

# February 2010

## GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

### *Unanimous Voice for the Future of Grace School*



Members of Grace voted unanimously Sunday to adopt a staffing and educational design for implementation next school year. A proposal recommended by the Board for Elementary Education and outlined thoroughly by Teacher Annette Rudick was questioned at length by a large Voters Assembly. The result was unqualified approval. The Voters approved the addition of one half-

time educator for a total of two full-time teachers and two half-time teachers next year.

The Voters also concurred with a recommendation from the Executive Board to maintain the 2010, previously approved Budget, including the accustomed Mission support which has long been the stewardship practice of Grace Lutheran Church.

The serious attention, careful preparation, and united spirit of the members was a great joy to all of us for

which we thank and praise our Lord. All those present exemplified one of the Scripture lessons from that morning's Divine Service.

"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body ..Now you are the body of Christ."  
( 1 Cor. 12 ).

Please direct any questions that you may still have to any of our teachers.

### **NEXT GRACE 50th ANNIVERSARY February 7**

*Divine Services  
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Reception for Confirmands  
from 1985-2009, 9:30 a.m.*



**Winter Fun 1 was a great success. Join us for the next one on February 21. More information inside this issue.**



# Love means never having to say you're sorry? No, it doesn't!

**BY PETER FREDRICH PRINCIPAL**

The world in which we live, work, and play often does not recognize apology as a healthy life skill. In fact, some perceive it as a weakness. Celebrities sometimes are proud not to apologize for hurtful behavior. When politicians apologize, we are left with the impression that they are sorry only for getting caught.

If you watch for apology in the media, you are more likely to find excuses than anything even remotely resembling repentance. Quite often, recognition of the need for apology is one thing that sets us apart from the world. Christians know that repentance is a healthy part of our relationship with each other – and with God. As parents, apology is a vital part of our relationship with our children and an essential skill to model and teach.

The idea that apology indicates weakness is a popular myth. Have you ever worked with someone who does not admit to mistakes? Did you see that person as being strong? It takes strength of character to readily admit a mistake and strength of values to work toward repairing a relationship. Repentance and forgiveness will not weaken a relationship. When you admit your mistake, you show love and care for the person involved. If you tell someone you care about them but refuse to acknowledge that your words or actions caused pain, your words ring hollow and show you care only about yourself.

The biggest mistake we make when not apologizing is assuming that confessing to God is enough. Certainly, confessing to God results in forgiveness. God loves us even if we do not apologize, but He wants what is best for us and that includes repentance. If we hurt someone and do not apologize, that person may forgive us despite our lack of apology, or drop the issue. The issue, however, will not go away. The pain can be buried and fester, only to grow into contempt or conflict. Even if the pain stays buried, it will prevent you from building a healthy relationship with

the person you have hurt. When we cannot admit to our sin, we find it difficult to believe that we need God's grace. Even in a worldly sense, emotional growth cannot happen if we cannot admit mistakes. Also, we tend to spend a lot of time creating a world in which we always are correct. Confessing your sin, apologizing, and working toward reconciliation are God's plan for building strong relationships with each other. Repentance brings healing.

Children often do not know what an apology is, or how to do it. Older children may apologize reluctantly. It's good to ask them to apologize, even if it is little more than a formality. It is good to teach your children to apologize so they can begin to understand the process and see the event from the viewpoint of the person who was hurt. An apology results in the development of empathy, and that is a wonderful thing. Teaching your child to apologize is essential. Likewise, it is important to encourage your child to practice apology when appropriate situations arise. However, the most important step to learning repentance is found in what you, as a parent, model for your children. When your children watch or experience your apology, they learn more than can be measured about God's plan for healthy relationships.

Be sincere and clear. Name the incident and be specific about your contribution to the grief. It's fine to give possible causes for what happened, but be wary of giving excuses. In other words, do not let the reason for your behavior excuse you from accepting responsibility for the hurt you caused. It also is helpful to be specific about what you did and what you should have done. Apologize early and often. While you should not apologize for things that are not your responsibility, it is a good idea to apologize for seemingly little things. The apology should fit the situation. Sometimes a quick word is all that is necessary to smooth over a rough spot; other

times a private discussion is in order. Try to apologize as soon as you realize you have done something hurtful. The longer you wait, the more likely the issue will be buried, only to resurface later.

