

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 10

A TIME TO REFLECT

It's been almost a year since Pastor O'Connor has received his reward and a lot has happened since then. I am very proud to say that we are accomplishing what Pastor started. We have been without a Pastor for almost a year and we have gained members instead of losing members. This is not what the statistics usually say. We are in need of spiritual guidance and we do need a Pastor as soon as we can, but we need to continue what we are doing and what the Lord wants us to do on Carter road. Pastor would have been proud of our accomplishments and would cheer us on (he probably is). The Elder/Deacon board will continue the support needed to continue our service to the people of our church and the community. We are here to serve and not to be served. The church time change has been a benefit to most people. Some new faces at the new service time and we have 12-15 at bible study (please join us) and the Sunday School is operating more smoothly with the less competition from our social hour. Each aspect of our church whether it is Sunday School, Bible Study, Social Hour and the service itself is very important to the spiritual growth of Grace. We have tried new ideas and new programs and we will continue with some even if they seem to fail at first, they may do well with persistence. The Ladies of the church just had their LWML retreat in which they were responsible for planning and doing the whole thing. It was a huge success and was well worth the time for all the LWML in the district. All these things just add to the accomplishments of God's church and with God's help we will continue to build God's kingdom and spread his word. As I said, I am proud and we all should be proud of what this little church, with God's help, has accomplished. May we continue to serve and care for our brothers and sisters in our community. God Bless you all!

Elder Dave Devan

Evangelism for October

We may be off to a late start but planning for the next year is behind the scenes in the works. An organizational meeting was held Sunday September 27 for those interested in working this committee. Many hands make light work (and less stress – not to mention more FUN!)

Many thanks go out to all those, especially Dana Smith and Jim Manley, who made our First Annual Car Hop such a success. It's a great concept. Let's see what we can do to keep it going. It sounds like I really missed something special.

Long before this committee existed, we were evangelizing at the New York State Fair. Again this year, we had a lot of fun with each other and sharing our Christian beliefs with others. Perhaps even opening a few hearts to the Lord. If you haven't ever joined us, please do. Our day at the Fair is the second Thursday. So, plan now to come with us in 2010.

We're already thinking June and Relay for Life. It's not too early to start planning for that event. I'm even more excited about now that I've done it once. (and I believe that the evening and overnight parts are the best!) There are many small jobs that will make this event run smoother. So, please consider being a part of it.


Watch for details in the bulletin and announcements in church as well. Sign up sheets for events will be on the board next to Pat's office, so be sure to see where you can help out.

Yours in doing his work,

Teri Devan



He Does Care - August 12-2009

 Category Rss Feed - <http://www.christian-article-bank.com/rss.php?rss=77>

By : Joanne Lowe ☆☆☆☆
Submitted 2009-08-12 18:23:26

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”

Matthew 9: 35, 36
King James Version

Frank Graeff, a Methodist pastor, wrote two hundred hymn texts but this is one of my favorite songs “Does Jesus Care”. These words have been an inspiration, an encouragement and a comfort to my heart for many years. “Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares; His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.”

We read in the precious Word of God that we are to cast all of our cares upon Jesus. “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5: 7). All too often, we try to carry our burdens alone and then we wonder why we get discouraged and depressed. We don’t have the strength or the power to fight satan by ourselves.

Jesus defeated satan when He died on the cross for our sins. Yes, the war was won on the cross but you and I will still have battles until we go home. However, our Saviour will always bring us through every one of our battles victoriously if we will only get out of the way and let Him fight our battles for us.

I know from personal experience that He does care. He has held me in His compassionate arms many times as

He rocked me and tenderly kissed my tears away. He weeps when we are hurting and He rejoices with us when we are happy. Don’t ever let anyone tell you that Jesus doesn’t care. He does care!

Joanne Lowe
August 12, 2009

Author Resource:- God has given Joanne two ministries. One is doing Inspirational Writings, the other is Encouraging Pastors.

