

OCTOBER 2008

GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19



**Festival of the
Reformation
October 31**

**celebrated
Sunday, October 26**

I ONLY WANT YOU TO KNOW CHRIST

This text is all one sentence. It is as if, in one breath, Paul bears his heart.

Here is a true pastor. His first reverence is for God. "I bow my knees before the Father," Paul writes. He doesn't bow to anything or anyone other than to our gracious God and Father. His heart and confidence rests on the One from whom every believer, including himself, derives the name Christian.

He doesn't bob around, first to what's popular, then never sure where to put his feet down or his knees down. He doesn't carom back and forth in ever shifting loyalties, first to this method, then to that style. He doesn't hop around from one belief to another without an inkling of what confession to adopt today or which new thing might catch his fancy tomorrow. Instead, he depends only on the Father for the Father's gifts.

He looks only to the glorious riches grounded in Christ and trusts only the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word to implant faith in the hearts of people and build up the ranks of the saints.

He considers only one thing essential for the church he loves, that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. He doesn't consider it essential that folks be comfortable. He doesn't regard it important that they be amused, successful, popular, or prosperous. He only wants them to receive Christ. That's why he prays. That's why he preaches the Gospel. That's why he distributes the fullness of God in the sacraments. That's why he confesses his own sins and counts how unworthy, like himself, is anyone to represent Christ.

He only wants these people to know the breadth, length, height and depth of the love of Christ. To have people comprehend, not with masterful knowledge but with faith in the Word, the love of Christ—this is the cardinal hope and yearning of the apostle.

He wants these people to be filled with the fullness of God because he knows this was God's intent in sending us His Son and the continuing reason God delivers Christ to us in Word and Sacrament.

I have a long way to go to become such a pastor, and I know many of my colleagues in ministry feel the same. That is why we never want you to focus on us. We never want you to be persuaded by force of personality or the range of someone's talents. That's why we hope you will not ask us to be more effective or more believable. Pray simply that we will be faithful. The best pastors come with nothing but the mercies of Christ. The best pastors are invisible within the office of Word and Sacrament.

For it is Christ alone in whom you are rooted and grounded. The "riches" we receive come not from the flair or genius of men but hidden in water, bread, wine, and words from ordinary men. The riches are gifts centered in Christ and flow from Him. They are forgiveness, righteousness, providence, and paradise. They are baptism and the Eucharist. They are the words which speak the life and peace of Christ into the ears and hearts of sinners reborn from the Father through the Son and by the Holy Spirit.

These are the jewels of our faith.

Not even someone like St. Paul belongs on a pedestal. And certainly, most certainly not I. I pray only that we gather at the foot of the cross, hear only the Word of Christ, and celebrate nothing else but the infinite breadth, length, height, and depth of God's goodness who gave His Son into death that we may live.

Pastor

September 21, 2008
Trinity 18

Dear friends of Grace,

With today's three services I started my eleventh week as vacancy pastor of the dual parishes in Nuernberg and Muehlhausen, Germany, which is scheduled to last until the end of February. I want to write that it is an absolute joy, but I can't. That's because it goes deeper than that. It's a privilege, a solemn duty, a labor of love. And yes, it's also a personal and professional dream come true for me!



This might sound a little confusing, but I want to describe exactly what I'm doing, where I'm doing it, and how often.

As I said above, this is a dual parish I'm serving weekly. One church is in Muehlhausen, which is 60 miles straight north of where I live in Neuendettelsau. There are about 17 folks belonging to that congregation, and they meet at 8:45 A.M.

The other is in the famous and beautiful city of Nuernberg, 26 miles northeast of here, with a membership of about 75 people. They meet at 11 o'clock.

On top of that, each of these two churches has a "preaching station," or a smaller group of people at a satellite location that aren't really large enough to support a full-time pastor. So, they are sponsored by a mother church. The Muehlhausen congregation sponsors quarterly services 100 miles north of here in Kronach, all the way at the northern border of Bavaria. If you can believe this, there is actually only one member on the church roster! However, he has been able to gather five other interested friends from time to time. We've always said this is not a numbers game, right? Well, here's proof!

The Nuernberg congregation sponsors the Lutheran Chapel in Ansbach (St. Lukas), where I and my family have been considered "unofficial members" since we arrived three years ago in February of 2005. This is the closest location to us, being just 10 miles down the road.