Remember to atone and accept. Apology is about more than saying "my bad" and moving on. It includes a genuine feeling of sorrow that leads to a desire to atone. Is there something you can do to correct the hurt? If so, do it. If not, explain what you will change in your behavior that will reduce the chance of repeating the error. Once you have apologized and been forgiven, allow yourself to accept the grace of forgiveness. You have been brought to repentance by your God-given faith and conscience. God, and the person you hurt, blesses you with the grace of forgiveness. Be thankful. God always blesses repentance with forgiveness, and this is a wonderful fact and feeling. Be thankful God forgives and models that forgiveness for us to practice with each other. Let the healing begin!

As children of God, we are part of a long history of sin, repentance, forgiveness, and grace. Repentance is a part of a healthy relationship with God. This is His blessing to us, even though we do not deserve it. Children who learn they can admit mistakes, apologize, and receive forgiveness are blessed with a gift that will influence everything they do. They will be more willing to learn, try new things, and reach out a hand in friendship and love. They will know that they walk and work with the safety net of God's love and grace. Our God is a wonderful God who is able to bring this good out of our sin!

- We continue with our joined Trinity/Grace basketball season. Our "A" teams play most Mondays with all teams playing on Fridays. Check our web site for specific dates and times.

Continued from previous page

• 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 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost is being paid for by our C.P.T.L. – many thanks!

•The third mid-quarter marking period ends on February 12<sup>th</sup>, with the reports going home attached to the memo on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Our second parent/teacher conferences of the year are scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>. No classes will be held on that Monday. Classes resume on February 23.

•Our annual Grace Spelling Bee will be held at 1:00 on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Students from grade three through eight will compete to find the best speller of each grade, and the school spelling champion. This is a warm up for the Bay/Midland Lutheran Spelling Bee on March 11 for grades 7 & 8 and on March 18 for grades 5 & 6.



### 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. Sixth grade math is working with problems involving percentages. This includes percent of increase or decrease, discount, profit, and loss. Seventh grade math is currently 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 anticipated 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 will be an earthworm. They are all looking forward to it, all be it, some reluctantly.



### Accelerated Reader Winners for second half of the second quarter

**These children are smiling because as winners they have a choice of 1/2 hour of free game time, an ice cream sundae or a scholastic book**

### Lutheran Special Education Ministries

**LSEM** is accepting applications for : a Psychologist (contracted as needed). Qualifications are Master's degree in education with an endorsement as a school psychologist. Will be responsible for conducting psycho-educational evaluations and consultations on an "as needed" basis in order to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education. Duties include: Providing problem-solving consultation with parents, general education and LSEM professional staff; conducting , interpreting and communicating test results, implications, and recommendations; writing reports summarizing data, for parents, general education and LSEM professional staff members. More information posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## Gledhill's Gators

As we sit on the half-way point of the 2009-2010 school year, we point forward with great enthusiasm and anticipation for what lies ahead for the family at Grace Lutheran.

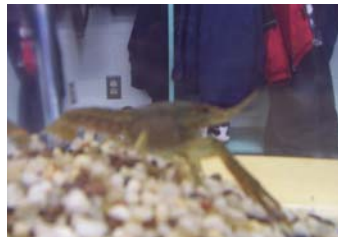
As earlier, my three math classes are all delving into new aspects of their curriculum. 5<sup>th</sup> grade continues to explore the vastness of fractions. Everyone is moving at different paces, and each changes 'position' depending of the lesson. This is good, because someone else always seems to have the opportunity to peer-tutor the others. They seem to respond very well to this, and I think it is crucial in their social development, as well as cognitive. 4<sup>th</sup> grade is just now crossing the gorge from picture-fractions to numbered fractions. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is playing with money and exploring long division. They are each plotting along with intent and drive. The math curriculum that we use is so comprehensive, and easy to teach from. It moves at such a pace to build very smoothly from the previous knowledge.