Submitted by Dave Devan, Elder

Christian Calendar for 2010

For many years Pastor & Sandra O’Connor have gifted the family of Grace with a wonderfully inspiring Christian Calendar.

This year, Sandra will purchase and donate 100 calendars as a gift to Grace. You will be asked to purchase the calendar for \$5.00 each. All proceeds will go to the Pastor Call fund.

Ginny Wendt & Barb Hartman have graciously agreed to handle the details when the calendars are ready to be sold. If you have questions, please speak to them or Sandra.

We Would Like To Hear From The Pew!

Your input is very important. You do not need to be Pastor or an officer of Grace to submit articles. Please consider submitting something that interests you from time to time. *Rebecca & Pat*

Editor’s Notes

Attention: It takes about seven days to put together the newsletter once the articles are in. Then we need about three days for mailing time to reach some who live in other states. Please help us meet our deadline by having your articles to Rebecca Harrington by the 18th of the month. rharr9@twcnny.rr.com

Thank You
Rebecca Harrington



Some Beautiful One-Liners

- The church is prayer-conditioned.
- When God ordains, He sustains.
- He who angers you controls you.
- Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
- Give Satan an inch & he'll be the ruler.
- Be ye fishers of men-you catch them & He'll clean them.
- God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- Read the Bible-it will scare the hell out of you.
- Plan ahead-it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
- Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
- Exercise daily-walk with the Lord.
- Never give the devil a ride-he always wants to drive.
- Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
- Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
- Give God what's right-not what's left.
- Man's way leads to a hopeless end.
- God's way leads to an endless hope.
- We don't change God's message-His message changes us.

Submitted by Vice President, Chuck Flay



Grace Lutheran Church, 3965
Carter Rd, Canastota is doing
a

**CHICKEN BBQ, October 10,
2009 beginning at 12:00 Noon
until the chicken is gone.**

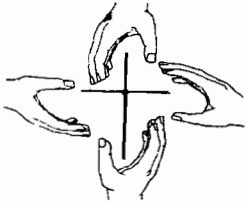
**\$7.00 per dinner. TAKE OUT
ONLY.**

**You may call 697-2128 for more
information.**



**Praise God from whom
all blessings flow,
praise Him all
creatures here below;
Praise Him above O
heav'nly host; Praise
Father, Son and Holy
Ghost.**

Hands!



A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.

A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million. It depends whose hands it's in.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.

A baseball in Roger Clemens' hands is worth \$475 million. It depends on whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.

A tennis racket in Andre Agassi's hands is worth millions. It depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away an angry dog.

A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea. It depends whose hands it's in.

A slingshot in my hands is a kid's toy.

A slingshot in David's hand is a mighty weapon. It depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands. It depends whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.

Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world. It depends whose hands it's in.

As you see now, it depends whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because.... It depends whose hands it's in.

This message is now in YOUR hands.

What will YOU do with it?

It Depends on WHOSE Hands it's in!



God created you and loves you just the way you are but He loves you enough not to leave you that way.



Ladies of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod arise! Remember, all women are part of the Lutheran Woman's Missionary League. You are invited to attend the upcoming CNY North Zone Fall Rally which will be held at Trinity, Utica on Sunday afternoon, October 18, 2009 beginning with Registration from 2:00-2:30 PM. \$5.00 registration covers supper. The Rally will probably end about 5:00 PM and then supper. Please let your ladies know about the rally and encourage them to attend.



As many of you know, the LWML Retreat at Pioneer Camp was held September 18-20, 2009. Many of the women in our congregation, as well as the women of St. John's were in attendance. Our Zone hosted the event this year. It was a mountaintop experience with cool, but sunny days, wonderful messages done with humor from Jan Struck, Christian comedienne, wonderful Bible Study with Rev. Ronald Bright and to culminate all this, a beautiful communion service at the Chapel in the Woods. There are not enough words to describe the spiritual renewal and growth that can be gained from these retreats. You really need to be there. There were many first timers, including four women from Grace. Even though many of us have been to retreat for years, there always seems to be a wonderful new and unique lesson to be learned. Try it some time, you'll like it! *Pat Clark*

"You may be the only Bible someone ever reads. He lives in you. You are Jesus with skin on."

