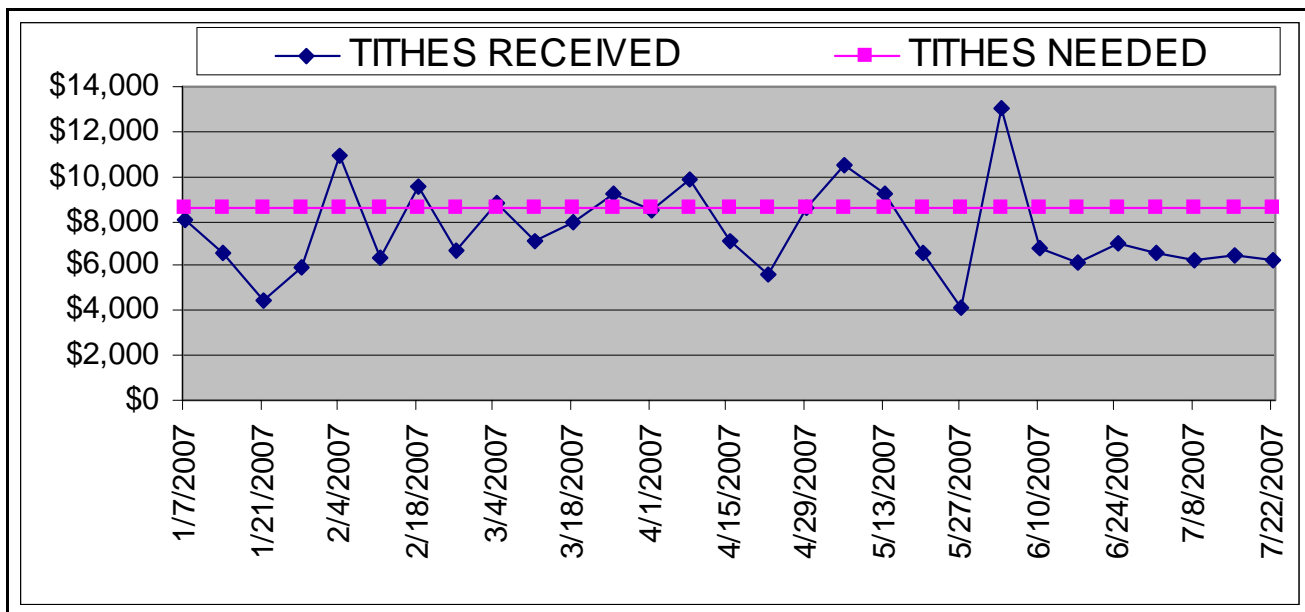
**SCHOOL BAG COLLECTION FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**



The stores are filled with an abundance of great back to school supplies. Sales galore!! While getting our children ready for back to school, lets not forget others who cannot even afford the 1 penny for a pencil sharpener that Staples has been advertising or \$.19 for a box of 24 count crayons at Walmart. Please take a bag or two found in the Narthex and fill it with the items listed on each one. Return the bag to church by August 31<sup>st</sup>.



This collection will be going out along with other items collected for World Relief in October.



**Unpaid bills as of 2007 JULY 20**

		APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG
VENDOR	Amount					
Valley Tuition	3395.00					
Michigan Dist LCMS			3378.00	3378.00	3378.00	
Mileage Reimb	1236.87					
Universal Build		1212.00	1212.00	1212.00	606.00	
Pastor Reed		76.05			60.80	
I K O N		477.33	477.33	477.33	477.33	
Waste Management			159.03	82.90	82.90	
Michigan Dist LCMS			868.00			
Concordia Publishing			59.50			
Entry Systems				480.00		
Michigan Dist LCMS				230.00		
Dales Farm Supply				123.00		
J W Pepper					79.48	
Bay Areaac ISD					45.00	
Fowler Organ					279.30	
Church Ext Fund					2628.00	
Indiana Dist LCMS						96.90
	4631.87	1765.38	6153.86	5983.23	7636.81	96.90
						<b>26,268.05</b>

**Thrivent Builds Habitat Update :**

Both of the homes in Bay County that received Thrivent Builds Grants are progressing well. However, our number of Lutheran volunteers working on the homes is low this year.

The Pinconning house which only has one Lutheran congregation, is the lowest. In order to receive all of our grant dollars, we need to have 50% of the volunteers from the Lutheran Community. If you can give a few hours to one of the build sites, please stop in on Wednesday or Saturday 8 am to 4 pm or as long as you can stay, at 518 Marsac St., Bay City or 213 Water St. In Pinconning. Call Dorothy Kridler with questions at 800 985-3141 or 879-3379.



