

GRACE SPOTLIGHTER

WHO YOU SEE IS WHO YOU GET

One of our catechism students used the word "fake." Another said, "phony," when we talked of pretending to be something we're not. We agreed a Christian must never cover up an unbelieving heart or sinful life by pretending.

Jesus spoke of this danger of hypocrisy. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21)

To only honor God with lips but to have a heart far away (Matt. 15:8) is hypocrisy.

Two-timing is nothing new. The apostles confronted it. Ananias and Sapphira, two prominent members of the Jerusalem church, (Acts 5) were struck dead for hypocrisy, and it brought great fear on the whole church.

Isn't it curious that something which might seem so trivial like eating forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden would result in death?

The sin of Ananias and Sapphira might appear to be just a petty misdemeanor. They misrepresented their church offering. They said one thing but did another. Haven't we all done that? Yet, it incurred divine condemnation. It shocked the church that God would sentence hypocrisy so severely.

What really is hypocrisy? It literally means "under separation," that is, to be divided from the truth, to act a part, to pretend. This is the deepest, most precarious defect of fallen humanity. It is the devil's own character, "for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

"Hypo-" in *hypocrisy* means "under." Like is *hypodermic* (*under* the skin). A hypodermic needle goes under the dermis (skin). So, what does a hypocrite do? He wears a false skin and imagines that a pretend face over a real face will fool the world and God. But hypocrisy never fools God and often times doesn't fool the world either.

The "-crisy" in *hypo-crisy* means "separation." From this root we also get *crisis*. A crisis is the separation point beyond which there is no return. The biggest danger to our souls is not materialism, obscenity, conceit, or delin-



quency. Bad as these are, it is the separating hypocrisy behind them which is at the root of such thing and must then never be tolerated.

I want you to keep this in mind as we mark special observances this time of year. For example....

Halloween - I was thinking of trick-or-treaters parading to our door. Some high-minded people believe Halloween is incompatible with Christian ideals. Nonsense. Pretending is one thing when children dress up for Halloween. But once home, costumes come off, and they are still just little boys and girls. It's another thing to pretend to listen to God or put on a face for something one doesn't really take seriously.

Reformation - Our Reformation celebration is memorial to the *authenticity* of the Gospel. The Reformation was the "unmasking" of an awful teaching that pretended people could cooperate in earning salvation by works of merit. Salvation by one's own works is pure

(Continued on page 1)

hypocrisy. Never pretend otherwise.

Elections - We are right on top of another national election in which the fundamental issue is the *character* of America. Just who are we? Will we and our leaders show mere pretense and make-believe or will we actually be what our citizenship or office demand? We pray for President Obama. Why? Because we want him actually to *be the president!* We don't want him to be something else. We don't want someone play-acting. We want a real president who understands that "*presidentail*" means serving the country. Any candidate who says one thing only to get votes but doesn't mean it is hypocritical.

Thanksgiving - We have a national holiday this month meant to recognize and give gratitude to God for the blessings of this land. It should be a nationwide re-discovery that underneath all our blessings is the gracious hand of Almighty God. The true state of affairs is that God is bountiful. That's the real and bona fide truth. To mark Thanksgiving but never to really thank God is dishonest.

Jesus' most severe *criticism* (from the same root as *crisis*—separation point) was for those who behaved like Pharisees. Did Jesus not love the Pharisees? Of course He loved these men, but they were crackerjack hypocrites. Hypocrisy would be their ruin. Lip service and pretending is just plain wrong and sinful.

I don't want to pretend Halloween is something more sinister than just having fun. To pretend the Reformation is about Lutherans winning and others losing is to separate from the core truth. Let's not pretend the best thing about elections is "throwing the bums out." We have a privilege to vote. It's phony hypocrisy to merely throw dirt on one's opponent. To make Thanksgiving a springboard into a season of consumption rather than a reflection of the generosity of God in Christ is hypocrisy.

So, what is the remedy for hypocrisy?

Our great solace and joy is that God has one face, not two. He never gives with one hand only to subtract with the other. He actually IS who He IS (Exodus 3:14).

He is what He says. He is what He does. He remains where He has promised to be for you in the Sacraments. He doesn't pretend to love you. He doesn't fake it in supplying you His forgiveness. His divine pardon for all our hypocrisy isn't phony. Jesus went to a real cross and died a real death to bring us the one authentic, forthright, real, reliable, and utterly truthful gift—Himself!

