

GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

STAFFING CHANGE

A change of circumstances and new opportunities have led our teacher Miss Corinne Schroeder to ask for a release from her five years of service here at Grace Lutheran School. She is leaving only for the most positive reasons.



We have greatly appreciated Miss Schroeder's capable and dedicated service to the children

and families of our congregation since she began teaching in 2003. She is moving soon to Grand Rapids and has said she leaves with much goodwill toward Grace also. We ask God to guide her in all her future endeavors.

Meanwhile, even though the time window is narrow, the Board of Elementary Education has been considering the resumes of a least a dozen possible teacher replacements. The Lord has been guiding that process.

This coming Monday, August 18, a special Voters' Meeting has been called to consider the recommendation by the Board to extend a one year contract to Mr. Eric Gledhill of Midland. He did undergraduate work at Concor dia, Ann Arbor, but received his teaching degree from CMU, is active in Lutheran church life and would come very well recommended.

Please keep this matter in your prayers and attend voters as this is quickly addressed enabling a new teacher to be in the classroom soon.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP, CHURCH PICNIC OLD FASHION BASEBALL THIS SUNDAY



Our annual outdoor summer worship service and parish picnic is scheduled for August 17. Please bring lawn chairs for the 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship held on the grass by the cross in front of church.

The service is adapted for the outdoor setting. Last year inclement weather forced us indoors, but we have generally enjoyed very beautiful summer other years. Please dress accordingly. This time the temperatures may be a bit cooler.

Following the service, please remain for a time of picnic fun and fellowship. We will be

serving brats and hot dogs for all who attend the picnic.

And to top it off there will be an "old time" baseball game challenge of our Amazing Grace team against our neighbors from Trinity, Monitor.

We need a little help also regarding the meal. We ask those who attend to bring a dish to pass. If your last name begins with A-H bring a salad, I-R bring either a vegetable or potato dish and S-Z a dessert dish. As always a free will offering of a few dollars to help defray costs will be appreciated.

ANOTHER GREAT FAMILY CAMP

Nearly one hundred members of Grace participated in the 2008 annual Grace Family Camp at Coldwater Lake this summer. Always a wonderful occasion for Christian fellowship, friendship, and family fun, the camp lived up to that again this year.

Participants share various common meals and especially gather for worship on Saturday evening, but over the three to four days there is freedom for recreation, conversation, and just enjoying the beauty of God's creation.

Our thanks to Karla Weiss (she was nicknamed Miss Noah because rain forced a quick run home to Auburn to check against flooding) and Diane McNally who spearheaded the planning for this year's camp.

It is always a great time. We'll do it again next year.





LITTLE THINGS MADE GREAT

It is regrettable if we outgrow a fascination for observing little things. A child can spend an entire summer afternoon watching bugs crawl around in the dirt. We adults are too busy with important things.

Sometimes one must be forced just to be an observer.

I remember a nursing home I once visited. Across the wide front porch were forty wheel chairs side by side, and all those residents watched and listened as I read God's Word and brought Holy Communion to one of them.

I wonder how many would have remained if they had the means to be out busy doing other things.

What was Jesus doing just watching people coming and going through the Temple?

Just that!

Watching.

Watching IS doing something.

But Jesus wasn't just "people-watching" as a passing diversion. Christ is not a mere onlooker. God is never a spectator from above who applauds or boos by how well or poorly people behave. He connects himself to what He sees.

The passage above reveals a fascinating action one day that everyone around missed — except Jesus.

Oh, yes. I suspect many did see the extravagant actions of the rich who gave a great show of their contributions. They let it be known how generous and wonderful their patronage of God's house would be. They literally "threw" their donations into the offering box.

They welcomed the attention. They paid for the honor of being considered superior and worthy. They were forerunners of the flamboyant showmanship of those who seek to grace the church by their own charm, personality, or public acclaim.

Then came this insignificant "bug" of a woman.

She was a widow and dirt poor creature. No one was even aware of her — except Jesus. She was no more significant than some idle old woman in a wheelchair. By contrast to the throngs of those occupied with their admirable "doings," she was about as productive as a nursing home patient.

But here is the fascinating thing!

Jesus said she gave more, accomplished more, and undoubtedly worshiped more than all the rest. She set

[Jesus] sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Mark 12:4:44

aside everything else for the benefit and privilege of thanking God with all that she had.