## VOLUNTEERS & EAGER YOUNGSTERS MAKE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL A SUCCESS



Once again, God has blessed us this past week with almost fifty eager children learning stories from the Bible about how He keeps His promises in all types of situations and during all kinds of unusual weather. We also all learned some interesting weather facts from our chief meteorologist, Miss Windy Sunnyday and from Professor Alberta Sci and were taught



important Biblical truths by Mr.

Raindrop, Mr. Sun, Mr. Cloud, Ms. Wind and Mr. Word of God.

In a bit of divine intervention, Wednesday night's session on Jesus Calms the Storm was cancelled because of the tornado watch in nearby Midland, disappointing many youngsters, but all returned for our condensed closing on Thursday night. In addition Over 100 adults and children attended our ice cream social and heard from our special surprise guest, Mark Toregossa.

After a slow start recruiting volunteers. Grace members rose to the occasion as always with over forty adults and teens helping out in various areas.

A very special thanks to Deb & Sarah Van Tol, our teachers Debbie Garcia, Sue Reed and Mr. Fredrich, our photographers Gil Bartz and Paula Ruff, our song leaders Bob Krystocek and Pastor Reed, our office staff headed by Lynn Schmidt and Linda BeBeau, Gayle Wood and her craft committee, Weather Log Lady Miss Rudick, Joyce Behmlander and her kitchen crew, all of our "shepherds", and to Roger & GeriAnne Schmidt and Herb Pfundt for our Corn-Fest float. Also to Roger Schmidt & Tom Wegener for the Adult Bible Study &



crafts sessions Steve VanTol for "Tech Support".

In the hope that no names are omitted, thanks also to our young people Drew & Caitlyn Schmidt, Justin Varner, Jordan Pyle, Amber Lewicki, Kristy & Emily Brandt, Elise Varner & her friend Mallory, Jessica Ruff, Alecia Mularz, Steven Leonard, & Kevin Whalen. Also, Betty Herbolsheimer, Gordy Schroeder, Judy, Lance, Judy Pfundt, Barb Vennix, Michele Mantei, Deb Pyle, Linda Varner, Paula Wegener, Coryn Lewicki, Pam Whalen, Vi Koehler, Rosie Taglauer, Iris Dominowski. Once again to our song leaders who will have "Raindrops to Rainbows" and "Who built the Ark" stuck in our heads for a long time to come!!



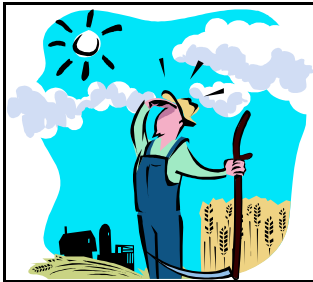
**Miss Windy Sunnyday  
&  
Professor Alberta Sci**

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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*August*

## **August Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*1 Robert McCloy, 1 Nicole Monkhouse, 2 Matthew Dambro, 2 Matthew Lechner, 3 Ryan Clarey, 3 Kathy Feinauer, 3 Kurt Greenleaf, 3 LeRoy Krueger, 3 Caitlyn Schmidt, 6 Gary Sauer, 6 Rick Walter, 8 Gordon Marner, 8 Russell Schmidt, 9 Rhonda Klann, 10 Eric Roth, 11 Wendy Greenleaf, 11 Jason Thompson, 13 David Anderson, 13 Douglas Behmlander, 13 Daniel Dambro, 13 Jack Greenleaf Sr., 13 Bradley Keidel, 13 Michael Kent, 13 Jordan Kolm, 14 Michael Horneber, 16 Roger Schmidt, 17 Linda Bebeau, 18 Laurie Kozuch, 19 Steven Lindstrom, 19 John Lynch, 19 Ron Lynch, 19 Mary Machul, 19 Jay Ousterhout, 19 Joy Ousterhout, 19 Herb Pfundt, 20 David Reed, 20 Lori Hockman, 21 Hilda Wegener, 22 Cara Bebeau, 23 Joyce DeFord, 23 James Lance, 24 Kim Gray, 25 Sage Alexander, 25 Rosemary Bush, 25 Corey Keidel, 26 Margaret Garlinghouse, 27 Kayla Bejcek, 27 Denise Gray, 27 Jayden Jezowski, 28 Roy Behmlander, 28 Michael Dominowski, 28 Susan Roth, 28 Gayle Wood, 29 Jessica Melick, 29 Annette Rudick, 30 Martin Eichinger, 31 Brian Klimaszewski, 31 Fay Schroeder*

### **Anniversaries**

*8 Paul & Mary Kalitta, 9 James & Gloria Kunder, 10 Richard & Bonnie Frank, 11 Kevin & Penny Mularz, 13 Wayne & Patsy Schroeder, 15 Thomas & Rebecca Feinauer, 15 Cliff & Janet Vennix, 16 Ramon & Debra Garcia, 21 Gordon & Fay Schroeder, 23 Allan & Mary Jo Brandt, 29 James & Janet Dietlein, 31 Robert & Karen Wegener*