Currently there are three ladies who attend regularly (they are

all in their 80s and 90s, mind you!) and a fourth who is home-bound. Only two services are held a month in Ansbach - one in the chapel at 5 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon; the other in the nursing home on a Thursday at 10:30 A.M. I cannot tell you how grateful these ladies are when I bring them the Sacrament. For me, the look on their faces makes it all worth it!

Finally, you remember that back in November of 2005 I started a weekly communion service in English for the soldiers stationed in and around Ansbach. Due to the nature of army life and the constant rotation of duty stations and deployments, families rotate in and out frequently. Currently, I just have one family of two attending along with my own "Seaver Six." After starting this German vacancy, I have continued to hold English services on the other three available Sundays of the month.

I should also add that I am currently instructing two adults in the Christian Faith each Friday morning at my home.

I have not had the pleasure of celebrating the Divine Service in Heidelberg since the new chaplain arrived there at least a year ago. Though I had offered to help prior to taking on this German vacancy, he didn't take me up on it. I have to admit it was a bit far, and it wouldn't be possible anymore anyway.

Well, there you have it. This is what keeps me busy on the weekends and in preparation during the week. The kids have all returned to school this past week. I don't know who was more excited, the kids or I. You get the picture :-). Irene (11) is now in the 6th grade. Her hobbies are taking piano lessons, attending youth group, and most of all.. READING! I'd like to think she is the first (pre)teen to want books for her birthday rather than money. David & William (7) are in the 2nd grade. They play professional (okay, not really) soccer in our little village. Maggie (4) is in kindergarten. She can beat anyone, child or adult, at the game MEMORY. That goes for all other board- and card games. Her little brain is making her talk German in her sleep now. Hilarious! Oh, yes - she also has perfect singing pitch (She certainly didn't get that from her Uncle Todd!). The excitement around Lynn's work lately is the reintegration of a battalion of soldiers returning from 15 months in Iraq. God bless our troops, both past and present!

In Christ,

Pfarrer Seaver

Neuendettelsau, Germany

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS TO PREACH AT GRACE

On October 19, Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., Director of Missions of the Michigan District will be preaching here at Grace in Pastor Reed's absence. Pastor Reed will be away celebrating the baptism of a new grandchild.

It is our privilege then, to welcome Pastor Gray that day. He was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and is a 1977 graduate of Alabama A & M University in Huntsville. He is a 1988 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne.

Pastor Gray's served Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Houston, TX, from 1988 to 1994. The next three years took him back to the seminary where he served in the areas of Admissions, Recruitment and Vicarage Assignment. In 1997, Rev Gray was called to be Mission Director for Lutheran City Ministries and Associate Pastor at Historic Trinity, Detroit. He also served Outer Drive Faith, Detroit before accepting the call, in 2001, to the Michigan District Administrative Offices.

Grace will also welcome Pastor Paul Boerger, October 5. He will be our guest preacher while Pastor Reed is out of town. He is a 1979 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, currently living in Goodells, MI.



“911”

It is an emergency. Whom do you call first? Is it a spouse or someone else in the house? Is it the doctor, 911, or the hospital? It is important to keep a list of emergency numbers because once you've experienced the confusion of an emergency; you know you can't remember information easily. Include the numbers of friendly neighbors if you'll need care for other children during an unexpected trip to the hospital.

Whom do you call in times of trouble? Mostly we call other people whom God has placed on earth to help. But don't forget your primary source of help in all trouble. Most of us know shameful ways to misuse God's name. Cursing and swearing are the most popular – so popular in some cases that people no longer feel embarrassment or guilt when speaking or thinking this way. Another spin on this sin is that we're tempted to think it's okay to curse or swear as long as young or gentle ears can't hear us. But God hears everything – even breathy mutterings.

What has this to do with calling for help in time of trouble? Psalm 50: 15 says: *“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”* In every crisis or emergency, include first a plan to call God. Put His Name on your list. You don't need to remember any numbers, just His Name – His holy, healing, helpful, heavenly Name. Terrifying moments don't need to be lonely when you call on friends and family. Your Father is there to help and so is His Son and His omnipotent Spirit. Christ gave up His own life so we may by faith, live with Him forever in heaven. What a friend we have in Jesus! (Doesn't that sound like that would make a nice title for a hymn?)