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3965 CARTER RD, CANASTOTA**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

CHICKEN & BISCUITS DINNER

4:30-7:00 PM



meal includes: chicken in gravy
over biscuits & mashed
potatoes, baby carrots,
cranberry sauce. beverage and
homemade pies

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:45 AM-SS/BS 10:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 11:00 AM-Fellowship	5	6 6:00 PM-Choir Practice 7:30 PM-Deacon/ Elder Meeting	7 6:30 PM-Praise Team practice	8	9	10 12:00 Noon to ? Chicken BBQ Take Out only
11 8:45 AM-SS/BS 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Fellowship	12	13 6:00 PM-Choir Practice 7:30 PM-Mary Martha LWML	14 6:30 PM-Praise Team practice	15	16	17
18 8:45 AM-SS/BS 10:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 11:00 AM-Fellowship 2:00 PM-LWML Fall Rally, Utica	19	20 6:00 PM-Choir Practice 7:30 PM-Council Meeting	21 6:30 PM-Praise Team practice	22	23	24
25 8:45 AM-SS/BS 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Fellowship	26	27 6:00 PM-Choir Practice	28 6:30 PM-Praise Team practice	29	30	31 Reformation Day 

2009

I'm Sorry

Have you ever demanded that a child apologize? Maybe you watched an older child take a toy away from a younger sibling. When required, that older child will snap and say "OK, I'm sorry," after stamping their feet, and making a face. Have you ever demanded a second apology, and tell that child, "This time, I want you to really mean it."

How often do we say "I'm sorry" without really meaning it. Have you ever told your boss you were sorry about being late, when you really did not care? The apology is expected so you don't get a write up on your record.

Have you ever told a cop you were sorry you speeding? In reality, you were just sorry you got caught.

Have you ever told your husband/wife you were sorry you did not calling, when you really just wanted some time to yourself? You know that if you make that call, you will get some flak on the phone, so you just put it off...

In each instance, a quick, and thoughtless apology may be sufficient to get your boss/the cop/your spouse off your back, but the words are cheap and meaningless.

A true apology occurs when the heart and head are in the same place, and when you intellectually and emotionally accept the responsibility for causing another person pain, even if you've done it unintentionally. An honest apology requires that you accept responsibility for your own action.

Try to understand why the other person may be hurt or offended, and apologize after you have given it this kind of thought. Don't expect anything in return. A true apology is selfless act. If you want something in return, including forgiveness or attention, the apology is about receiving, and not about giving. Keep it simple. Don't offer excuses.

Remember the real reason you are apologizing, because your intention will show. The act of "imperfect contrition" means that you want something for yourself.

The Act of Contrition: "O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven, and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen"

Imperfect contrition means we are sorry, because we don't want to go to hell. Perfect contrition means we are sorry because we have offended God, our Father.

There is no right or wrong way to express our apology, but it needs to include a desire to change. That desire to change comes with the help of God's grace.

By making a heartfelt apology, you acknowledge the hurt you have caused. This can help the injured person let go of the pain they have, or the grudge they have been carrying. It can restore trust.

So, if you are estranged from someone, try a sincere apology. If you are the injured person, try to accept the apology and let go of the grudge. That will be a gift you give to yourself.

Peace,
Andrea

Birthdays

- 4 Kelly Gilbert
- 26 Jean Case
- 27 Jeanne Griffin
- 28 Aaron Bahr
- 29 David Kirk
- 29 Rhiannon Snyder

Baptismal Birthday's

- 2 David Devan
- 6 Gale Hedgecock
- 14 Parker Scholl
- 14 Ashlee Gilbert
- 16 Alice House
- 19 Elizabeth Scholl
- 21 Kelly Gilbert
- 21 Millie Weismuller

Anniversaries

- 2 Greg & Elizabeth Scholl
- 9 Doug & Dolores Antl

Come Join Hands With Us!

