

February
2008

GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

AFFIRMATIONS OF THE CROSS



The cross is the center of our knowledge concerning who God is and how God saves. The theology of the cross acknowledges the complete inability of anyone to fulfill the law of God and points instead only to His grace through the work of Christ by the cross.

The cross makes clear that no humans being can in any way earn righteousness. We humans can't do anything acceptable before God by our own strength, reason, or cooperation.

Proud people think highly of themselves and believe we each have some ability to do good, and that power, wisdom, or freedom can be obtained by a quest for them.

The Christian faith has a radically different starting point.

It isn't our reason. It isn't our own perceptions. It isn't what the world considers sensible. It is the cross!

There God reveals Himself. There, God's Son, the Word who became flesh, Jesus Christ, died for our sins and sinfulness.

This centrality of the cross seems ridiculous to the world (1 Cor. 1:18) which believes we have more nobility and potential than that. But with St. Paul, Christians boast of our weakness. We are "chief of sinners" and a "wretched man." Even our most virtuous acts are filthy cow muck compared to the righteousness of Christ.

Living under the cross is to be ever aware of the depth of our sin and finding joy only in the redeeming work of Jesus. Our focus is on His work, not our steps, dedication, or holiness. We celebration the grace of God in Christ.

The cross is not were we just begin a journey with Jesus after which comes a list of do's and don't's—the Christian life measured by how well we do. The cross isn't that. It is the fountain of forgiveness. It is in Christ's mercy we rejoice, not our own determination to live a better life.

God reveals himself most clearly and graciously, not by what is successful in the world or triumphant by human standards, not by outward "blessings" or "spiritual experiences" but in the lowliness of the cross and Christ's suffering in which we share by faith.

The cross will be the center of our concentration during the season of Lent. The mid-week Lenten services will focus upon Jesus' Cross: my wisdom, my freedom, my power, and my life!

*Now I awake and see the light;
Lord, Thou hast kept me through
the night.*

*To Thee I lift my voice and pray
That Thou wilt keep me through
the day.*

*If I should die before 'tis done,
O God, Accept me through Thy Son!
Amen.*

Simple prayers spoken in faith through the name of God's Son are welcome and treasured by our Father. Christian prayer is such a high privilege from Him who gives perfect care to His precious baptized children.

Prayer is the credulous action of a heart and voice responding to God who is so good. [Psalm 136:1]

Children must be led to pray that they discover themselves the life-long certainty of knowing our heavenly Father graciously hears and answers.

I fear however, that daily habits of prayer are losing ground. The father who prays out loud with his children, the mother who gathers them with folded hands other than for a rote meal prayer is a vanishing scene in far too many homes.

Let's be honest. The open family Bible, the discipline of time set aside from all distraction and other commitments for prayer has faded as if it

—continued on page 2



were a contradiction to our modern life.

We intuitively know expensive toys cannot substitute for a child's imagination, and schedules that raid families of private time must be revised, and the cyber world delivers little temporarily and nothing eternally. Do we not also know faith can only rely on Christ!

We need our faith exercised in prayer.

We owe God thanks, but nothing is gained by making prayer an obligation. It is pure privilege.

We need to intercede for others— not to impress God but to have burdens lifted. Souls require prayer no less than the body requires fitness.

Perhaps there is no more humbling question of a parent than to ask what specific time and pattern is given to prayer with their children.

The devil, if he could, would cut short every Christian prayer and hide the comfort of the Gospel. The world also never rests in its seduction to money, possessions, and secularism. Our own sinful nature doesn't know how to pray as we ought. [Romans 8:26]

Is private communion with God then at great risk?

It would be if God was never moved except by prayer. But prayer does not make God listen. It is His care for you that brings forth prayer.

If a life of conversation with God, the pleasure of His company, and being able give the homage our great God deserves depends on your discipline, submission, or obedience, then prayer would be helpless. We are not called to "virtual" prayer but to faith.

Real prayer occurs as God carries us by promises of love and grace. He regularly answering pleas not even yet spoken [Is. 65:24; Mat. 6:8].

He is the life and our Savior. That's why we pray.

He loves us. That's why we go to him.

He tells us to ask and expect great things [John 16:23] not because His blessings are hidden until we do but because He wants us to comprehend how He will give beyond the limits of our asking and bless even beyond the highest of our hopes. [Luke 11:13]

Prayer is spoken under the persuasion that our Lord and Master never steps away from His service to us—even for a moment. God never receives your prayers by appointment or organize them according to urgency of need.

No. Our prayer proceeds in the confidence that Christ's love and capacity for mercy, help, and miracles flow not from our devotion but from His cross.

Morning prayer begins the day dying and rising anew in Jesus.

Martin Luther in his catechism teaching on daily prayers suggested: *In the morning, when you rise, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say: In the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Prayer gladly places one again under Christ's cross and returns to baptismal grace.

The cause of our prayer is the movement of God the Holy Spirit who opens lips that a mouth may show forth God's praise. [Psalm 51:15]. He makes the reverent heart beat in us again.

You are God's priority. How could one know if access to His gifts were only for certain days or circumstances? How could you know how compassionately He responds if He denied you the opportunity to ask?