God never pretends to be someone He's not. He presents Himself to you in Christ without artifice, craft, or tricks. What you hear in His Word is exactly what you receive—a Savior giving service to you because it was the will of His Father in heaven. You have a Savior whose lips and heart are seamless. Your blessing is having a God unchangeable and faithful to you. He is the exact opposite of hypocrisy. He never merely acts His part. He is your God and Savior. His church is not theater nor His baptism counterfeit (1 John 2).

God lead us to repent of our hypocrisy, remove the masks behind which we would hide, and rejoice there is nothing of God's grace hidden from us, nothing just on the surface, and nothing to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

It is good
to give thanks
to the Lord ...
-Psalm 92:1



Pastor Reed

November 7 - **All Saints Sunday**

Divine Service of Holy Communion

November 14 - Morning Worship

(Holy Communion following)

November 21 - Divine Service of Holy Communion

November 24 - **Thanksgiving Eve** Service, 7:00 pm

November 25 - **Thanksgiving Day** Service, 9:00 am

November 28 - **Advent 1** — Morning Worship

(Holy Communion following)

Teaching your child how to learn

In the first few years of school, the focus for reading instruction is on decoding words. Somewhere around third grade, the need for thorough comprehension becomes the primary focus. From this point on, students do more reading for each subject and, with each passing year need to understand and remember more of what they read. This can present a serious stumbling block for many children.

What readers need is meta-cognition: thinking about learning. This means a child is able to monitor what is being read and knows if the text makes sense. A child who does not monitor well can read an entire chapter in a social studies text and not learn anything new. A child that does monitor well will gain the maximum information from the text. Meta-cognition is a huge part of self-regulation and is evidence of active learning.

Learning to monitor comprehension does not happen naturally. Most children learn it by trial and error, but all children can benefit from being specifically taught how to do it. Your child may be learning these techniques already at school. If you model them at home, you will help your child improve as a learner.

A technique called reciprocal teaching is the model for many comprehension activities. It is a well-researched technique and easy to use. It is most effective when you are working with a child one-on-one.

Reciprocal teaching is basically conversation between an adult and a child about what is being read. Practicing this technique helps children develop organization and memory skills. In this activity, you teach your child to (1) summarize, (2) question, (3) clarify and (4) predict. These steps help children to find important information, remember it, and learn to use it, all while making sure they really understand what they are reading.

Let's see how this works using a Bible story example:

1. Sit down with your child and read the story of The Good Samari-

Annette Rudick, Principal

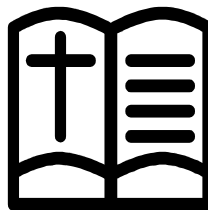
tan. If your child is older, read the story from Scripture (Luke 10:25–37).

2. Summarize the story in your own words and ask your child to do the same. Pay attention to the details your child remembers, because this gives an indication of her/his level of comprehension.

3. Question each other on the story. Your child will probably concentrate on details. These are easy because learners identify details before broader concepts. You can expand your child's level of comprehension by asking tougher questions, such as "Why did the Samaritan help instead of going past the wounded man?" Allow time to respond. These answers do not come without thinking.

4. Clarify any troublesome areas by asking if anything needs to be explained. If your child does not have questions, then it is good to bring up something in the form of an "I wonder" question, such as "I wonder what the priest and the Levite were thinking when they passed the wounded man."

5. Predict what will happen next. When children make predictions, they create a way to remember what happens. It is important to help children learn these skills by modeling them. When children use these five comprehension techniques, they participate in their own learning. This will help them remember information better and find ways to use the information in other settings. Now that is real learning!



Religion and Math highlights – Miss Rudick

How do you help your child learn? Basic math skills are important all through life. What strategies did you use to learn and remember your math facts? Are there techniques you use that you can share with your children? Learning addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts is vital to math as students move into learning more difficult concepts. The ability to solve basic math problems mentally helps students check their work.

As your child moves into the more difficult concepts such as factoring, proportions and multiplicative inverse property, he or she continues to need your help. Do you remember special techniques you used to work solve your higher level math problems? Share those techniques with your child. Once you have taught those techniques to your child, encourage him or her to share them with us at school.

As you continue to help your child learn academic subjects, be mindful of spending time in God's Word on a daily basis. The Bible contains the most important lessons we can learn. These lessons need to be shared with others. Remember to spend time as a family reading and learning the lessons our Lord has to teach us in His Word.