Grace Lutheran Church
3965 Carter Road
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-2128

Hours of Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM
Women's Bible Study-Tuesday 10:00 AM

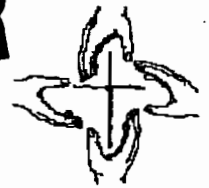


If you have articles that you would like to see published please contact Rebecca Harrington with the information. In order to make inclusion easier, please submit an electronic version of the material in Microsoft format.

Newsletter deadline for articles is the 18th of each month.

Elder David Devan	762-4222
Deacon David Snyder	829-5256
Deacon Andrea Dodge	336-4198
Deacon Patricia Clark	762-5654
Director of Christian Education Beth Scholl	762-1403
President Paul House	280-4115
Vice President Charles Flay	829-3962
Treasurer Kathy Pavelock	245-1590
Financial Secretary Dana Smith	697-9450
Secretary Charlene Kirk	339-2180
Evangelism Chairman Teri Devan	734-1372
Stewardship Chairman Pat Clark	762-5654
Property Care Chairman Bob Smith	697-9450
Publicity (PR) Karen Devan	762-4222

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2009

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 11

Happiness is a choice

Several years ago I watched the movie "Six Days, Seven Nights." A young couple took a romantic vacation at a fabulous resort in Tahiti. One evening a waiter came to their table to get their order, and he reminded them that Tahiti is an island. He said, if you didn't bring romance with you, you won't find it on the island.

Romance or happiness starts within, and you cannot buy it. Have you ever thought I would be happy if I just: Lost 20 pounds? Got a promotion? Bought a new car? Met the man or woman of your dreams?

Those goals, which are all worthy, cannot be the end of our search for happiness. Happiness is the way you feel when you pursue your worthy goals.

Einstein said "There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle." We should view our lives as a continuing miracle, when we consider all the gifts God has given us. We have to celebrate in our lives, even the small things. Find something to celebrate every day. Maybe you got your children off to school on time, homework done, notes signed, lunches packed, and everyone was in a happy mood. At the LWML retreat our speaker, Jan Struck, told how she used to work for a large insurance company creating spreadsheets from accumulated data. When one spreadsheet was finished, there were more waiting to be done. She plowed through a particularly tedious project, and when finished she stood up in her cubicle and did a "happy dance" around her chair. Her co-workers looked in, and wondered if she had lost her mind. BUT – the next day Jan received a call from a co-worker who had finished a similar project, who asked "Jan, will you come and do the happy dance with me?" Before long Jan and her co-workers did that happy dance just about every day to celebrate their successes and accomplishments. More work was done, and more smiles were visible.

What spoils a happy mood? Holding a grudge. It takes lots of energy to hold onto resentment and anger. Let it go! Forgive the people who have caused you pain, and look to the future. Think of it this way: Someone spoiled part of your past. Why would you let them spoil

your future by carrying the grudge with you? Forgive, and then try to forget.

Remember that you have value. God loves you, and that is no joke. If you have not achieved all that you wanted, think of what you have achieved. I went to law school part time, and worked full time. There were times when I felt overwhelmed, unable to understand concepts, and inferior to fellow students. Then, I would go back to work. I was a valuable employee, and my boss and co-workers respected by work. That was very uplifting and satisfying. No one can make you feel inferior except yourself.

Consider your environment, and make it beautiful. If you cannot redecorate, you can certainly make your home or workplace neat and orderly. And don't sit like a lump. Get up and do something! My Labrador retriever is the best exercise incentive anywhere! She makes me get out and enjoy the fresh air, and we walk every day. Trust me, the more you move, the happier you will be.

There is satisfaction from completing a task, especially one you may have put off. If we get those tasks accomplished (cleaning the garage or your car, putting away the laundry, returning phone calls from exasperating clients, etc. etc.), we will have the freedom to do more enjoyable things.