Yes, our prayers falter. That's why we need to hear again His promise, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.'" [Jeremiah 29:11-12]

Dear Grace family, we come soon to Lent. May our Lord replenish our prayers and delight us with His mercies. And may we come to each day's close and simply pray:

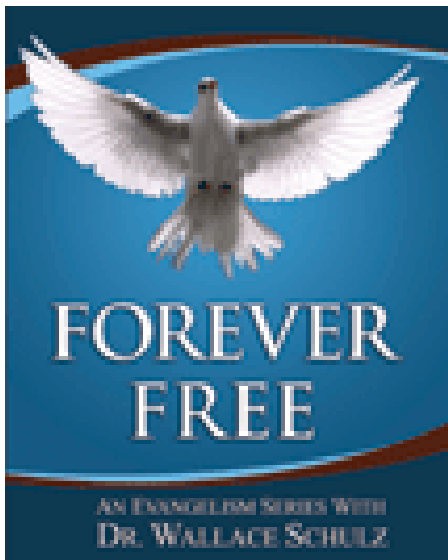
I fall asleep in Jesus' wounds,

There pardon for my sins abounds;

Yes, Jesus' blood and righteousness

My beauty are, my glorious dress. Amen

— Pastor



Sunday Adult Special Feature

During the February Sunday education hour we will share a special DVD series hosted by Dr. Wallace Schulz focused upon Christian liberty through the Gospel. In a work far greater than Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which set the slaves "forever free", Christ's perfect life, death and resurrection freely justifies us forever.

The series begins with a session entitled "Slavery: Physical and Spiritual" from which you will greatly benefit.

For 25 years, Rev. Wallace Schulz, was associate speaker of the Lutheran Hour. A graduate of Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL, he has served on the faculty of Concordia, Ann Arbor, and was on the staff of Concordia, River Forest. He has participated in several World Congresses on Evangelism and twice has held the office of a Vice-President of the LCMS. For the last five years he has been an evangelist with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. He also currently serves as Executive Editor and Publisher of "Good News", published in fifteen languages through the Concordia Mission Society.

Meet These New to Grace

We are pleased to have with us at Grace those who meet here, Please greet them warmly as we share the unending blessings of Christ. Through our united lives, and in our midst, the tidings of salvation are faithfully proclaimed. Ours is the shared joy of celebrating again and again the Passover meal together.



Bob and Merry Lee are a faithful addition to our worshipping family. Both from Bay City originally, they live on the west side of Auburn. Bob is a contractor with Delphi, and Merry (yes "Merry"... easy to remember) works for the courts. We are so pleased to receive them.

Shirley Groulx (pronounced "grew"). Shirley is a Bay City native, (Handy High School 1960). She just retired from years as an administrative assistant at Dow. Her maiden name was Sommerfeld. Shirley has a daughter, two sons, with five grandchildren.



Lois Schwandt has been an active member of Zion, Bay City for over 45 years, but a move to the Auburn area and family in our congregation prompted her inclusion now with Grace. She and husband, Tom (*with the Lord since '98*) were deeply involved in parish and school programs and scouting. All of Lois' four children all live in Michigan. Sherry Ralph, is one of her daughters.



Ray and Sherry Ralph have two sons in Grace School for the first time this year. **Colton**, grade 3 and **Rayferd**, grade 2. The Ralphs live just west of Auburn on Midland Road. Sherry works for Linwood Tool, and Ray does roofing contracting. Ray's dad is our own Jim Ralph. We are delighted to



German Mission Update

February 4 marks the third anniversary of the Seaver's "tour of duty" in Germany. Pastor and Lynn Seaver have chosen to extend their stay at least another two years.

February also marks another milestone. Transfiguration Sunday, Feb 3, Pastor Seaver is committed to leading the Divine Service (*Gottesdienst*) in German at Simon-Peter Lutheran Church, Nürnberg and two other locations. This is in anticipation of possible vacancy pastoral work since resident pastor, Pfarrer Peter Rehr, has accepted a Call.

The vacancy of the SELK congregations at Nürnberg and Mühlhausen (with preaching stations of Ansbach and Kronach) will not formally begin until summer, but with the work left to pastors far south in Munich, the possibility exists that Pastor Seaver may be asked to assist the German congregations.

The SELK consists of about 200 congregations and 142 pastors. The LCMS and SELK are in full altar and pulpit fellowship.

Pastor Seaver is also contributing to "*Treasury of Daily Prayer*," a Concordia Publishing House initiative and devotional companion to the new LSB hymnal meant for home devotions.

He has also been asked by the Editor-in-Chief of *Gottesdienst*, a Quarterly Journal of the Evangelical-Lutheran Liturgy, to do some translation work on "The Doctrine of the Real Presence," from German to English, as Pastor Seaver says, "a good warm-up for composing sermons in German."

Gene Meyer, Chairman of our Grace Board of Elders is traveling on business to Germany this month and will visit Neuendettelsau and worship with Pastor Seaver, Feb. 10.

Ministry Assembly - February 10

COMPREHENSIVE STEWARDS

IT'S NEVER BEEN JUST ABOUT MONEY

At creation, God didn't just plop Adam down in the middle of the Garden of Eden with nothing to do.

God made man, and then He made this man a steward. Man's nature is human. Man's work is that of a steward.

