

December 2008

GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

THE ADVENT OF OUR LORD - HE COMES

As I sat in the small den of one of my shut-ins yesterday for our monthly communion service I was comforted but something. Not only was the German liturgy practically the same as ours in both text and melodies, but even the Hymn of The Day (the "Sermon Hymn") appointed for the Second-Last

Sunday of the Church Year was the same: Es ist gewißlich an der Zeit. This is a true testimony to the unity of the Church throughout the entire world. Were all 80 million Lutherans worldwide singing the same hymn and preaching on the same Sunday gospel lesson? I hope so! Here's the text in English.



The Day is Surely Drawing Near*

1. The day is surely drawing near When God's Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear As Judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teacheth.
2. A trumpet loud shall then resound And all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found Shall from their sleep awoken;
But all that live shall in that hour By the Almighty's boundless pow'r
Be changed at His commanding.
3. A book is opened then to all, A record truly telling
What each hath done, both great and small, When he on earth was dwelling;
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, And all be known as they have been
In tho'ts and words and actions.
4. Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand And at the Judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.
5. O Jesus, who my debt didst pay And for my sin wast smitten,
Within the Book of Life, oh, may My name be also written!
I will not doubt; I trust in Thee, From Satan Thou hast made me free
And from all condemnation.
6. Therefore my Intercessor be And for Thy blood and merit
Declare my name from judgment free With all who life inherit,
That I may see Thee face to face With all Thy saints in that blest place
Which Thou for us hast purchased.
7. O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation.
Then hear us when we cry to Thee; Come, mighty Judge, and make us free
From every evil! Amen.

What a great sung confession of the Faith! This hymn hardly needs commentary. Who could miss the rich Law & Gospel? Who could not be terrified by his sins and feel the need for repentance? Who could not, then, be comforted by the declaration of grace, that Jesus was smitten for our sins and paid our debts? And finally, who could not feel the urgency of Christ's Return. The day IS surely drawing near! Amen.

*Jesus is Lord;
He died for our sins;
He rose again;
He will come again!*

**Pastor Wade
Seaver**
Grace Missionary Pastor

* Hymn #611 The Lutheran Hymnal Text: Luke 21:25-36
Author: Bartholomaeus Ringwaldt, 1586, ad.
Translated by: Philip A. Peter, 1880,
alt. Titled: "Es ist gewißlich an der Zeit"
Composer: Wittenberg, 1835 Tune: "Es ist gewißlich"
1st Published in: Geistliche Lieder Wittenberg, 1535.

Dear Grace Family,

Advent means "coming." The entirety of our Christian hope is the Advent of Christ. The dynamic of Christian theology is that God comes to fallen humanity through His Son. We do not approach God. We cannot in our sin. But God's Savior comes to rescue us. He came at Bethlehem. He came to us in Holy Baptism. He comes to us in the loaf and chalice of Communion. He comes in Absolution and the

preaching of the Gospel. And He will come again the Last Day..

Christ's coming is the bridge between the ending of one church year with its focus upon the coming final Day of the Lord and the new Advent season which picks up again the joyous refrain, "He comes, for you procuring, The peace of sin forgiv'n; His children thus securing, Eternal life in heav'n."

Pastor Reed

The Christmas Gimmies

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshiped him."

Matt. 2:11a Every Christmas sermon, Christmas hymn, and children's Christmas program reminds us that Jesus is the focus of Christmas. God, in His perfect agape love, came down to earth as a baby to save us from the sinful world we live in and help create. Our response to this immeasurable gift is to worship Him.

"Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." *Matt. 2:11b* This however, is the half of the verse that our society has latched onto in order to create the Christmas sales season. We have twisted this symbol of worship into something that serves our own desires and furthers the local economy.

Christmas has become about gift-giving and spending more money than we have. We have wrapped the Baby Jesus up in ribbons and bows and tucked Him under the tree behind the other presents. Our challenge is to live in the world but not be a part of the world. The "gimmies" are everywhere – on television, radio, computer, in the words of friends, and in the examples of us as parents. We live in a materialistic society that thrives when money is spent. We are daily encouraged to believe that we need things to be happy. Why should our children be exempt from these same pressures and influences?