We use Speed Tests prior to each lesson, which are 2 to 3 minute drills of basic math computations that correspond to the lessons. Many of them use multiplication tables or basic facts. I have been noticing that multiplication needs to be boned up on. Instead of drilling on paper, or



even flash cards, we have stepped a bit outside the box. We have one-on-one competi-

tions where students will turn to face one another showing numbers with their fingers. The 1<sup>st</sup> to get the product stays to face the next student. We've also tossed dice with the same process. The students beg for these whenever work is completed. That's motivation that will yield results. Our Science Kits have taken a leap forward. I was delivered two crayfish and four snails this week. We will be exploring their habitats and needs for survival. So far, the students just want



to observe them and ask questions about how they move, and their

general physiology. I look forward to taking them through this exploration. The first portion of the Science Kits introduced plants and their general parts and function. As we

started at the bottom and worked up, we studied the root systems of small plants that they could actually observe. As we talked about soil and the requirements therein, someone asked me, "Mr. Gledhill, what if we planted seeds in cereal?"

Would they be able to grow?" So, they brought in cereal, crushed it



up, and we are going to try and grow cucumbers in Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Cheerios, Raison Bran, etc. An individual, yet curriculum-based exploration means so much more to students. I look forward to these results.

We continue to push on with our History-of-Auburn presentation. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade have written a lot of information down, and all participated extremely well in discussions regarding the presentation style of the new information. We've had lessons before introducing them to timelines, but Auburn's is identifiable for the students. We will incorporate sock-puppets, posters, & role-playing in the presentation.

May we all recognize the blessings that are showered down on us daily.

## Miss Rudick's Class

In February we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. This is a fun time every year for our K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. 100 days of school certainly fly by quickly!

In Religion we have been studying Jesus' ministry, from the choosing of His disciples to His miracles.



In science we will begin studying magnets. In social studies we will begin studying major people and events in history.

In math the kindergarten students are learning addition facts. They also continue to practice identifying coins and their value. 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are learning more about place value, money values, and dif-



ferent measurements. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students continue to work more with basic geometry, subtraction with borrowing, and multiplication concepts.

In reading the kindergarten students are beginning to learn some very basic words that they see frequently. They are also learning to identify sequences.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students continue to practice concepts such as context clues and sequencing.

We pray God's blessings on all of you throughout this holiday season. Please take time to worship our Lord and Savior and spread that Good News to others just as the shepherds and wise men. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

## Winter Family Fun - Act II (Outdoors)

Another Winter Family Fun afternoon is planned for February 21 at the Midland City Forest from 2-4 pm. All Grace members, or friends of members, are invited. The activities the City Forest offers is a toboggan run, sled hill, skating rink, and cross country trails. The equipment for the activities is rented at the cost of cross country skies or toboggans - \$6.00 and skates or sleds \$2.00 for 2 hours. Chili, soup, cookies, hot cocoa, and more will be furnished afterwards in the library at Grace. A freewill offering will be taken to defray the expenses of the meal with the balance going to Haiti, Lutheran World Relief.



## Youth News

### Super-Bowl – Soup/Sub Sale

February 7 - It's that time of year for the Grace Youth Group to create their Superbowl Spectacular subs. These are fresh, made-to-order subs and also returning this year are our delicious soups. Sub's are \$4.50 for a 6 inch, and \$6.75 for a 12 inch. Choices include Turkey/Ham, Pastrami/Turkey, and Ham/Pastrami. Soups are \$4.75 a quart for Chick Noodle and \$5.25 a quart for the Cheesy Potato. Order forms are available on the usher's desk in the Narthex. Any orders placed on February 7th will be filled as ingredients allow, so place your order in advance to ensure you get your fill of these yummy soups and subs.

### Pasties

We will be taking orders for pasties from **The Pasty Oven** for \$3.50 each. The Pasty Oven is a major producer of homemade style pasties in Florence, Wisconsin.