Still is.

Two Bible passages speak

of stewardship at the very beginning of Scripture. In the very first chapter of Genesis, God directed Adam to "fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God entrusted the beauty and bounty of all creation to the care of man. Adam was given authority, responsibility, and rewarding tasks that filled his life with purpose and satisfaction. God, in short, gave Adam a reason for living.

Then, in chapter 2, God's plan is once again made clear: to entrust Adam with the stewardship of the earth. "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

This blessed work of stewardship covered the entire activity of man. He worshiped God with his work, fulfilling the purpose for which God had made him, enjoying the privilege, and seeing God bless it.

God Himself works and delights in it. That is seen in the marvel of His creation that God pronounced good. Man then, in God's image, would delight also in the blessed activities of service, care, work, and utility given him to do.

It is in the very essence of life to be useful, active, and responsible. That is stewardship.

Anyone who has nothing to do but lay around all day has a wasted existence. It's a terrible thing for someone not to be trusted with work or offered employment. And it's horrible to be lazy. Ask any prison inmate if he enjoys 24 hours of idle time each day. That's not living. Most such men welcome anything just to keep busy.

Your Board of Stewardship at Grace has talked about the fact that often in people's minds, the comprehensive divine purpose of stewardship is distorted down to just mean fund raising, managing a budget, or church finances. It is wide of the mark to restrict stewardship just to money matters.

After Adam's fall into sin, his son, Cain, showed how ruined the blessing of stewardship had become. To God he retorted, "Am I my brother's keeper?" In other words; am I responsible for my brother; do I have the care for him? The tragic evidence is that Cain didn't care, serve, or handled life with reverence.

As a steward, man should indeed be his brother's keeper and defender. But Cain, was captive to death instead of a curator of life.

In Christ, stewardship is revived—stewardship which is the free and joyous activity of

every child of God in managing all of life and its resources for God and His purposes.

It is not only man's nature which is redeemed. Our work is also sanctified in Christ who has restored to us joy in the scope of our stewardship.

There is stewardship of time, stewardship of marriage and the family, stewardship of the earth, the arts, and stewardship of play and pastime. There is stewardship of heart and mind, of the intellect and emotions, stewardship of our heritage, of our retirement, and of our health and body. We can speak of stewardship of our community, our synod ... and on and on the list can go.

Yes, include stewardship of money, but that doesn't just mean raising it, but wisely using it, investing it, sharing it, safeguarding and conserving it, as only one aspect in a whole life as guardians of that trust God has given us.

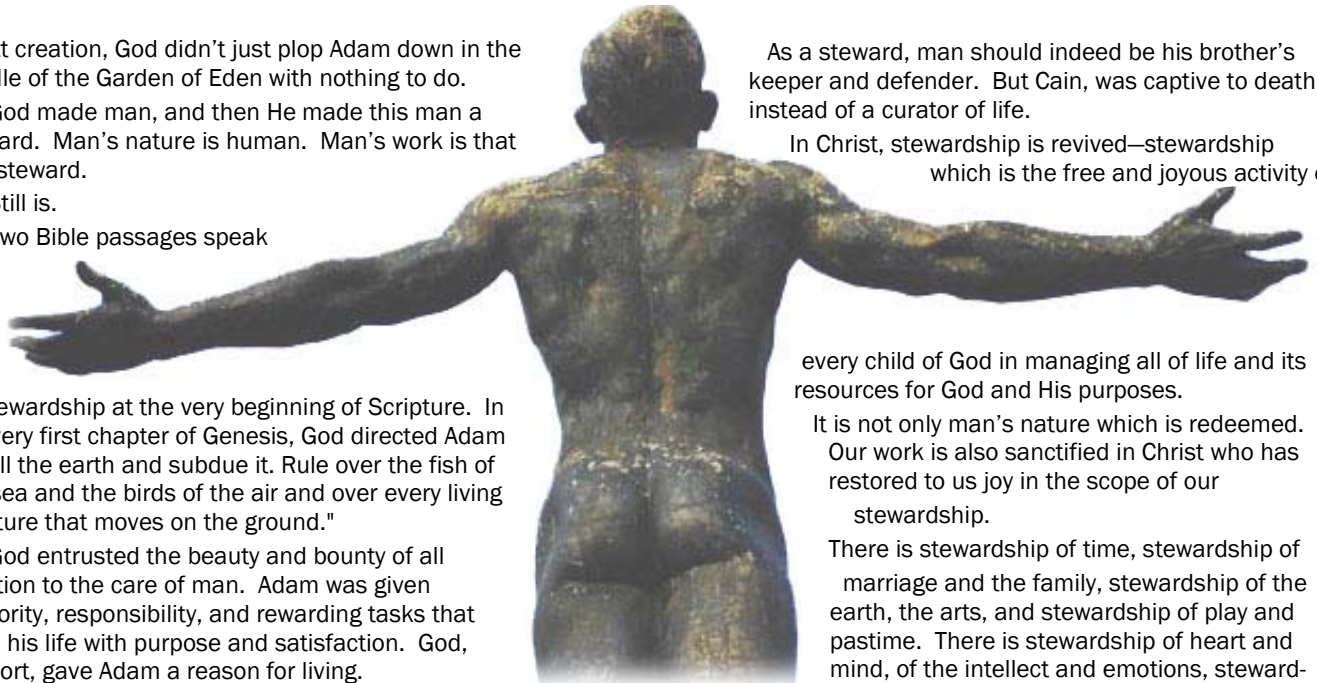
If we are to reclaim a right understanding of stewardship as the management of all of life to the glory of God, we need to give attention to these many other aspects of our privilege as stewards of God.