We are children of God and His Spirit lives in us, feeding our faith and showing us the way to the Baby Jesus and His saving love. As we begin the



Principal's Report Peter Fredrich

season of Advent, let your prayer, your worship, and the Word of God help you to keep the Baby Jesus as the true gift of Christmas. Worship is the key to modeling for our children the true reason for Christmas. December is a very busy time, and dealing with busyness is often a matter of priorities. The world is telling you to shop, and bake, and shop, and decorate the house, and shop, and pack up gifts for mailing – and did I mention shop? God whispers in your heart to come to Him and worship. Make plans of family attendance at advent services and regular Sunday worship. God's Word will feed you and fill your heart, keeping the influences of the world at bay.

What about the Santa issue? The Santa story is a fun part of Christmas tradition for many families. Be careful to keep Santa in his place. If you use Santa as law (he's watching you so you better be good) you have brought Santa into the religious equation where he does not belong. When children are old enough to shed the "belief" in Santa, he can be an illustration of the presence of faith. Remind your children that at Christmas you hear two stories: one about a baby in a manger and one about a man in a red suit. When we are young we believe both stories, but as we grow older we begin to doubt the truth of a heavy set man traveling down a chimney. Both stories have details that are hard to believe, but we do believe the story with God in a manger and a sky full of angels

because that God has put faith in our hearts. That is the gift that Santa cannot give. It is a gift that only comes to us from God through His word and sacraments.

The Children's Bazaar, Hollywood Mall, will be on December 9th in the morning. Various area vendors will be offering a variety of Christmas gifts at a reasonable price. All items will sell for not more than \$5.00. Volunteers from the Ladies of Grace will wrap all gifts. Please, do not send checks with your children, sorry, but only cash is accepted by the vendors. Students from Trinity, Monitor, have been invited to Grace to shop as well.

Our second mid-quarter ends Friday, December 5. All students will receive their progress reports with the memo on December 9. They should be signed and returned to school.

The Children's Christmas Program will be held in the church on December 21 beginning at 7:00. The program will begin with an optional student recital. The presentation is titled "Words of Christmas."

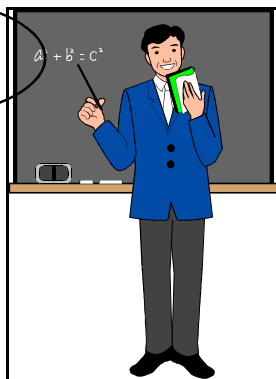
Classes will end at the completion of the regular school day on Tuesday, December 23 for the beginning of our Christmas Break. Classes resume on Monday, January 5, 2009. Bay City Public will not be in session December 22 or 23, so alternative transportation will need to be provided.

On behalf of our students and faculty, may we wish you all the blessings of Christmas. Our Savior is born! May God's gift of salvation in Christ fill you with peace and joy as you witness His love and the greatest gift of all – Jesus!

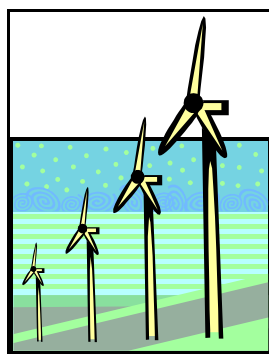
JUNIOR HIGH HIGHLIGHTS

**ADD
OPPOSITE
!!!!**

Algebra basically uses letters and other symbols to represent unknown numbers and applies arithmetical operations to them. Seventh grade math will soon begin a unit on algebra. They will work with algebraic expressions and equations. They are all looking forward to it and I know they can hardly wait. The eighth grade, well into algebra, continues to work with equations that have the variable on both sides of the equal sign. This also includes



various challenging word problems. Religion for the month of December will focus on all the preparations needed for our annual Christmas program presented December 21 titled "Words of Christmas. The students are preparing for their first oral book report in language. This presentation, given in front of the class, helps eliminate one of the greatest fears of most people, public speaking. All erosion requires energy, which comes from wind, water, or gravity.



When energy of motion is reduced, deposition occurs. Mass movement occurs under all geological conditions. Science

studies will explore how erosion and deposition of the earth's materials constantly change the landscape of the land.