The old saying "It's better to give than to receive" is really true. Is there really anything nicer than seeing someone's face light up when you have done something thoughtful? Perhaps you poured them a cup of coffee, cooked a favorite meal, or brought flowers. It's not the monetary value, it is the gesture of affection that brings the smiles.

And, finally, give thanks. Think about what brings you joy and happiness. Then smile and let everyone around you know that you are happy. Peace and blessings for Thanksgiving.
Andrea



Annual Election Day
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner



Grace Lutheran Church
3965 Carter Rd., Canastota
(corner of Carter Rd. and Rt. 13)

November 3, 2009

4:30-7:00 p.m.

\$7.00 adults

\$5.00 small portion

4 and under - free

Eat-in / take out available

Questions: call 697-2128



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Mary-Martha Minute

“²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ...” Hebrews 10:24-25

On a recent trip to Pennsylvania to participate in the Anthracite LWML Fall Zone Rally, four of us “LWMLers”, otherwise known as the Grace Praise Team, had a discussion. The nature of this discussion was how do we get more ladies involved in the work of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)? We agreed that encouragement was a key motivator for all of us in our involvement in Mary-Martha LWML, the Central NY North Zone and the LWML Eastern District. I mentioned that I would try to put together some encouraging words and say something during our LWML Sunday Worship Service on October 11. God is awesome and does provide all our needs. Mark 13:11 says, *“¹¹... do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit”*.

The LWML is the official women’s organization of the LCMS. Organized in the 1930s, Lutheran Women all over the country have provided all sorts of ministry to people all over the world. This organization makes it possible for each and every woman to make a difference and to carry out the Great Commission. By placing your coins into the Mite Boxes you can bring the word of God to someone who does not know about the love of Jesus. By participating in our congregation’s Mary-Martha LWML Society, you have many opportunities to serve Him in our community. There are also opportunities to serve Him at the Zone level that covers the Central NY area (Auburn to Utica) and many of us have served Him at the District level covering most of NY, all of PA and a small portion of MD.

On a personal level, LWML has given me strength, completeness, and many ways that I can use my abilities to serve my Lord and Savior. How did I become involved? It was really from encouragement from other ladies in our church. About 15 years ago, I attended my first District Convention and my first Retreat. Since that time, I have only missed one or two of these events. I have been able to serve at the Society, Zone and District levels. It has really been the opportunities that have surfaced because of my involvement in LWML that have meant the most. Witnessing at the Canastota Community Fair, attending National Conventions with 7,000 other Lutheran Women, and even just recently speaking and singing praises at a PA Zone Rally.

I believe you can really appreciate how awesome God is when you get involved and I encourage each of you to become involved. There is an old saying, you can lead the horse to water, but you can’t make him drink. LWML is the water. Won’t you take a sip and see for yourself how awesome our God is?

In His Service,
Kathy Pavelock, President

OH, TO BE THANKFUL

As I watch the rain today, it gives me extra time to think about all the things that I could be thankful for, believe me when I say there are many. I could be sitting here complaining or gossiping over everything I think is wrong in my life or in anybody’s life or complaining about everything from A to Z! Instead, I choose to think how thankful I am with all that has ever happened in my life. I really came to know God later in my life after I married Karen. I knew about God and believed in God but never took it seriously, I can be thankful that finally I became a smarter person and found him or he found me. I also can be thankful for my family and how they have grown and all the grandchildren I have now. 40 years ago I wouldn’t have even thought that I would have such a wonderful life as this. We all can be thankful for the type of church we have, we aren’t perfect, but I believe we meld together quite well. This is the month to be thankful and we all should remember that when we want to complain about someone or get upset with whatever is going on that we all should just sit back and think about all the things we can be thankful for. No matter what occurs in your life you can be thankful God is on your side, to be with you through the bad and with you through the good and we should be thankful for that.

Thank you Lord!

In His Service
Elder Dave Devan

We Would Like To Hear From The Pew!