Our Volleyball Team started out the new season with a bang!

Greetings from the "Critter-Room"

I presume it has been 'affectionately' dubbed that now. Room 4 has definitely become a room of life; from plants to animals. We are growing plants without seeds. We have a hollow carrot filled with water hanging from a green house, a potato slice sprouting in a dish of soil, a potato and an onion showing signs of life suspended in cups of water by toothpicks.

Then of course, there are the critters that continue to be a source of entertainment before classes begin. To date: 13 fish in three tanks, two tadpoles, a Red-eared Slider turtle named Scooter (kids love watching him swim all day long), a California King snake named Elvis, two Anole lizards, a gecko, a big 'ol Corn snake named Coco, and soon to be added, a Bearded Dragon.

The little ones have explored many areas in science, from light and sound, to dinosaurs. The middle grades have explored the many as-

pects of life cycles - in plants and animals. The upper grades have done in-depth study with minerals and rocks,



7th and 8th grade crystal creations

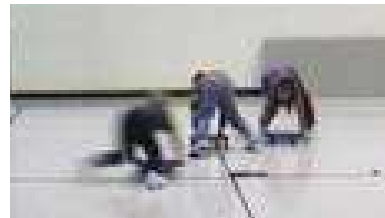
and the

chemistry therein.

My social studies curriculum is not to be disregarded - just can't affiliate so many extras into it. The young ones are being introduced to state and national governments, with a focus on voting. I like to give real life examples for students to get a better grip on the lessons whenever I can. For example, we voted on whether we take our outside break before or after science. Democracy prevails, so out we went. The middle grades are investigating ancient civilizations like Jericho. It's nice for them to be able to make an historical connection to the Bible stories and Sunday School songs they've

heard. The upper grades went from geography and the physical realms that surround that, to the most recent of studies into Economics and population growths.

As we come to the close of the 1st marking period, my continued prayer is that things slow down a little. (I know, I should be looking forward to Thanksgiving break, Christmas break, and Spring break), but there's just never enough time for everything that science and social studies lends itself to.



STOP! Scooter-time

I am however continually thankful for this facility, my colleagues, and my faith family. We are truly blessed here at Grace, and a fruitful future is this instructor's outlook.

In Him, Mr. G-

Mrs. VanSickle Room Three

Room Three is filled with words and fall color! The Kindergarten through Second-graders are busy learning to write about themselves and the world around them, as well as spelling their color words. We took a hike around the building to inspire our writing about fall leaves. The Third and Fourth-graders are learning proper punctuation and how to begin great sto-

ries. The Fifth through Eight-graders are reviewing the use of quotation marks, colons, hyphens, commas and all the rules of punctuation. The Writer's Workshop occurs each Monday, with students writing about what's important to them and taking each piece of writing from the initial idea through the presentation stage of writing. We have reviewed how to start a story by grabbing the reader's attention with dynamic action and great characters. We thoroughly enjoyed our field trip to Leaman's Apple Farm, complete with a hayride!

Take time to get out and enjoy this lovely season in our great state of Michigan ☺



The whole class working hard on their writing journal.



Elizabeth making her name with Playdough.



Making fresh apple juice at Leaman's.

Mrs. Arnold's Reading Room & Art Class



Elizabeth, Elijah, Nate, Ethan and Jordan working in Art Class on their tissue paper fall trees.



Care Package for Our Troops

Our school and church will be participating in the 6th Annual Care Package Drive for our troops. There is a list on the usher's desk. Most items are items you might even have around the house. Items may be placed in the box in the narthex or brought to the school office. Let's show our support for our troops. Christmas is the time to share the love of Christ with our soldiers. Your help with this project is truly appreciated. The deadline for bringing items in is November 19th.



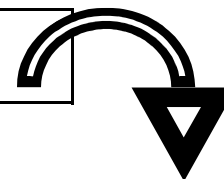
What's Going On

Ladies - Travel to Europe

Please join us on Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. to welcome Tammy Hyatt as our guest speaker. Tammy, a member of our congregation, traveled with MOST ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) to Latvia this past summer and will share in her presentation her unique experiences. MOST ministries, based on the campus of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, continues to offer mission trip opportunities throughout the year. In fact they have another group leaving in mid-November for Guatemala. They always welcome new participants in this important ministry. We welcome all to share this time with us.