Studies of American history have brought us to the time when our government was first formed. We have started reading the U.S. Constitution in its entirety. Although this is a time consuming task, a complete reading and discussion is necessary to get a full understanding of our democratic form of government and how it works. The Constitution guarantees every citizen certain rights. Along with these rights comes the responsibility to preserve, protect, and defend them.



Miss Rudick's Classroom

We have been enjoying the season of autumn and are now looking forward to winter. We have been especially excited by the few flakes of snow that have fallen recently!

Our excitement this month was having three dental assistant students come in and give us a dental presentation. One of the students was Mrs. Arnold's daughter, Whitney. They showed us how to brush and floss our teeth correctly. Then many of us had the opportunity to practice brushing and flossing on a stuffed animal. We also learned about



**Ethan
practicing
brushing
the
dog's
teeth.**

how good nutrition also helps to keep our teeth healthy. It was a very exciting time!

In religion we are reminded in each lesson that God is leading us. He led Deborah, Gideon, and David. In each of these stories we noted that God used what seemed to be small and insignificant things to show His greatness and save His people.

In Science we are learning about living things and their needs. We have learned the different parts of the plant. We have also learned what all living things need and how those needs change depending on the habitat. We will go on to discover the different types of homes animals have.

We are now learning many new concepts in math. We continue to learn many things together such as counting money and telling time. These can be very difficult concepts. Our 2nd grade students are learning to add with carrying and subtract with borrowing. Our 1st grade students are learning how to identify even and odd

**Whitney
Arnold
helps
Alexis
and
Jayden
frost
their
tooth
cookie.**



numbers and how to measure in inches. Our kindergarten students are learning to count by 2's 5's and 10's.

We are also doing a lot of reading. The 2nd grade students have much longer stories this year. Kindergarten and 1st grade continue to learn more words and how to sound out certain words. All of our students are doing an exceptional job on their reading skills.

This school year is turning out to be a very exciting and productive year! We are learning so many new things. We pray our Lord's continued blessings on this exciting school year!

Room 4 News

The Gators are standing in the spotlight this month. Our room is moving into the 2nd marking period with gusto. My most prized and proud reflection is the students' story books. They have put so much time and effort into the process; they are truly seeing the result of it. They have written stories with their own illustrations. They have all enjoyed writing *written and illustrated by:* on the cover. The fact that there is not a writing test for the students this year will not deter them or me from establishing a strong writing base. We will continue to explore the different genres and styles of writing.

We are closing the unit in the science curriculum deal-

ing with the sun, earth and moon. This will be used as a base of comprehension prior to us delving into the science kits which will explore the concepts in much more detail and inclusion. The students are very excited.

As you all know, we are crunching all available times to put together a memorable Christmas Program. We have incorporated the spoken lines in the program as this month's memory. We also have the music to listen to and be better prepared to lead. As a side note, we will be looking for as much pre-service music as possible. Any of your children that you can coax into doing an instrumental, solo, or small ensemble piece will accent the evening beautifully.

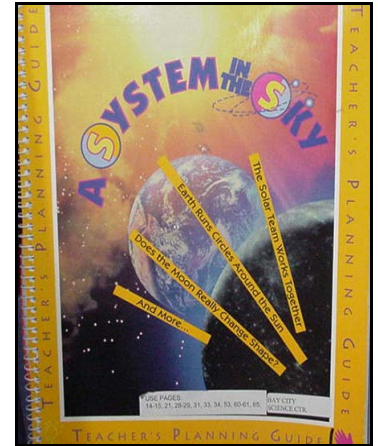
We began the year very well with our memory verses. However, it has been noticed that grades are slipping, as is the

The Universe and beyond. !!

memory work that is to be done at home. Please take the time to help them with

their memory, as we have been instructed to get into the bible and know God's Word.

We enter into next week with a thankful heart, and praise the great provider for the bountiful blessings He bestows on us. A blessed thanksgiving to each of you!



Many Thanks!

The Ladies of Grace congregation would like to thank those of you who helped make our Holiday Bake Shoppe such a success. That includes those who supplied ingredients from the donations list or cash to purchase needed items, those who spent hours baking the goodies or frying Eisenkuegle, and of course those of you who so generously purchased the baked goods.