Your input is very important. You do not need to be Pastor or an officer of Grace to submit articles. Please consider submitting something that interests you from time to time. *Rebecca & Pat*

Evangelism News for November

We did meet after church on Oct. 4 to plan a calendar and organize our selves for the next year. Would you like to learn what we talked about, then come join us at our next one. This is committee that will work best with many people involved.

Our first event for this season is a wine trip on Saturday, November 7. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 9:30AM. Remember we will need some designated drivers, also. This will be an all day event, so clear your calendar that day and join in the fun. The Seneca and Cayuga Wine Trails are a great way to learn about wine and enjoy New York. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Indicate what kind of wine you enjoy (sweet, dry, red, white or fruit based.) This will help to know which places to stop and what to recommend for tasting.

Next, we're planning a cookie exchange, which will take place on Sunday, December 6 during fellowship time. We'd like to make bags for our shut-in's, so please remember them. The cookie exchange will be done like last year. You bring a bag of a 6 cookies for however many people signed up, for the shut-ins and some to sample during fellowship time. Also, bring the recipe. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the middle of November for this event. All those who participated last year came home with some great treats. This is a fun start to the Advent Season.

We certainly don't want the doldrums to set in, so in January we will have a game night. It's a little ways off to tell you what we will be playing but come the last Sunday afternoon in January to find out. Please put a note in my mailbox of your favorite game! What a great way to spend a probably cold and dreary afternoon! There will be more to come about this event so keep watching!

Enclosed in the newsletter you will find some help we need for upcoming events later in the spring. The Heart Run/Walk is on March 6. It's not too early to begin planning for it or the Relay for life. How can you help? Help be a part of the success of these important events for our community organizations.

Did you notice the labels on top of the take-out boxes from the chicken BBQ? That's evangelism in action. What a great idea that was so simple. Thanks go to all those who helped to make that possible.

Prayerfully consider how you can fit into this committee and pray for those who are in it to bring activities that would be pleasing to Jesus. We look at all ideas but

sometimes the wheels move slowly when there are only a few hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Devan

Evangelism Sub-Committees 2009-2010

A. Friendship Circle – working with guests and new members

B. Social Circle - planning monthly social events

C. Community Outreach – developing ways to reach out into the community

Relay for Life 2010

Chairman: _____

Co-Chairman: _____

Sign-up:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Money Collection:

1. _____
2. _____

Properies:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Theme/Decorating

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Selling:

1. _____
2. _____

Promotion:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Set-up:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Take-Down:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Food:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Heart Run/Walk 2010

Coordinator:

1. _____
2. _____

Fundraising:

1. _____
2. _____

Promotion:

1. _____
2. _____

Attire:

1. _____
2. _____

Sign-up:

1. _____
2. _____

On Stewardship

Thank goodness God is not a tither. God did not give us a tenth of what He had. God did not have ten sons from whom He gave in to the world for its salvation. God did not decide to give one tenth of His possessions for people to use in order to sustain life. He gave us 100 per cent because, “*God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). God is a God of love Who withholds nothing from us. “*He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*” (Romans 3:32). He also promises never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Even though He gives us 100 percent, He seeks only a partial return from us. How can we withhold gifts from our Heavenly Father Who gives and keeps on Giving?

The word “tithes” refers to our ongoing contributions. We may be giving less or more than the tithe, but our weekly contributions are necessary in order for our churches to minister to the church and the unchurched. The Apostle Paul clearly sets forth the New Testament principles regarding giving. He writes, “*On the first day of each week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income*” (1 Corinthians 16:2). The first principle is that of regular giving—Paul mentions weekly. God expects us to give on a regular basis from the incomes that we receive. When we commit to tithing, God’s check is the first check written from our incomes, whether it’s weekly, twice a month, or monthly.

A second principle is easily overlooked in Paul’s admonition. It is stated in these words: “*each one of you.*” No one is too poor to give something. Any gift given with the proper motive is valuable in God’s sight. “*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have*” (2 Corinthians 8:12). We are also directed to give proportionately of our earnings, which is a third principle. Paul’s words are “*a sum of money in keeping with his income.*”

In the coming months, I will be discussing different aspects of giving with you. As we get in to the winter months, we will be planning some cottage meetings and other parts of stewardship planning. No matter what the gift you give to God our Father, always make sure it is your best and give it with a joyous heart in thankfulness for all He has blessed us with.