Had it been necessary, she would have waited a whole summer afternoon just for the opportunity to place her two pennies in the offering. Had it been necessary, she would have sat in a wheelchair and hung on all day just to hear a pastor pronounce absolution and give her a tiny wafer and sip of wine.

I doubt the widow woman knew Jesus was there watching her. She certainly didn't determine her gift by what anyone would say or think about it.

But she did know God is not just watching. He was the One always looking out for her, upholding, forgiving, blessing and loving her. This she knew, and in this she gave thanks. She lived by faith in the gracious kindness of God who promised her a Messiah. She believed in the God who gave her those two pennies so she could render her thanks. She believed in the God of Israel who delivered an impoverished people through water to a land of freedom, milk and honey. She believed that what she had to live on was not what was in her pocket but the One who was in that House of God giving Himself for her.

She believed she did not deserve such a great and munificent God, but she knew He deserved all she had.

And even if no one else saw this, Jesus did. Jesus never outgrew observing the little things. His holy ministry was one meticulous endowment after another. Every word he spoke, every step he walked, every burden he shouldered, every touch, every glance, and even every pause and observation, as on this occasion, was purposeful and favorable.

He was never too busy to see even the little things and bless them.

And every day now, that includes you!

Principal's Report

By Peter Fredrich

Grace Lutheran School will soon open her doors for the start of our 49th school year. As most families know, we have had some staffing changes. Mrs. VanSickle has decided to spend more time with her family and will not be teaching our fifth and sixth grades this year.

The Board of Elementary Education has contracted Mrs. Ellen Arnold as teacher's aid for this school year. Mrs. Arnold is an experienced Christian educator and will meet our needs well.

Ms. Corrine Schroeder has also resigned and will be pursuing new job opportunities in Grand Rapids. The School Board has met this week and has reviewed the credentials of numerous qualified candidates. They will continue to meet next week to recommend the best teacher for our children. I am confident that the Lord and the efforts of our Board will lead us to an excellent replacement. A special meeting of the Voters' Assembly has been called by Chairman Herbolzheimer for Monday, August

18, at 7:30 p.m. The purpose will be to hire a replacement for Ms. Schroeder.

Home visits will be made by Miss Rudick and me to appropriate grades. The teacher will be bringing along all the necessary registration materials. Students not receiving a visit can find registration materials in your church mailbox. Fill out necessary forms 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 21st. Due to limited time everyone is invited to a "Meet the new teachers" gathering. This will be held during the evening from 6 pm to 8 pm on registration day in the library.**

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

Valley Lutheran will provide Grace with two sessions of instrumental music instruction. All

practices have been scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays in our chapel. Miss Lindsay Meyer will hold beginning band practice from noon until 12:30 followed by advanced band from 12:30 – 1:00. An additional fee is assessed to band students.

The hot lunch program will continue to be offered through Auburn Area Catholic Schools. Due to rising prices, the cost for a lunch is \$1.80 per meal, with milk available for \$.45.

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 2nd at 8:45 A.M., with opening worship at 9:30, and daily termination at 3:25 P.M. 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 everyone soon.



Given in Memory

Mark Fredrich

By

John & Connie Gengler
Ben & Freeda VanTol

Charlotte Bli

By

Roland & Ellen Reiss

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS FUNDS:

(DEDICATED ACCOUNTS)

Church Memorial, School Memorial, Altar Flowers, Choir, Common Project, Capital Improvement, Debt Retirement/ Church Extension Fund, Endowment Fund, General Fund-Special Accounts, Hand Bells, Library Fund, Lutheran Hour-Saginaw Valley, Parking Lot Fund, Scholarship (Concordia Compact), Sunday School, Together in Mission (TIM), World Relief, Vacation Bible School, Youth Group

These are the funds set up for Memorial-Special Accounts. Please do not simply "create" a fund for your Memorial offering. Do not designate your offering to any other funds, especially those outside our congregation. If you want to contribute to another organization, please make your contribution directly to them, and not through the Grace Memorial Account.

Please remember, when you designate funds to a special account, it stays in that fund. You can contribute to the General-Fund-Special Accounts that will help with immediate congregational needs. Thank you.