That's why the Board of Stewardship has chosen the theme of "Stewardship of Health and Body" as one concentration for the next few months. We intend to encourage by as many avenues as possible the Christian care and guardianship of our God-given health and physical wellbeing.

We are soliciting the insights of health-care professionals in our congregation, will be planning events and encouraging participation in things which promote the good stewardship of our health and body.

Later this year or next year other dimensions of stewardship can be given attention in turn. This is not to forget our duty of funding the mission of bringing Christ to our community but to celebrate that God gives many opportunities for care and service under Christ.

Each of us is a steward of God. May He bless us to be faithful managers in all aspects of life to His glory and the wellbeing of many others.



Newlyweds, **Kyle and Courtney Rauschenberger** have moved from Auburn to Flushing. Kyle started law school in Lansing the first week in January.

Their new address is 726 E. Main Street, Apt. 801, Flushing, MI 48433.

If you want to know the benefits (lower cholesterol, high fiber, etc) of eating beans, talk to **Paul Varner**, and if you do like legumes or dry beans, there's a good chance they were grown with his seeds.

At his new job working with graphite composite materials, **Ken Weber**, is grateful not to have his shop entirely tied to the auto industry. Ken joins many working to overcome the struggling Michigan economy. Let's pray everyone find honorable work to hurry a state turnaround.



Did you know there are children's bulletins available every Sunday with activities based on one of the lessons of the day? Make sure your children or grandchildren get one right at the inside church door.

The City of Auburn was working on the drain at the entrance of Grace's parking area. A drain camera discovered blockage by a 2 X 4 which has probably been down there since construction of our church years ago.

Steven Feinauer has made the Dean's List repeatedly in the College of Technologies at the University of Northwestern Ohio where he is specializing in diesel technology.

The twin boys of Pastor Wade and Lynn Seaver, **William and David Seaver**, just celebrated their seventh birthday. All the Seaver children are enrolled in German public schools.

Ellie Simpson recently moved to Plainview. Now, she, **Ruth Skyrme** and **Betty Lindstrom** all have apartment there.

An August wedding is being planned by **Julie Walter** who's fiancé, **Sean Lemke** is presently on duty with the Marine Corp in the Pacific. He'll be home just before the wedding through they communicate almost daily by audio and visual telecommunication hook-ups. Amazing.

Spc. **Jason Wood** is permanently back in the States (home January 27) after two deployments of convoy escort duty with the Army in Iraq.

The Elders have drafted for study a set of Worship Core Values. No change in worship schedule is contemplated any time soon. We anticipate, however, forum opportunities for members to discuss the expansion of Lutheran worship benefits and blessing more widely.

Did you know the largest congregation in The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod fifty years ago (located in the city of Detroit) no longer exists? May we see our own community with fresh eyes and resolve to anticipate the future.

Herb Pfundt is back in school. He is taking his second course in the use of AutoCAD software design applications. Stop at his house and you'll find him either in his extensive wood shop, doing his homework—or napping. Ha!

We are losing count, but **Lee Taglauer** in January made his ninth or tenth trip (something like that) to the Gulf Coast to continue assistance in ongoing hurricane recovery work. Ask him about it.

“A New Year for Family Devotions”

Peter Fredrich, Principal

What New Year’s resolutions have you or your family set for 2008? Maybe less ice cream and more exercise, or perhaps more reading and less television. These are great goals and important to the physical and educational development of your children as well. But, do not forget about your family’s spiritual development. Any time is a good time to recommit to worship as a family.

“Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 11:19

God’s Word, given to us through Moses and the prophets is for us and for future generations. God assigns the task of passing this on to parents. Our church and school are here to help assist you in this endeavor. Your ability and desire to do this comes from God Himself. Family devotions are a wonderful way for you to pass on God’s teachings to your children. You will be blessed to watch as their faith grows and develops along with their bodies and minds.

Setting aside time for family devotions is often easier said than done. When you children are young, scheduling devotions right after dinner seems to be a popular option. As our children get older and there are evening activities that interrupt the family schedule, encouraging your child to read a devotion before bedtime and then scheduling once-a-week family devotions can be a more workable option.

Once you have determined a routine for devotions, the next step is to find resources that meet the needs of your family. Many of them are available from Concordia Publishing House, which serves the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We get all of our religion and science materials from CPH. The web site for CPH is www.chp.org.

Music is the best way to share your faith with infants and toddlers. It is a valuable way to teach young children about their Savior. Sing them to sleep with a favorite song from your growing up years or a simple lullaby. Toddlers can sing simple songs along with you and perhaps add some actions. They are ready for Bible story books. Look for something with simple text and intriguing pictures. Rhyming text is very appealing to young children. As toddlers develop attention span, they are ready for simple devotions. Those that are short and tackle only one scriptural concept at a time are good for this age group.