A pasty is a Cornish meat pie brought to the North Country by miners from Cornwall England. We will be selling the pasties for \$3.50 each. They come in 6 tasty flavors; traditional, traditional with rutabaga, chicken with cheese, vegetable with cheese, pizza with pepperoni, pizza with sausage. The pasties will be delivered near the end of February. Please see any youth to place your order-they freeze well!

### Auction

Mark your calendar now for April 11, this will be a great evening of fun, food and entertainment as we hold the youth auction. We are looking for all crafters to start your projects now, thank you in advance of your donation. If you have an item to donate please let Ray Garcia know, he will be happy to take it off your hands. In the past we have had some great items including cottage rentals, boat trips, fishing trips, gift card and local services. The proceeds will be used for the 2010 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans that will be attended by our youth. If you have not attended a youth auction in the past you would not believe the fun that our own auctioneer Ernie Weiss brings. See you there!

## EXCEL IN GIVING

Grace is providing a new stewardship program starting in January 2010.

It is called **Excel in Giving** and is offered thru The Church Extension Fund of The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The way it works is that your tithes are automatically transferred from your personal bank account, either checking or saving accounts, and directly deposited into our churches banking account. (Electronic Funds Transfer – EFT). You can do this on any schedule you wish, weekly, biweekly, monthly, etc, and you can indicate any amount you wish, either a portion of your tithe or your whole tithe. This program is convenient for both our membership and our church. You don't have to remember to bring your offering envelope to church each week or if you are out of town on Sunday, your tithe is automatically given on the schedule you set up.

You will still continue to get your offering envelopes, so if you wish to give money on special occasions, like Lent or Advent, you can do so. Or if you wish to give part of your tithe to Missions, or any special fund drive, you can still use your regular envelopes to do that.

If you are interested in looking into this opportunity to streamline your tithing, please check the usher's desk or stop in at the church office to get more information.

### Listen to What You Want,

#### When You Want

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Topics you can find this week include: The Movie "Avatar," Absent Fathers, Decision Theology, Sarah, Abortion & Civil Rights and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

### Annual Athletic Club Chicken Dinner

The dinner sponsored by St. John Amelith Athletic Club members, will be held Sunday, Feb. 14th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring your sweetheart for a taste of summer featuring the famous "Amelith" BBQ chicken. ½ chicken = \$8.00; ¼ chicken = \$6.00. Take-outs available at 10:30 am. A Bake Sale will be held by LWML at the dinner. The Athletic Club has provided support for the athletic program and equipment at St. John Amelith School in Bay City for 30 years.

### LLL Zone Rally 2010

The Rally will be hosted by St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth on **March 14, 2010** with the theme: "Share His Story". The speaker for the event will be Rev. Dr. Bryan Saiminen from the Michigan District Shepherd Society. This group of concerned volunteers, lay people, pastors and teachers are working together to bring about greater ministerial health in the Michigan District. Church worker "burn-out" is always a concern for dedicated lay people. Tickets for this event can be purchased through Bob Loesel in Frankenmuth, 989-652-6570 or your church Lutheran Hour Ambassador.

### Snow Maintenance Needed

The long time sidewalk snow maintenance individual of our congregation wants to retire from these duties. These duties include snow plowing the sidewalks and entrances on school days and on Sunday all three entrances to the church. Also, sprinkling salt where needed to melt ice. It may be difficult to get one person to do all this so perhaps a committee of two or three men might work also. If anyone is interested please contact the church secretary at 662-6161.

### CPTL Cookie Dough

The CPTL has extra frozen cookie dough to sell. We have three flavors left: chocolate chunk, white macadamia nut, and chocolate pecan chunk. The tubs are 3lb. containers and sell for \$10.00. If interested please call Carol Harrison at 695-4760.