After matching funds of \$600 were received from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, our total profit was \$2330.60. Ladies of Grace has always maintained a mission minded focus, so 10% or \$233.00 will go to Lutheran World Relief-Human Care Services, and 50% of the balance, or \$1048.80 will be banked for use in the future sanctuary repairs and painting. Most of the remaining profit will be set aside to use in projects helping others.

Again, many thanks to our friends and family at Grace Lutheran Church. May the Lord bless you all!

Caring for distant members:

The Elders plan to contact members that have become distant from Grace. Several of these members have relocated to other states while some are still in Auburn and surrounding area. The goal is to minister to these members in the best way possible. In some cases we would refer them to a local congregation if we cannot invite them back to Grace. Other situations may be appropriate. If you have family members or friends that have become distant from Grace, please contact them or refer their names to one of the Elders.

Memorials



Soli Deo Gloria

Given in Memory

Owen Rohn

By
Roland & Ellen Reiss

Vivian Kuchek

By
Robert & Olive Schmidt

Ladies of Grace

Plan to attend the annual Christmas potluck dinner party held Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 6:00 pm in the library. (Note the time.) Make your reservation by calling Gloria Kunderer at 631-0969 or Polly Behmlander at 662-6713, by December 5. At this time you also have an opportunity to give a free-will donation to "Coats for Kids". We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 pm.



October 2008

Grace Lutheran
Church

Treasurers

Report

		Current Month	Year to Date	Pro rated budget	
I Missions	Mission District & Synod	6,000.00	31128.88	25000.00	30000.00
II. Staff	Staff Payroll	17,545.77	175414.61	181500.00	217800.00
	Organist	400.00	4525.00	5125.00	6150.00
	Employees Benefits	4,915.01	42371.01	41711.67	50054.00
	Social Security	433.51	4257.56	4682.50	5619.00
	Music Director	430.00	3310.00	3479.17	4175.00
	TOTAL	23724.29	229878.18	236498.33	283798.00
III. Church Operations	Stewardship	0.00	45.37	0.00	0.00
	Vehicle Expense	300.00	1942.32	1000.00	1200.00
	Guest Pastors	250.00	530.00	729.17	875.00
	Conventions	60.00	385.87	1000.00	1200.00
	General Supplies	195.52	3019.31	4000.00	4800.00
	Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Elder Seminar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Technology Cmte.	0.00	575.00	416.67	500.00
	TOTAL	805.52	6497.87	7145.83	8575.00
IV. Christian Education	Conventions/Education	0.00	230.00	583.33	700.00
	Sub. Teachers	120.00	1410.00	1250.00	1500.00
	School Supplies	0.00	41.00	0.00	0.00
	Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Library Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	N L S A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sunday School	67.15	333.17	250.00	300.00
	Vacation Bible School	0.00	81.15	250.00	300.00
	Valley Tuition	0.00	4900.00	0.00	0.00
		187.15	6995.32	2333.33	2800.00
V. Maint. & Utilities	Utilities	1053.27	23301.14	30000.00	36000.00
	Repairs	914.90	4649.76	7500.00	9000.00
	Insurance	0.00	4261.50	5500.00	6600.00
	Janitorial Supplies	0.00	0.00	833.33	1000.00
	New Equipment	0.00	324.54	833.33	1000.00
	Snow Removal	0.00	480.00	1000.00	1200.00
	Janitorial Services	1392.00	12534.80	10000.00	12000.00
	Misc./interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	3360.17	45551.74	55666.67	66800.00
VI. Debt	Member Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Church Loan	2628.00	25075.77	26280.00	31536.00
	Storm Drain	0.00	0.00	180.00	216.00
	TOTAL	2628.00	25075.77	26460.00	31752.00
	GRAND TOTAL	36705.13	345127.76	353104.17	423725.00