VLHS Holiday Bazaar

A Holiday Bazaar, Bake Shoppe and Luncheon will be held at Valley Lutheran High School, 3560 McCarty Rd, on Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A combination of over 40 vendors and home party consultants will have items for sale including wood and jewelry, candies, handmade rugs and holiday gifts. Baked goods will be featured at the Bake Shoppe. There will be a luncheon served from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, featuring homemade Chicken Croissant Sandwiches, Chicken Noodle Soup, Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Nacho Chips with Cheese. The Valley Lutheran High School Parent Organization sponsors this event, with proceeds going to the 21st Century Classroom Initiative.



Grave Blanket Sale

Beaver Zion Church is holding it's annual grave blanket sale November 13-21. Saturday hours will be 6:00 pm until 8:30, Sunday hours will be 8:00 am until 11:15 am. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday hours will be 4:00 pm until 6:30. Other times by appointment at 662-4170 or 662-0144.

LCFSA Christmas

The cards available from Rosie Taglauer. They are \$8.00 for 10 cards. A sample card is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Hope Rising 2010

Saturday November 6, 2010 7:00 pm,
Concert featuring: NEWWORLDSON,
Matt Moore w/ JoshTHO,
Trinity ftL and Steve Lampi
State Theatre
913 Washington Ave
Bay City, MI 48708,
(989) 892-2660
Tickets are \$6.00 from Ray Garcia
or at www.statetheatrebaycity.com

St. John's Lutheran Church Pinnconning

Homemade German Sausage, Sauerkraut & Roast Beef Dinner. Sunday, November 7, 2010 11:30- 3:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 326 N. Water St., Pinnconning. \$8.50 Adult, \$3.50 Children over 5

Hospice Advantage

We are in desperate need of volunteers in your area to join our hospice team. Hospice volunteers assist the Hospice team in providing support and companionship to Hospice patients and families. Opportunities include friendly visits to patients, respite care, activity assistance volunteering. For more information, or to join our Hospice team, please email me at Lwarth@hospiceadvantage.com or give me a call at 810-347-4587.

Just a reminder, we will be collecting groceries for a food pantry during the Thanksgiving services.





Given in Memory

Edgar Leinberger
 By
 Gary & Deb Pyle
 Iris Dominowski
 Kim & Betty Herbolsheimer
 Don & Darlene Pfannes
 John & Connie Gengler
 Pauline Behmlander

David Rechsteiner
 By
 Pauline Behmlander

COOKIES WANTED

We are taking cookies to the 15 boys and girls at the former Lutheran Boys Home, now 304 TUSCOLA. The sign-up sheet for baking cookies is on the Usher's Desk. The 2nd Sunday of every month is when we want the cookies. Thank you for helping.



Stewardship & Evangelism

Your stewardship and evangelism committees have since the first of the year been working on a different approach to stewardship. We have had "fellowship" gatherings at individual's houses with five or six families present at each gathering. We have a dinner followed by a brief devotion. Then we either play a game or just sit and visit in Christian fellowship. We do this in the hope of getting better acquainted with one another and make it easier to visit with each other as the opportunity presents itself. And yes, we do have rules, two specifically. We do not allow anyone to say or use the word m_ _ _ y because that is NOT what stewardship is about. Unfortunately, we still have members who think of that immediately when the word stewardship is mentioned. And the other rule is we do not allow any negative words or criticism to be spoken, for that is assuredly the Devil's playground. At the end of the evening we ask our guests if they would like to become involved and participate in future fellowship gatherings, either as a leader or an assistant. We have had reasonable success and have slightly more than doubled the number of families involved in our goal of reaching out to every family at Grace Congregation.

Being stewards to our Lord entails a large realm of opportunities. First and foremost is meeting with other believers as Hebrews 10 commands us to do. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Another duty is doing as the Third Commandment asks, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy". This includes worshipping in church on Sunday and reading scripture and having family devotions. Another duty is to volunteer in service to our church and school to keep it functioning properly. Whether it is being on a committee, volunteering for a special function, a work bee or just plain Christian fellowship with others, these all are part of stewardship. And of course, lastly is tithing, giving of our first fruits to the Lord. Quite often we allow the Devil to entice us to do otherwise. As a Christian do we truly believe that everything we have is a gift from God? We invariably say yes. But then our actions tell another story. We don't take the time to become involved with the various functions of our congregation. Or in supporting our church's financial matters, we don't always give of our first fruits.