Children reading at the third grade level are ready for their own copy of the Bible. That is the time that we put scripture into the hands of our students here at Grace. If your child still struggles with learning to read, they will enjoy a Bible story book written at a beginning reading level.

As a parent, if you are going to be able to instruct your children in the faith, you need to be spiritually fed too. Regular church attendance and Bible study are essential ways to grow in the grace of God. God created the family as a method of passing on faith from generation to generation. When the family works with God’s plan, this goal is accomplished. However, the job of creating faith is not ours as parents – it’s God’s job. He sends His Spirit into the hearts of our children at their baptism and as they read and hear His Word. This is how faith is born and grows in the heart of a child. What a wonderful blessing we have as parents to be a part of this process and to watch it happen.

- We continue with our basketball season. Our “A” teams play most Mondays with all four teams playing on Fridays. Check our web site or bulletin board for specific dates and times.
- On Valentine’s Day, our students always look forward to going bowling. The school will travel to Midland’s Valley Lanes for an hour of fun the afternoon of February 14th. The cost is being paid for by our C.P.T.L. – many thanks!
- The third mid-quarter marking period ends on February 15th, with the reports going home attached to the memo on February 19th. Our second parent/teacher conferences of the year are scheduled for February 21st and 22nd in the afternoon and evening. Bay City Public Schools will not be in session on that Friday. Our classes will dismiss both days at noon. This second conference is optional. If either the classroom teacher or the parent feels a conference is needed and beneficial, one will be scheduled. If both the classroom teacher and the parent are satisfied with the student progress, no conference is necessary.
- Our mid-winter break is scheduled for Monday February 25th. No classes will be held on that Monday. Classes resume on February 26.
- The annual Grace Spelling Bee will be

held on February 29. Students each from grade three through eight will compete to find the best speller. The Bee begins at 1:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. This is a warm up for the Bay/Midland Lutheran Spelling Bee on March 6 and

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 February’s religion instructions. Seventh grade math is currently investigating integers. This number system includes positive and negative numbers. By the end of the month, we will have learned how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide them, and also incorporating them into algebraic equations. The eighth graders are multiplying two polynomials and simplifying the resulting product. Our students have so much looked forward to this month’s science. We have entered an exploration of the animal kingdom. This group includes those without backbones, invertebrates, and those with a backbone, vertebrates. As part of this study, we will be dissecting six different animals: an earthworm, a starfish, a grasshopper, a crayfish, a perch, and a frog. Our first dissection was an earthworm. I took so many pictures, but all that you can see are the tops of heads. They were really into it! We only had one student get mildly ill. They are eagerly looking forward to the rest of the dissections.



Allyse and Mick Intensely Scrutinizing Their segmented Worms.

5 & 6 Grade Happenings

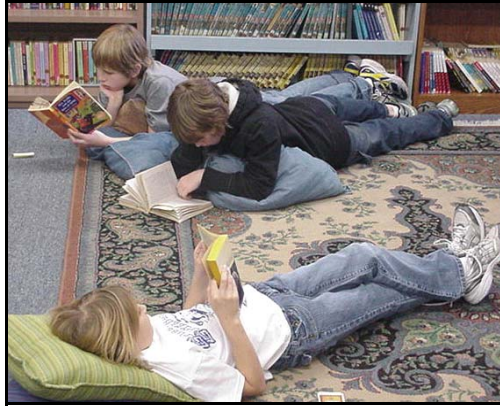
We made it! We are officially half-way through our school year. It is hard to believe that we have come this far and have accomplished so much. Our good and gracious Lord has kept us



Laura is finishing up a story for writing class.

progressing along and helping us each day to discover new and exciting things.

The basketball season is underway and the teams have put forth all their



This is how we relax and get into our books during SSR (Sustained Silent Reading)

talent and energy. Sometimes this brings us out with a win and sometimes not; but we are always victorious because our best effort is put into every game and practice and we attempt to give God the glory in all things. This kind of winning attitude is exhibited in the classroom as the students "give it their all" with the help of God.

In religion class we saw Moses being taken by the Lord after allowing

him to see the Promised Land; we studied the qualifications of Joshua as Moses' replacement leading the children of Israel. We took a journey back to Jericho and the Israelite victory there as well as the day the sun stood still for God's army. Math class has us learning fractions, decimals and percents. We are beginning our state research reports in Language and Social Studies class. The English colonies have our attention as well in Social Studies. The study of matter, with an emphasis on specific properties of matter, has us busy in Science class. Our school Spelling Bee is fast approaching, we are having fun preparing with our "Heads Up, Spell Up" game.

Happy Valentine's Day
~ Mrs. Van Sickle
and
the 5th and 6th grade
classroom



Happy Valentines Day!

February 14th is just two weeks away! I hope you all enjoy your Valentine's Day and let the ones you love and care about know how much they mean to you.

In religion, students learn about God's love as they read stories of Solomon; the Israelite people who quarreled, divided the kingdom, and worshiped false gods; and Job, who was tempted to give up on God so, allegedly, his life could be more pleasant. Through these stories, God remained faithful to His people and His promise because He loved them. He called them to repent and keep His laws so they would be blessed.

In social studies we've been working on chapter five. We've studied landforms, people, and how people affect the environment.