Annual Church Picnic

Come join your fellow Grace members for a time of picnic fun and fellowship on August 17. Following our annual outdoor worship service we will be serving brats and hot dogs for all who attend the picnic. And to top it off there will be an "old time" baseball game challenge of our Amazing Grace team against our neighbors, Trinity Monitor.

Now, we will need a little help so, for those who attend we would like you to bring a dish to pass. If your last name begins with A-H bring a salad, I-R bring either a vegetable or potato dish and S-Z a dessert dish. Also, we will need a few people for grilling the food and help with the serving. If you are interested please call Kim 662-4039 or email at kherbs@charter.net. As always a free will offering of a few dollars to help defray the cost will be appreciated.



Parish Education

We are making plans for fall Sunday School and Bible classes. We are planning to have 3 groups at the elementary and middle school level: Preschool – 1st grade, 2nd – 4th grade, and 5th – 8th grade. The Youth will continue the Bible study series pastor has been providing for them. We are looking for 3 to 4 volunteers to teach each of these levels. The teachers for each grade level would rotate as is best for them in order to allow them the chance to attend adult Bible class. We would also like to know if there is interest in having additional adult Bible classes on Sunday morning. This could also involve team teaching.

We are looking at using the Hands On Bible Curriculum put out by Group Publishing for Preschool – 1st grade and 2nd – 4th grade. This curriculum is reproducible and encourages the children to search the Bible for answers. We want to encourage our children at an early age to learn how to read the Bible with adult help.



We want to try something different for the 5th – 8th grade group. There are several books put out by Concordia Publishing House that deal with issues such as being responsible, peer pressure, and getting along with others. These books also address themes throughout the Bible. Most of these studies are also reproducible and encourage digging deeper into the Bible for answers to life's questions. There are so many books and topics available we thought it would be a good idea to get student input at this age level to see what they would like to study.

We are planning to have our Sunday School Rally on September 7th. We encourage everyone to join us for Sunday School or Bible class on that date. Watch the bulletin for details as the date draws closer.

There are jobs for people to do other than teaching. We will need people to arrange for snacks, make copies, monitor the classrooms to see if anything is needed, and someone to make sure the kids sign in at the attendance chart. Anyone interested in any of these jobs or team teaching an Adult Bible class, Youth, or any of the Sunday School levels, please contact Annette Rudick or Gayle Wood.

SIGN UP!!

Notes from around the Area

The **Athletic Club of Trinity Monitor** (Salzburg & 8 Mile Roads) Bay City, is having a Chicken BBQ in the Church Grove on Saturday, August 9th starting at 11:00 AM with chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, and roll. Donation for the chicken BBQ will be Adults-\$7.00, 1/4 chicken (leg and thigh) - \$5.00. We will also have a Pig Roast on Sunday August 10th, Noon until 4 PM. Menu will include: roast pork, cole-slaw, baked potato, baked beans, squash, rolls, and dessert. Donation for the Pig Roast will be: adults - \$7.50, children 6 thru 12 years - \$3.00, under 6 - free. Softball games between Lutheran churches in our area will also take place all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon and a Fellowship softball game between the Williams and Monitor Township fire departments will take place Sunday at Noon. Also, an outdoor Church service (weather permitting) will take place in the grove starting at 10:30 AM on Sunday. Bring a lawn chair and join us in worship.



Sizzling Summer (Rummage) Sale

St. Paul Lutheran School Gym

6094 W.S. Saginaw Rd. Bay City 1/4 mi. north of M-84 & 1-75

Saturday, August 23, 2008

8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

For more information check the flyer on the hallway
bulletin board.

BOWLERS NEEDED!!

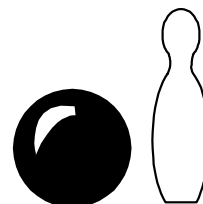
For area Lutheran mixed doubles league

Every other Sunday night
Beginning September 7th
6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
at Valley Lanes in Midland

~No experience Required~

4 Bowlers comprise a team
\$10.00 each to bowl 3 games

If interested:
Call Kyle Clayton at 839-5880



Casey Bauer Benefit

Sunday August 31, 2008

St. John Lutheran Church - Amelith
1664 Amelith Rd, Bay City, Mi 48706

Casey was in a serious car accident due to diabetic complications and suffered major head trauma. Friends & family are holding a benefit for the Bauer family to help them with medical expenses during this extremely difficult time.