Pat Clark, Stewardship Chairman

Editor’s Notes

Attention: It takes about seven days to put together the newsletter once the articles are in. Then we need about three days for mailing time to reach some who live in other states. Please help us meet our deadline by having your articles to Rebecca Harrington by the 18th of the month. rharri9@twcny.rr.com

**Thank You
Rebecca Harrington**

“Voice of the Shepherd”

The next time you see a member of our choir, take a minute to tell them how great they sound and what a wonderful job they do singing and picking the songs.

It takes a lot of dedication to Christ and to our church. After listening to them on Sunday morning we leave the church with a happy heart and humming a tune. Personally, we think they should make a CD so that those outside our congregation might want to come to Grace Lutheran to hear for themselves how great they really are. Then maybe they will continue to come back to receive the Word of Christ with us. Thank you and keep up the wonderful work!
Jim and Velma

We Are Related

By : Joanne Lowe Submitted 2008-10-14 14:04:43

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2: 18 – 22 King James Version

Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote a beautiful song that I love so much. It is called “GETTING USED TO THE FAMILY OF GOD”. We need to spend more time getting used to our brothers and sisters in Christ because we are all one family. All of us who have asked Jesus to forgive us and come into our hearts to be our personal Saviour and have been cleansed by the atoning blood that Jesus shed

for our sins on the cross of Calvary are part of the family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. A pastor friend of mine back in Oklahoma said many years ago in one of his sermons "You'd better start being loving, kind, compassionate, understanding and forgiving to one another because all Christians are going to spend eternity together." The church had just finished a business meeting and there were a lot of disagreements over the finances of the church; how to spend the money. How that must have hurt our Heavenly Father to hear them quarreling in His house!

I have never forgotten what my pastor friend said that Sunday morning. Someone asked me if I ever get upset with anyone. The answer is yes. I am still in the flesh and as such it is only by the grace of God that I don't react in a way that would hurt Jesus. We need to realize that just because we are Christians doesn't mean that we are perfect and will never sin again or fail God. We are only sinners saved by grace. None of us are perfect. There was only one perfect person who ever lived or ever will live, and His name is Jesus! I fail Him just like you fail Him. The person who says that he or she never does anything wrong is calling God a liar because He said that there is none that doeth good.

I have heard this comment many times over the years and have even read it in articles discussing relationships in families "It's only natural for families to fight." That is a lie straight from the pits of hell. It is not natural. God did not create us to argue and fight. We are to love one another.

Author Resource:- God has given Joanne two ministries. One is doing Inspirational Writings, the other is Encouraging Pastors.

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You may contact Joanne by e-mail:joanelowe8@cox.net

Article From Christian Article Bank *submitted by Dave Devan*

Loving one another is not an option; it is a commandment from God! We had better start loving one another so that one day when we stand before a Holy God, we won't have to see the hurt look in His eyes.

Are you being kind and loving to your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you forgive them when they hurt you or do you keep an account of all the times they hurt you? Remember, you're not perfect either. You hurt them also. If you want them to forgive you, then you had better forgive them. What would happen if God kept an account of every time we hurt Him? We would all be in serious trouble. Let's start being loving, understanding, forgiving and kind to our brothers and sisters in Christ..

Joanne Lowe
October 13, 2007

Birthdays

- 5 Robert Harrington
- 8 Myah Harrington
- 8 Hannah Harrington
- 12 Mark Antl
- 16 Craig Hedgecock
- 17 Adam Moran
- 18 Glen Dappen
- 19 Charlene Kirk
- 21 Roger Warren
- 28 Steve Devan

Baptismal Birthday's

- 7 Glen Bahr
- 15 Jeanne Griffin
- 16 Jane Gualtieri
- 20 Aaron Bahr
- ? David Kirk

Anniversaries

- 29 David & Jane Gualtieri

"Musings of An Old Man"

(excerpts from an article by
C.A. McCain, written in May, 1992)

"...We seem to act as though there was something wrong with being old. We never want to be called old, Senior citizens, Mature adults, Aging adults (dumb, dumb, dumb, everyone is aging from the time they are born), anything but old. If we don't think that "old" deserves respect, why should younger people?"