In science students have been experimenting with the three states of matter-solid, liquid, and gas. Students have learned that ice turns from a solid to a liquid when held because of heat energy. Students have also experienced life through the eyes of particles. As a particle of a solid, they all scrunched together and vibrated. As a particle of liquid they had a little more room

to move, and as a gas particle they were flying!

In math second grade is now borrowing when they subtract. They're also looking at mixed numbers. Third grade is into measurement equations. Fourth grade is working with common multiples and is using this to add fractions with unlike denominators.

Last month third grade had a story titled "Pecos Bill." It is a play and fourth grade and second grade have agreed to help them act it out. All students met their AR goals last quarter! The students voted on a pajama party to celebrate. We held an election by making

Lucas
and
Olivia
Playing
games
during
their
free time



ballots and voting booths, voting in secret, counting the ballots, and announcing the winner. It was a fun and educational way to select a reward. I also want to congratulate our AR winners, Lucas, Jacob, and Michael. Many students were reading and testing. It was a close finish.

In art class we are changing the hallways again. We've made chalk Valentine candy hearts. We are also very excited about the basketball season and have made posters for the gym. This month we will start to work on a project for the Art Fair.

The students are really looking forward to bowling on Valentine's Day and to the school spelling bee. Next month, I hope to have some pictures from these two events to share with you.

God Bless,
Ms. Schroeder



Morgan
and
Jacob
cleaning
out
the
hamster
cage.

Grades K, 1 & 2

We are now officially half way through our school year! We are now looking forward to the 100th day of school which will come sometime in early February!

The highlight for our class the month of January was the Chapel service on January 16th. All of the students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades helped lead the chapel service. They led the liturgy, led the prayers, read Bible passages, helped with the message, welcomed people as they came to chapel, gathered the offering, and dismissed people as they left chapel. What an exciting time! Most students had more than one job and were extremely excited about it! They really did a wonderful job sharing the Good News!

Another highlight of the month of January was Mrs. Gray coming to read a story to us during our story time. We really enjoy having other people come to read to us. Mrs. Reiss continues to come and read to us every Wednesday. If you would like to come and read to us, please talk to Miss Rudick. We would love to have you!

In Kindergarten, we continue learn-



← Group Study Time

ing! We can read more words. The 1st grade students let us follow along in their reading books when they are reading stories. We have also started writing more sentences since we know how to write more words! We also began keeping a dictionary of words we already know how to read and spell. We can also count and write our numbers to 60 now!

In 1st grade the work continues to be more challenging. We are becoming very good readers. Soon Miss Rudick will expect us to do most of the reading for ourselves for Accelerated Reader and Book It! We are also becoming more organized. Miss Rudick doesn't have to remind us as much anymore to check our folders to see if our work is complete. We also have our own personal dictionaries of words that we should know how to spell. In math we have begun working on fractions and writing our numbers to 300!

Lachlan finishing up some homework



2nd grade continues to be more responsible and independent. These four young men are very good readers. They also write very good sentences. They are doing a much better job of using their dictionaries to spell words correctly. They have also been working with nouns and verbs.

As you can tell, our class has been very busy and full of energy! We are all very excited about learning. We pray that you are also excited about learning new things. We also pray that you take the time to worship our Lord

CPTL News

Mark your calendars now for the 30th Grace Lutheran CPTL Fish Fry on Friday, March 14th. We are looking for volunteers to help out on Thursday, March 13th at 9 am to help with prep work and again on Friday, March 14th at 9 am.

See the narthex in Mid February for our donation list of needed items.

Thank you for your help in advance as we could not be successful without the volunteers from the congregation that help every year.



Included in that donation list will of course be a spot for our famous pie bakers to sign up.



Ladies of our congregation to host February party!

It's that time of year to sweep out those winter blahs. What better way than to host a party! As the plan is now, we'll be traveling just down the road to the Plainview Senior Living complex to bring a little cheer and fun to the residents there. What makes this extra special is that three of the residents are Betty Lindstrom, Ellie Simpson, and Ruth Skyrme from our own Grace congregation. The party will begin at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 12. You can either drive to Plainview yourself or carpool from the church. Now, we are still trying to connect with the head of Plainview for clarification of plans, so we ask that you check out your Sunday bulletins to see what the final arrangements will be.

Also, mark on your calendar Saturday, February 9. This is the date of our Mid-Michigan Zone Prayer Luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran, Wheeler. Registration is from 9:30-10:00 am. The prayer service begins at 10:00 am and is followed with a luncheon. The cost of registration is \$4.00. We will carpool from church at 8:45 am. Please let Rosie Taglauer, 662-6120 or Sue Reed, 662-7900 know by February 4 if you'd like to attend so we can call in our reservations.



Girls just want to have fun!



GRACE GRIZZLIES BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Mondays are A Teams only

Friday, February 1 home against
Trinity, Monitor

Monday, February 4 away at St. Paul

Friday, February 8 home against
St. John, Amelith

Monday, February 11 home against St. John, Midland

Friday, February 15 home against Zion, Beaver

Monday, February 18 Bye

***Make-up dates February 20 & 21**

Games begin at 5:30 p.m.