Due to increase costs of food, fuel, and preparation, our hot lunches had to increase to \$3.00 per meal. The results of a survey conducted indicated that 85% of our parents would no longer participate. As a result, our hot lunch

Principal's Report
By Peter Fredrich

program will be discontinued effective September 30. The C.P.T.L. will purchase additional microwaves for the occasional warming of left-overs, etc. Mr. Kerry Storey has graciously agreed to oversee all microwave use. Thanks, Kerry. We will also offer our students a Friday hot lunch. Four teams of parents will be formed to purchase, prepare, and serve meals every Friday of the month, beginning October 10. These meals will be sold for \$2.00 each. Milk will continue to be available every day for the cold lunches.

Our new school year is well under way and already very busy.

- Our first mid-quarter progress reports were issued to all students on September 30. Students still have five more weeks to improve these grades.
- We have six students involved in instrumental band. They practice twice each week under the leadership of Ms. Lindsey Meyer of Valley Lutheran High School.
- Our Grizzly soccer season is in motion. Our last home game is October 7th. The Bay/Midland League Soccer Tournament will be held at Trinity, Monitor October 11th & 12th. Come and cheer for your team!

- Mrs. Debra Dambro has our entire student body busy on the computers. Each child spends approximately twenty minutes, twice each week under her guidance.
- Each Friday the students receive instruction in Spanish taught by Gladys Lerner of the Bay City Public Schools.
- Practice for our volleyball team will soon begin under Coach Gail Koch. This will start after the completion of our soccer season. League begins play later in October.
- School pictures will be taken by a new company, Geskus Photography October 14th.
- Our teachers will soon examine some new Christmas programs and as soon as we decide, it will be ordered, and we will begin practicing it.
- As a reminder, in case of emergency (see above note), we are equipped with an Automatic External Defibrillator. It is located in the main school hallway on the north wall. It can easily be accessed for use in the church, school, gym, or playground.
- Vision screening for children in grades 1,3,5,7 was administered in late September.

GRACE GRIZZLY SOCCER TEAM!! GO GRIZZLIES!!



JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS

The year has begun, and our teens are adjusting to the year. It is exciting to see the inactive minds of summer brighten to the challenges of junior high studies. Much introductory material has been reviewed, and a regular schedule and routine has begun. Religion examines the New Testament Gospels, the "Good News" that Jesus loves us, forgives us, and is preparing a place for us in heaven. Pastor Reed is focusing on the doctrinal aspects of our church as he instructs the students in Confirmation four days each week. American history has brought us to the time of colonization of North America by various groups of people from Europe. It is interesting to note that most new settlers to this land came in search of religious freedom.

Matter is anything that has mass and takes up space. The forms or properties of one type of matter differ from the properties of another, because matter is made up of tiny particles called atoms. The type of atoms in matter and how they attach to each other give matter its properties. This is the current focus in Earth science. Pictured are Bethany, Allyse, and Diondra working on determining some physical properties of matter, mass. They are using a balance beam to measure the mass in grams of a rock sample. Nouns and pronouns are the area of emphasis in our English series, with both grades looking at their proper use and placement within a sentence. In the area of math, we are progressing at a nice rate. The sixth and seventh grades are working on our first



CHECKING PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF

unit, which reviews addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers and fractions. The eighth grade will begin exploring rational numbers. They will learn the four basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as they apply to integers and rational numbers.

Miss Rudick's Classroom

We are settling in well to our school routine. Our 2nd grade students are enjoying having two teachers. It is exciting for them to change classrooms on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They are also becoming more responsible!

In religion we have been learning about creation, the fall into sin and God's promise to send a Savior. We are just beginning to learn about Abra-

ham, Issac, and Jacob and the promise God made to them and to us.

In Social Studies we are studying about school rules, school workers, and how to work together in school. We are also learning about cause and effect and how to read maps.

In Science we are learning about living things and their needs. We began by learning the difference between living, once living, and non living. We are now going on to learn what all living things need and how those needs change depending on the habitat.

We are still reviewing many concepts in math and reading. All of our students have done well remembering what they



BUILDING OUR SCIENCE TERRARIUM

learned last year. We are working quickly through our review lessons so that we can go on to learn more and exciting things!