Spaghetti Dinner

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

TICKETS \$7.00
Under 5 Yrs. Free

ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME & APPRECIATED

Thank you for your support!!!

Tickets at the door or in advance

Raffles,
Silent Auction
& Bake Sale

Youth News

The Youth Group welcomed the graduating 8th Graders with a Mystery Dinner and Fun Night recently. We served an Italian dinner, and each Youth had to order their courses (including their eating utensils) from a menu that they had a difficult time deciphering. It made for a fun time, especially if you ordered your spaghetti, but no fork to eat it with. Have you ever tried to eat spaghetti with a toothpick? I can tell you, it's a lot of fun to watch! We also had a great time playing games and getting to know the incoming freshmen. We were glad that Emily Brandt, Elyssa Weber and Jesse Kalitta could join us and we hope that you all make attending Youth functions and Bible Studies a part of your regular schedule!

Thirteen Youth and two adult chaperones recently attended the 2008 Michigan District Senior High Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island.



Kristy Brandt eating spaghetti with a toothpick.



Team One passing a banana to the next member by way of FEET!!

We all had an awesome time listening to the inspiring speakers, singing along with the great bands, working at a servant event, and just participating in the wonderful experience of worshipping and communing with 900 other LCMS teens. When asked, what was the best thing about the Gathering...many different answers were given, including: the speakers, the bands, and the new friends that I made! One afternoon, as our Servant Event, we were ferried over to St. Ignace where we spent time cleaning up the grounds around a newly built Habitat home. We also had the opportunity one evening to take a midnight ferry cruise right under the Mackinaw Bridge, which was a unique experience. A very nice compliment was given to the 900 teens that invaded Mission Point Resort that week. Many of the waitstaff and housekeeping staff are teenagers and young adults from other countries. They had a preconceived notion of American teenagers. After being exposed to the Lutheran teens that week, they were impressed, saying that our group of teens were very polite and well-behaved and that they picked up after themselves better than many adults. What a nice thing to hear!

The entire Gathering went pretty smoothly until it was time to walk down to the ferry dock to head back home. Most everyone was loaded on the ferry and then one person found he had lost his ferry ticket (the very one that had been passed out 20 minutes earlier with the warning, "Don't lose this!") The problem was solved when the nice captain said he would let him board anyway and wouldn't make him stay on the Island all by himself. After a quick count, it was determined that we were still missing one person. Turns out another Youth had decided it was a fine time to go buy \$30.00 of fudge, though by now the rest of the group was on the ferry which was waiting to take off! He came running up just in time to board the ferry and all ended well. The Gathering was a great experience, and we want to thank the congregation for supporting us in our planning of the trip.

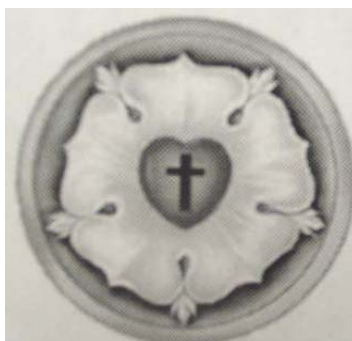
We again would like to welcome our new board members, as well as our new Youth members. The current Youth Board includes Sue Roth, Paula Ruff and Pam Whalen. If you ever have any questions or suggestions, please see one of us!

**Go To— LCMS Michigan Youth Gathering Mackinaw Island
to get links for pictures
and videos of all the things that went on.**