"B" Tournament at Zion, Beaver Feb. 14, 16, 17

"A" Tournament at Zion, Bay City Feb. 28 & 29, March 1, 2

Lenten Dinners for 2008

Ash Wednesday, February 6

Breakfast for dinner

Wednesday, February 27th

Homemade soups and
grilled cheese sandwiches

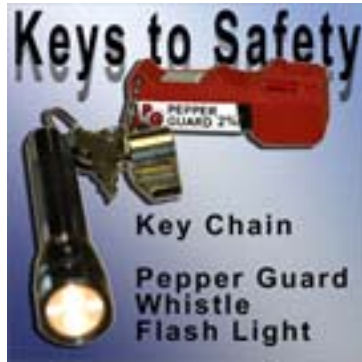
Wednesday, March 12th

Baked Potato and Fresh Salad

*Service for suppers begin at
5:30 pm and end at 6:30 pm.*

**These dinners are sponsored by the
Grace Youth group and free-will
donations are accepted .**

*Please join us for an evening
of fellowship!*



EYEFIGHTBACK

Our CPTL will be sponsoring a personal safety/ self defense workshop on Sunday, February 24th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. This program "I Fight Back" is being presented by Sgt. Monty Oswald. This workshop is open to all women, seniors, youth, or families interested in self defense. (Parents can decide if your child is ready for this subject matter.) Mr. Oswald will gear this program to the ages of attendees. This is a great program, one that anyone can



benefit from. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP to Michele Mantei at 662- 9878, no later than 2/17/08. For more information go to eyefightback.com

Notes

Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner

Our Youth will be having a sausage and pancake dinner before church on Ash Wednesday, February 6, starting at 5:30. Please mark your calendar, further information will follow.



Pig Roast Valley Lutheran

Roast Pork with all the fixings. Come February 17 from 11:00 to 1:30. Tickets will be sold at the door. Adults-\$7.00, Children under 12 \$4.00, Take Out \$7.00

5th Annual VLHS Benefit Dinner & Auction

The 5th Annual VLHS Benefit Dinner & Auction is going to be on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at Apple Mountain. The past four auctions have netted us over \$120,000 which has been applied to various school improvements including busses, student aid, teacher training & more! Thank you for your past support! We could use your help - we are asking for items to be donated and put up for bid (merchandise, tickets, services, vacation homes, etc.) There are also opportunities to participate by way of Prayer, advertising, sponsorship, or attending! Click on our auction link www.vlhs.com and get more information and check out our often-updated list of items. Watch your bulletin and/or church message board for ticket/donation fliers. For further information or questions, you may call Valley Lutheran at 790-1676, Beth (Lambert) Kaul 989-754-5918 kaulfarm@airadv.net or Karrie Gatza 989-667-0034 Karriekookies@aol.com.

Swiss Steak Dinner

Trinity St. James Munger
119 E. Munger Rd.
February 10
11:00 -2:00
Adults \$8.00 Children 6-12 \$5.00
Take Outs Available

Ladies Day Out Scrapbook Crop

Trinity Lutheran School, Monitor
Friday, Feb. 22 from 5:30 -11:30 pm
Saturday, 23 from 9:00 to 9:00
To reserve your spot call by Feb. 14
Jeanine Pfundt 662-7972 or
Patsy Weiss 686-2269

Auburn United Method Soup Supper

207 S. Auburn Rd.
Friday, February 8 5-7pm or while
soup lasts Adults \$7.00 Children (5-11)
\$3.00, Seniors \$6.00

Fish Fryer

Trinity St. James Munger
119 E. Munger Rd.
Fri. Feb. 15 & 29th
Lunch Take Out Only 11:30 -2 pm
All you can eat buffet 4 pm-7 pm
Adults \$9.00 Children \$5.00 6-12

Valentines Chicken BBQ

St. John Amelith
1664 Amelith Rd., Bay City
February 17 11:00 to 1:30 pm
\$7.50 for 1/2 \$6.00 for 1/4
Take Outs available after 10:30.
Treat your Sweetheart
For more info call 791-5823

Midland County Family Division

Foster homes are needed for youth aged 10-17. We offer support & training, payment provided. Call Shaun at 832-6398 for information.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT December 31, 2007				
CHECKING ACCOUNT	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2006	Year 2007	Year 2006
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,184	\$ 1,920	\$ 5,340	\$ 4,250
Receipts-Contributions	53,717	51,497	415,018	430,092
Disbursements	50,449	48,077	413,906	429,002
Ending Balance	\$ 6,452	\$ 5,340	\$ 6,452	\$ 5,340
	Dec	Dec	Year	Year
TITHING SUMMARY	2007	2006	2007	2006
Total Gifts Received	\$ 53,717	\$ 51,497	\$ 415,018	\$ 430,092
Pro-rated Budget	37,153	37,370	445,833	448,442
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 16,564	\$ 14,127	\$ (30,815)	\$ (18,350)
<u>December 31, 2007 Financials</u>				
Outstanding Bills	\$ 22,725.00			
Mortgage Balance	\$ 147,722.61			
2007 Mission shortfall	\$ 13,440.00			
2007 Mortgage Shortfall	\$ 00.00			

Invitation to Spring Rally on Sunday, February 24, 2008

The Saginaw Valley Zone of the LLL cordially invites everyone in your congregation to our annual Zone Rally to be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2565 N. Miller Road, Saginaw, Michigan.