*Given in Memory*

**John Dominowski**

By  
Howard Pyle-Bobbi Antead  
Jim & Gloria Kundinger  
Lorina Rosenbrock

**Ken Reisig**

By  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bowman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kundinger  
Ed & Lynda Bergeron  
Bob & Jan Dzurka  
Duane & Lynn Schmidt  
Fred & Marilyn Alkare

**Shirley Kloha**

By  
Pauline Behmlander

**Harvey Kipfmiller**

By  
Bruce & Judy Lance  
Iris Dominowski  
Bill & Elaine Schmidt  
Donna Geneseo

**James Milliman**

By  
Pauline Behmlander

**George Koehler**

By  
Dallas & Judy Eichman

**Eugene Martin**

By  
Don & Darlene Pfannes

**Grace Women Gather**

The month of February affords the women of our congregation to gather twice for fellowship, planning, and devotional time. The first is Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 pm in the school library. We will be taking care of normal business and also discussing ideas for a fundraiser enabling us to give help monetarily to missions and our own congregational needs.

The second opportunity is the Lenten Prayer Day Service to be held Saturday, February 20, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Midland. Registration begins at 9:30 am, Prayer service at 10:00 am, followed by a soup luncheon. The cost is \$4.00. A carpool will leave Grace at 9:15 am, so please let Rosie Taglauer or Sue Reed know if you can attend.

**Lutheran Child**

**& Family Services**

Lutheran Child & Family Services Auxiliary meeting will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> at our church at 7:00 pm in our school Library. Linda Klimmek from Immanuel Lutheran, Bay City, will present a slide show and tell us about her Most Ministries trip to Poland. We hope to have some of our Grace members join us for this informative experience.

**Haiti Door Offering**

The devastation in Haiti continues to sadden all those with a humanitarian heart and especially those of us who know the Haitians not only desperately need basic relief supplies but also the hope which can only fully come through the Gospel of

Christ. Jesus speaks of God's commendation of the faithful, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Matt. 25:35-6) A witness of Christ will never appear authentic unless the church also acts in mercy. All donations for Haiti that will be received we hope to receive 1 to 2 matching dollars through Thrivent.


**Grace Fish Fry**

Plans are taking place for this year's fish fry. This is the main fundraising event for our CPTL, which provides extra funds for our school. The date for this year is March 12. We need everyone's help as this is a big project. Our donation list and work sign up sheets will be out in mid-February. As soon as our publicity fliers are available, please pick some up to distribute at your workplace or any other place that will help advertise.

Our prices are the same as last year. Adult & Take-outs are \$9.00. Seniors are \$8.50, 5-11 are \$4.50 and 4 & under are free.



Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

	1		2	3 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	4 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
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7 8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Last 25 Years Confirmation Celebration in Gym	8		9 7:00 Ladies of Grace Meeting in Library 7:00 School Board 7:30 Board of Elders	10 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship	11 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	12	13 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
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14 8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 9:30 Voter's Meeting	15		16 9:00 am -3:00 pm Ladies quilting at Gengler's 7:00 pm Grace host LCFSA Meeting	17 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 1:00 Grace Spelling Bee 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday	18 1/2 Day School Parent Teacher Conf. 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	19 1/2 Day School	20 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
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21 8:00 (H.C.) & 10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible Study	22 Mid-Winter Break No School 7:00 Executive Board	23 7:00 CPTL Meeting	24 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	25 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	26	27 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
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28 8:00 & 10:30 (H.C.) Worship 9:30 Bible Study							
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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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*February*

## ***February Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### *BIRTHDAYS*

1 Heidi Arnold, 1 Mary Kalitta, 1 Lucas Weiss, 2 Ned Gray, 3 Dale Gripentrog, 3 Kaleena Kirmizian, 3 Loretta Wegener, 3 Kayla Mularz, 4 Jeffrey Sugden, 6 Jon Alexander, 8 Aaron Stanford, 9 Stephanie Dominowski, 9 Paul Netkowski Sr., 11 Trevor Shuart, 11 Ruth Skyrme, 12 DeLynn Taglauer, 13 Crystal Wisniewski, 14 Dale Gripentrog, 14 Jordan Pyle, 14 John Whalen, 14 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 & DaleAnn Gripentrog, 11 Leonard & Maxine LeBeau, 23 Arthur & Elaine Prah