This school year is turning out to be a very exciting and productive year! Our class has eased into our new routine very quickly. I pray our Lord's continued blessings on this exciting school year!



LACHLAN WORKING ON MATH

Room 4 News

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade 'Gators' are into full swing as we enter the fourth week of school. The class has been most gracious in both sharing with me procedures they have used, as well as accepting anything new that I have brought to the table. They are such a phenomenal group of children. My cup truly overflows. I thank them for being a blessing to me daily, as well as the congregation for entrusting them to me to guide and mold them as God's children in their lives.

We have spent a great deal of time learning procedures and habits that will help the class flow. We are creating policies that will allow them to be more accountable, as well as keeping

parents informed to unite the classroom/home fronts.

I give adequate time for A.R. reading as well as writing with prompts. I am a strong believer that the way to fluency is doing. You've heard of the age-old adage: 'I hear I forget, I see I remember, I do I understand' They will gain more confidence by having the opportunity to read to increase fluency. They will also express their ideas with better



THE GATORS AT WORK~~AT PLAY



flow and voice by writing more. These will become increasingly important in the years to come.

May The Great Provider continue to rain down his blessings in our lives, and may we ever be cognizant of them, and eternally thankful. May God bless our journey together.

In His Service

Women - Have you ever wondered in what ways you could answer God's call to serve Him and reach out to others? In a congregation such as Grace, there are many little ways to give assistance from quilting, to serving or providing a dish for funeral dinners, to setting up for communion, decorating in the church at Christmas time, buying gifts for the Giving Tree, baking cookies for the Lutheran Boys Home, just to name a few. On Tuesday evening, October 7, we will be gathering at 7:00 p.m. in the school



library to discuss our Christmas Bake Shoppe and to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. You might note that this is a week earlier than usual since the loading of materials for Lutheran World Relief in Saginaw is October 13th and 14th.



Our school children have been collecting items for these school kits as have generous members of Grace. A listing of needed items can be found in our Sunday bulletins. Won't you join us in giving to and assembling this project on October 7? Thank you ahead of time!



A Jr. Life Blood Drive has been scheduled with the Michigan Community Blood Center for Wednesday, October 29 from 2-7 here at Grace. Grace children are promoting this valuable community service with parents, grandparents, neighbors, and the congregation. If we obtain 30 donors our school will receive a \$100.00 gift. Linda Varner is the contact person. There will be a sign up sheet before the drive and we will keep a tally here.

Notes

GRACE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY REQUEST

In 2009 Grace will begin celebrating its 50 anniversary. We are trying to locate all the confirmands in those 50 years. If you have a son, daughter, niece, nephew, cousin, neighbor, friend that was confirmed at Grace would you please give us their addresses and phone numbers. All information can be sent to Judy Lance via mail, church mail, phone or e-mail. (400 Virginia, Auburn, 662-6785, BruceLance@hotmail.com) Thanks for your help.

HARVEST DINNER

October 3 Friday
2045 Lynn St. Sanford
4:30 – 7:00
Adults \$7.50 Children 5-12 \$3.00
Take-Out Available

SMORGABORG & COUNTRY BAZAAR

Zion Beaver Sunday October 5
Dinner Noon- 3:00 pm Bazaar 9-3
Adults \$7.50 Children under 12 \$3.50
Under 5 free Take Out \$8.00

HARVEST DINNER

St. John Midland
Thursday October 16
4:30-7:00 pm
Turkey & Dressing . Sauerkraut/Pork
Adult \$8.00 5-12 \$4.00
Family Ticket \$20.00 (2 Adult 2 children)

B.B.Q. CHICKEN DINNER

Trinity St. James, Munger
October 19
11:00 am-2:00 pm
Adults \$8.00 6-12 \$4.00
5 & under Free

ST. LORENZ FRANKENMUTH

Friday, November 7, 4-7 pm
At St. Lorenz School All you can eat
Fish Fry
Adults \$8.50 Children (4-12) \$4.25,
3 & under free. Takeouts Are \$7.75

FYI The E-mail addresses for our new teachers
are mrgledhill@graceauburn.org



and



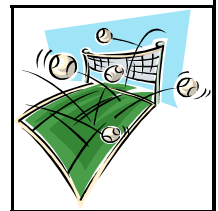
mrsarnold@graceauburn.org.