The rally starts at 2:30 PM with a catered dinner to follow at 5:30 PM. The speakers this year are Pastor Robert Smith of Frankenmuth and Mr. Dennis Denow a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod missionary serving in Indonesia.

There will be no tickets in advance this year, and \$7.50 for each dinner will be collected at the door. However, it is imperative that you contact Lee Winterstein at 989-799-7930 or e-mail the Wintersteins at leclwinter@charter.net by February 15th so that an accurate number can be determined for the caterer for dinner.



Given in Memory

Norman Scherzer

By
Don Wackerly

Joy Nowaczyk

By
Bruce & Judy Lance

Stephen Kalitta

By
Harlan & Rosie Taglauer

Gerald Zielinski

By
Les & Shirley Gray

The Youth of Grace

The Youth of Grace are busily preparing for their summer trip to the Michigan District Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island. Twelve Youth and two adult leaders will be accompanying to the straits of Mackinac to join with all of the other Youth in the state the end of June.

Though the anticipation is great, the Youth are still enjoying their time together during these cold months. In January, they braved the cold and went out after New Year's and collected pop cans. Since they were unable to meet during the busy Christmas season, they met on a cold Sunday in January and enjoyed a light-hearted Christmas gift exchange that brought out many smiles. It was a good time had by all.

The Youth will be hosting three Lenten dinners this year. They will begin serving each dinner at 5:30 pm and hope to finish serving by 6:30 pm in time for Lenten services. February 6th, Ash Wednesday, will bring a "Breakfast for Supper" meal, February 27th ~ Soup Supper, and March 12th ~ Salad and Baked Potato Bar. Please join us these evenings as we come together in fellowship before our evening of Lenten meditation.

Many events are still being planned and will be announced as they arise throughout the year. They are hoping to bring some new opportunities for fellowship among parishioners, here at Grace. In addition, the Youth themselves will hopefully come together for some fun times with friends this winter.

As always, we thank you for your support as we prepare for our summer trip, and we look forward to sending a smile your way during our servant events and fundraisers.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

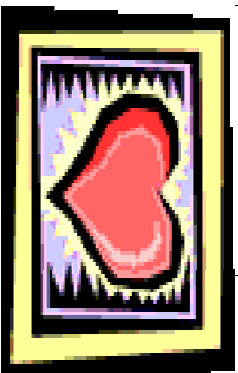
Thursday

Friday

Saturday

February

Grace Church Calendar



					1	2
						8:00 am Women's Bible Study
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship			6:30 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 -6:30 Youth Pancake Supper 7:00 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship with Holy Communion	7:00 Choir Rehearsal		8:00 am Women's Bible Study
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 5th/6th Sing 10:30		7:00 pm Ladies Valentine Party at Plainview	6:30 am Men's Bible Study	7:00 Choir Rehearsal		8:00 am Women's Bible Study B Basketball Tournament, Zion, Beaver
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship Youth Choir 10:30	7:30 Men's Bible Study	9:00 3:00 Ladies Quilting 7:00 Board of Elders	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Lenten Worship with Holy Communion	NOON DISMISS Parent/Teacher Conf. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	NOON DISMISS Parent/Teacher Conf.	8:00 am Women's Bible Study
24	25	26	27	28	29	
8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.)	NO SCHOOL 7:00 Executive Board	7:00 CPTL	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 -6:30 pm Youth Soup Supper 7:00 Midweek Worship	7:00 Choir Rehearsal	1:00 pm GRACE SPELLING BEE "A" BB Tournament starts Zion, B.C.	

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

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

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
#19 PAID #19
Bulk Mail



February

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Heidi Arnold, 1 Mary Kalitta, 2 Lucas Weiss, 3 Ned Gray, 3 Dale Gripentrog, 3 Kaleena Walter, 3 Loretta Wegener, 4 Kayla Mularz, 6 Jeffrey Sugden, 8 Jon Alexander, 8 Aaron Stanford, 9 Stephanie Dominowski, 9 Douglas Korman, 9 Paul Netkowski Sr., 9 Nathan Wolf, 10 Jason Hemstreet, 11 Ruth Skyrme, 12 DeLynn Taglauer, 13 Amy Marner, 14 Crystal Wisniewski, 14 Dale Gripentrog, 14 Jordan Pyle, 14 John Whalen, 15 Rena Rosenbrock, 15 Steven Wegener, 17 Rick Garlinghouse, 17 Ronald Kent, 18 Mark Konsdorf, 18 William Melick Jr., 19 Ilene Taglauer, 20 Genell Taglauer, 21 Robert Feinauer, 21 Joyce Rabadue, 21 Janet Vennix, 22 Kathleen Alexander, 22 Jesse Arnold, 22 Thomas Feinauer, 22 Ray Ralph, 23 Debra VanTol, 24 Cole Melick, 26 Ruth Roth, 27 Spenser Fiebke, 28 Robert Wegener

Anniversaries

*5 Dale & Dale Ann Gripentrog, 11 Leonard & Maxine LeBeau, 22 Ben & Freeda VanTol,
23 Art & Elaine Prah*