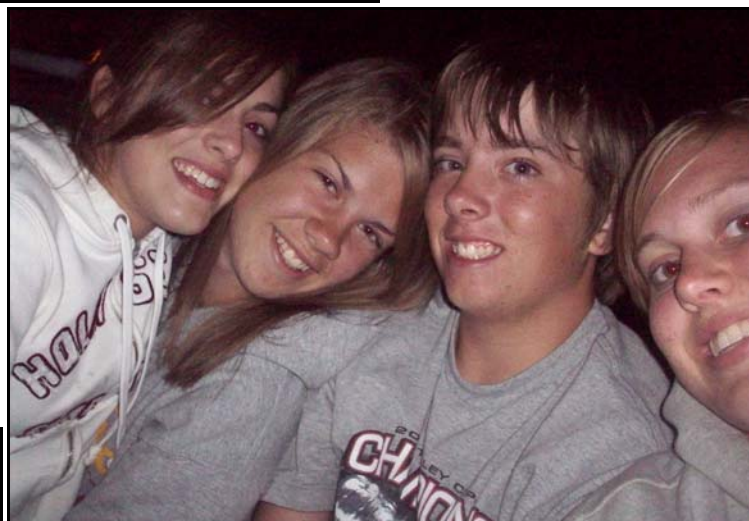
Treasure Island



*Fresh
off
the
boat
and
ready
to
go!!*



*Still
going
strong.*



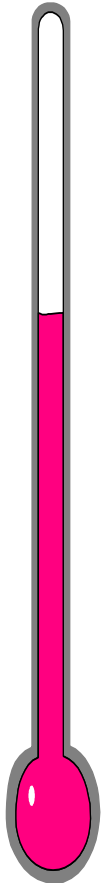
*Stopping for a cat
nap before the
next event.*



Special Voters Meeting

Due to the resignation our 3 & 4 grade teacher a special voters meeting has been called by the chairman of our congregation. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the appointment of a contract teacher for the coming year. This will be the only item on the agenda. The meeting date is Monday evening, August 18th at 7:30.

Thrivent Match Update



As of August 3rd
our pledged
Amount for the
Thrivent
match is
\$14,411.
This brings us
very near
the half way point
of meeting
our ambitious goal
of \$30,000
by December 31.
Thank you to all
who have seen
the benefit
of this matching
program
sponsored by

Quilters:

Grace's World Relief quilting group will continue to work through the summer again this year at John and Connie Gengler's house. We welcome all those regulars and anyone else who is interested to join us from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (or any amount of time between those that you can be there). No special skills are needed - just willing hands and hearts to serve those in need. We generally have a good time in the process too! Bring a sack lunch and come and join us. Our last summer date is August 19. We will then be starting up our fall schedule.



Issue's Etc. Broadcasting Again

We are delighted that new independent programming of Issues, Etc., has begun again with daily broadcasting. It can be live-streamed at your computer through Pirate Christian Radio a web-based radio station. Links can be found on our Grace web page (www.graceauburn.org). Just click on those links from 4:05-6:00 p.m. (EDT) daily and hear live-stream programming, or access the program archives easily downloadable for I-pod or MP3 players. The best in Christian talk radio has returned to the air!

Cookies - Cookies -

And More Cookies!

Every month Grace congregation delivers home-made cookies to the Lutheran Boys' Home in Bay City. Scott Peterson, Director, states that the boys look forward to these special baked goods. Grace is the only church in the area the last few years to take upon themselves this service project! How easy this is! However, we need more people to help supply the cookies. Won't you please consider providing these tasty treats? There is a sign-up sheet on the usher's desk in the church narthex. It would be great to have at least three sign up per month for baking 3-5 dozen cookies each. Thank you ahead of time for volunteering!



Eye Glass Collection

Check out the article in Michigan in Touch, the June/July Issue on page 7. We are still collecting eye glasses for MOST ministries. There is a box on the usher's desk to turn them in or drop them off at the church office..



Kick Back and Scrap VIII

September 12-13, 2008

Grace Lutheran, Auburn
To benefit 7th & 8th Grade Spring, 2009
Trip to Washington D.C.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. \$35
Includes: breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks,
beverages, prizes and vendors on site and

VENDOR BUCK\$

Friday night 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. \$15
Includes: dinner, pop, prizes, limited vendors
Leave your cropping supplies on site for Saturday

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Seat me with _____

-

Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran

Mail registration to: Carol Harrison 5833 Carter Rd Freeland MI 48623 Questions call Carol at (989) 695-4760 or email at CarolHarrison@msn.com

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



August

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Allyson Hundley, 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, 6 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, 19 David Reed, 20 Lori Hockman, 20 Hilda Wegener, 21 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 Susan Roth, 28 Lois Schwandt, 28 Gayle Wood, 29 Jessica Melick, 29 Annette Rudick, 31 Brian Klimaszewski, 31 Fay Schroeder

Anniversaries

8 Paul & Mary Kalitta, 8 Brett & Amie Keidel, 8 Ray & Sherry Ralph, 9 James & Gloria Kundering, 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