Any questions send them an e-mail.



Our last soccer game is at home against Zion, Beaver, starting at 4:30. The League Tournament is held this year at Trinity Monitor on October 11 & 12. Then

We start right into girls volleyball at home against St. John Midland on October 21 after school. Then next one is away at St. Paul Frankenthuth on October 23.



Come and watch some Grizzly sports!!!!

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

Youth News



Back to school time of the year also means back to regular Youth activities! All high school students are welcomed and encouraged to join us on Sunday mornings, between church services in the nursery (which we like to call the Youth Room!) On the first Sunday of the month, we will hold our regular business meeting, where we plan any upcoming fun activities, servant events, or fundraisers. The remaining Sundays, we gather for an informal and interesting Bible Study. Jeff Sugden has an informative study planned titled "Different Gospels", highlighting the differences between our Lutheran religion and other religions. Even if you haven't joined us in the past, we would love to have you start spending Sunday mornings with us. We always have a great time together!

For our September meeting, we served freshly prepared waffles to the congregation. Everyone had a good time visiting while enjoying waffles with all the toppings. Because we got a late start on our business meeting that morning, we did not get to hold elections for officers, so we will do that at our meeting the first Sunday in October. Please consider running for one of the offices...President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. Juniors and Seniors are eligible for President or VP, while anyone can run for the other offices. (A bit of advice...holding an office in your Youth Group is great to be able to list on your college or scholarship applications!)

Coming up on October 12th is the annual Harvest Beef Dinner. The Youth will be serving roast beef, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, and lots of yummy extras. We hope to see everyone there!



Given in Memory

Ken Hall

By
Al & Edie Ousterhout

Betty Sprague

By
Ben & Freeda VanTol

Florence Bauer

By
Elmer & Irene Taglauer

Antonette Gerhauser

By
Pauline Behmlander

Calvin Spangler

By
Elmer & Irene Taglauer

Parish Education

Our fall Sunday School and Bible classes began on September 7th. I again want to thank all who have volunteered to help! Your willingness to serve is most appreciated!

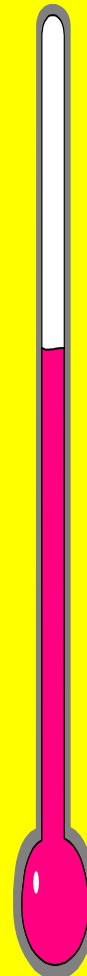
We have 18 students enrolled in our Sunday School. We have 4 to 6 students in each of our three classes each week. There is still room for more students. We would love to have you join us!!!



Our Preschool – 8th grade students begin each Sunday with an opening devotion in the gym. This devotion is approximately 10 minutes in length. Our Youth and Adults are welcome to join us for opening.

There are still some jobs for people to do other than teaching. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Gayle Wood or Annette Rudick.

Thrivent Match Update



As of September 21 our pledged Amount for the Thrivent match is \$18,144.00 This brings us very close to 2/3 of the way 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

Grace Youth Fall Harvest Beef Dinner

Grace Lutheran School Gym
303 W. Ruth Street
Auburn

Sunday, October 12
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Roast Beef
Sauerkraut
Mashed Potatoes
Corn
Green Beans
Baked Beans
Beverages &
Dessert

Adults \$8.00
Seniors and Take Outs \$7.50
Children \$4.00 (Ages 5-10)
Under 5 Free

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

October

Grace Church Calendar

			1 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Service	2 7:00 Senior Choir	3	4 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
5 8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School	6 7:30 Men's Bible Study	7 7:30 School Board School Pictures	8 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Service	9 9:00 am 7:00 Senior Choir	10	11 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
12 8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 9:30 Sunday School YOUTH BEEF DINNER	13 7:30 Men's Bible Study	14 7:30 School Board	15 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Service	16 7:00 Senior Choir	17	18 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
19 8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School	20 7:30 Men's Bible Study	21 6:30 Board of Elders VB vs. Midland	22 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Service	23 7:00 Senior Choir VB at St. Paul	24	25 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
26 8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 9:30 Sunday School	27 7:00 Executive Board	28 VB at Monitor	29 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Service	30 7:00 Senior Choir VB vs. Arnelith	31	