The Beatitudes, Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 give a beautiful message as to how we are to live our Christian lives. Please take the time to read what our Lord said on the Sermon on the Mount. And pray to our God that your stewardship in it's full meaning continues to grow within you.

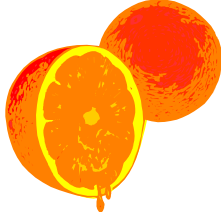
Out of love for our Lord and Savior we should all take the time in happy moments to PRAISE GOD. Difficult moments to SEEK GOD. Quiet moments to WORSHIP GOD. Painful moments to TRUST GOD. Every moment to THANK GOD.

Florida Oranges

"The Valley Lutheran Booster Club is selling Florida Indian River seedless oranges, pink grapefruit and tangelos. Money raised will help support the music, drama, and athletic programs. Deadline for placing your order is Nov. 17th. Orders can be picked up Saturday, Dec. 4th at Valley Lutheran from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Contact any VLHS student or Valley Lutheran office 790-1676 or Bill Ankoviak at 781-5796

Prices are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 20 lb oranges or grapefruit | \$21.00 |
| 40 lb oranges or grapefruit | \$28.00 |
| 20 lb mixed oranges & grapefruit | \$22.00 |
| 40 lb mixed oranges & grapefruit | \$29.00 |
| 20 lb tangelos | \$21.00 |



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | 1 7:30 Men's Bible Study | 2 Volleyball @ St. John Midland | 3 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Worship Holy Communion | 4 Vision Screening odd grades 7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 5 12:30m Fire Safety | 6 8:00 am Women's Bible Study |
| 7 8:40 Service Preparation 9:00 am Divine Service Of Holy Communion 10:15 Bible Studies | 8 7:30 Men's Bible Study | 9 7:00 School Board | 10 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Worship P/T Conf. PM | 11 1/2 School 7:00 Choir Rehearsal P/T Conf. PM | 12 1/2 School P/T Conf. PM | 13 8:00 am Women's Bible Study |
| 14 8:40 Service Preparation 9:00 am Morning Worship HC Following 10:15 Bible Studies | 15 7:30 Men's Bible Study | 16 Volleyball vs. Zion, Beaver 6:30 Board of Elders | 17 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Midweek Worship Holy Communion | 18 7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 19 | 20 8:00 am Women's Bible Study |
| 21 8:40 Service Preparation 9:00 am Divine Service Of Holy Communion 10:15 Bible Studies | 22 7:30 Men's Bible Study | 23 7:00 pm CPTL | 24 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 Thanksgiving Worship NO | 25 9:00 am Thanksgiving Worship SCHOOL | 26 | 27 8:00 am Women's Bible Study |
| 28 8:40 Service Preparation 9:00 am Morning Worship HC Following 10:15 Bible Studies | 29 7:00 pm Executive Board 7:30 Men's Bible Study | 30 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #2c4e60; color: white; text-align: center;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">November</h1> </div> | | | |

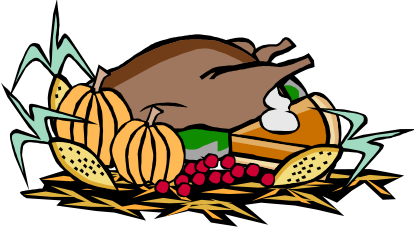
Grace Church Calendar

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

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

Return Service Requested

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November

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Olivia Mantei, 1 Kendra Meyer, 4 Jonathon Clarey, 5 Wendy Arnold, 5 Judy Kuch, 5 Allen Ousterhout, 5 Dale Pickelman, 9 Dylan Jean, 9 Kevin Mularz, 9 Wilmar Schmidt, 10 Allison Hayes, 10 Ervin Kuch, 10 Roxanne Lone, 11 Christopher Greenleaf, 12 Hunter Bickham, 13 Cameron Hundley, 13 Marcia Keidel, 14 Constance Gengler, 14 Marvin Wegener, 15 Cindy Dominowski, 15 Brandy Schmidt, 16 Rebecca Lynch, 16 Elmer Taglauer, 18 Nathaniel Hakes, 18 Craig Harrison, 21 Susan Greenleaf, 22 Elaine Schmidt, 23 James Dietlein, 24 Eric Keidel, 26 James Kunding

Anniversaries

2 Earl & Irene Schmidt, 11 Rob & Kathy Feinauer, 22 Elmer & Barbara Reiss