In May, we encouraged the Thrivent members of Grace to use the supplemental funds that Thrivent has available. You responded by giving almost **\$44,000.00**, which with matching Thrivent money grew to be almost **\$66,000.00**. We increased our yearly giving by approximately **\$22,000.00**. **Way to go everyone.** That has helped us meet our weekly, monthly, and yearly budget. You also still have time to give more if you haven't meet your limit. Any Thrivent member over the age of 16, who owns a Thrivent product, (investments or insurance) can give up to \$600.00 to the school. That gift along with the supplement from Thrivent goes into the general fund, and is used to fulfill our budget needs. The gift can be in the form of cash or check. Don't forget to fill out a form which you will find in the church office. It may be easier to fill out the form once, and making copies of it. This will act as a reminder to put it into your weekly offering. If you don't know if you have reached your limit, you can call the Church Office @662-6161, and Lynn can give you that information. **Starting in January, we can start again with the \$600 limit per Thrivent member.**



The entire congregation is invited to our

CPTL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
Right after the late service

MEAT, BREAD, AND TABLE SETTINGS PROVIDED.

BRING A DISH TO PASS.

IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH

**A-F—bring a cold salad, fruit salad, vegetable tray
or tossed salad.**

G-P—bring a main dish

R-W—bring a hot vegetable or hot potato

**Join us for an afternoon of good food, fun
and fellowship!!**

YOUTH NEWS



really, we do!

We'd like to thank Ray and Debbie Garcia for all their hard work in bringing the talented musicians together for the Christian concert they held recently at the State Theater in Bay City. The performers got rave reviews from our Youth

Group and we're already looking forward to the next concert!

The Youth will be gathering for a Christmas party at the Whalen's house on Saturday, December 6th, starting at 6:00 pm. We'll have a nacho and taco bar, play some games, and have a gift exchange (\$5.00 or less, the sillier the better). Our wishes for a blessed Christmas go out to the congregation of Grace Lutheran!

It was a brisk, sunny day when the Youth met to rake leaves...a LOT of leaves! Several of our member's yards looked much neater after our crew got done with them. Afterwards, we headed over to Ruff's house for pizza and a movie. We always have a good time when we get together to rake leaves...



**A job well done at Earl & Irene Schmidt's House.
Time to move on!!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Scholastic	2 Book	3 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Advent Worship 8:00 Senior Choir Fair	4 7:00 pm Anniversary Committee meeting	5	6 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
7 8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Christmas Potluck in gym at Noon 5:30 Community Sing St. Joe Church	8 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	9 Hollyland Mall 6:00 Ladies of Grace Christmas Party 7:30 School Board	10 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Advent Worship 8:00 Senior Choir	11	12	13 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
14 8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 9:30	15 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	16 7:00 Board of Elders	17 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Advent Worship 8:00 Senior Choir	18	19	20 8:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:00 am Church Decorating
21 8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 pm Children's Christmas Program	22 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship	26 Winter Break	27 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
28 8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 9:30 Bible Study	29 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	30	31 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Worship			

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

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

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December

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Thomas Prah, 4 Kathryn Battle, 4 Robert Krystosek, 4 Drew Schmidt, 4 Kerry Storey, 5 Margaret Barber, 6 James Feinauer, 6 Bernard VanTol, 6 James Webb, 8 Roy Hayward Jr., 8 Russell Pickelman, 8 Jacob Schmidt, 8 Barbara Vennix, 11 Laurretta Friebe, 11 Emily Gray, 11 Christopher Lewicki, 12 Aaron Bauer, 12 Bethany Weiss, 13 Jordan Hakes, 13 Robert Lee, 14 Taylor Bickham, 14 Carol Bickham, 17 Michael Lance, 18 Zachary Horneber, 20 Jessica Pyle, 21 Amy Bickham, 21 Brian Keidel, 21 Steven VanTol, 22 Ashley Kraatz, 22 Emily Kraatz, 22 Cindy Walter, 23 Kyle Rauschenberger, 24 Rita Reiss, 24 Justin Varner, 24 Ruth Anna Wegener, 25 Alexis Vance, 26 Barbara Gonyea, 26 Brian Keidel, 26 Irene Taglauer, 27 Tracy Storey, 28 Dallas Eichman, 28 Cameron Morford, 30 Allyse Fiebke

Anniversaries

5 Jeffrey & Barbara Vennix, 10 Mark & Pamela Horneber, 10 Ronald & Carol Mularz, 22 Mark & Doreen Hetzner, 28, Allen & Edyth Ousterhout, 31 Elmer & Irene Taglauer