Old age has a lot going for it, if you approach it with the right attitude. The media talks about "fixed income," and how hard it is to live on it. I call it "Guaranteed Income!" and how great it is to live on it. It is the first time anyone guaranteed to pay me no matter what I did or how I did it. For the first time in my life I don't have to worry about losing my job!

Old age is an accomplishment to be proud of and if we are not as wise as we should be, no one will know it, if we don't talk too much! We can talk about the past, the hard times and the good times but don't talk about how easy young people have things now. It is not any easier for them than it was for us but they will muddle through, just the way we did. My wife and I take great pleasure in watching the success of our children. Perhaps I should say, sharing in their success because they are very generous.

In old age we are more patient, more forgiving and take more pleasure in the simple things of life that we never had time for. Strangely enough, although we know our remaining earthly days are few, we have more patience than we did when we were young.

We have made our peace with God and, although we enjoy this earthly existence more than ever, we are not afraid to die when we get the call."

"When do you think one is old?
Is it the years or is it attitude?
Why do you treasure inanimate objects
and disdain the animate ones?
A grandfather clock sits proudly in the foyer
revered by all.
A grandfather sits pitifully in his rocker
waiting for the call.

Weep not for me, I am not old
at least not in the way you think of it.
The years are spent. Some well, some not
but nothing gained in basking
nor in bemoaning them.
What did I learn that you can hear?

The ears are deafened by the mind
The wisdom of old age is nebulous I fear.

As a child I feared both death and old age.
(Although I did not dwell on it)
Like most things feared, 'twas foolish
waste.
Death no longer feared is imminent.
If judged by moments past
just moments away.
Its proximity admitted, yet ignored.
Praise God! I have another day!":



Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark

- One:** Don't miss the boat.
- Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Six:** Build your future on high ground.
- Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- Nine:** When you'r stressed, float a while.
- Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
- Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Kids' Answers to Bible Questions

"Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night."
"Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony."

November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship W/Holy communion All Saints Day 11:00 AM:FS	2	3 ELECTION DAY CHICKEN/ N BISCUITS DINNER 4:30-7:00 PM	4 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice	5	6	7
8 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship 11:00 AM: FS	9 7:00 PM: CNY North LWML Exectuve Committee meeting St. John's, Rome	10 6:00 PM: Choir 7:30 PM: Mary Martha LWML	11 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice	12	13	14
15 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship W/Holy communion 11:00 AM:FS 11:00 AM:Deacons	16	17 6:00 PM: Choir 7:30 PM:Quarterly Voters Meeting	18 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice	19	20	21
22 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship 11:00 AM:FS	23	24 6:00 PM: Choir	25 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice 7:00 PM: Thanksgiving Eve Worship/H comm	26 THANKSGIVING We give thee but Thine own....	27	28
29 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship 11:00 AM:FS	30					

2009

Come Join Hands With Us!

Grace Lutheran Church
3965 Carter Road
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-2128

Hours of Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM
Women's Bible Study-Tuesday 10:00 AM

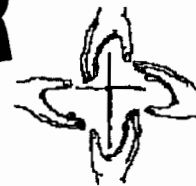
A JESUS CHRIST Now and Forever

If you have articles that you would like to see published please contact Rebecca Harrington with the information. In order to make inclusion easier, please submit an electronic version of the material in Microsoft format.

Newsletter deadline for articles is the 18th of each month.

Elder David Devan	762-4222
Deacon David Snyder	829-5256
Deacon Andrea Dodge	336-4198
Deacon Patricia Clark	762-5654
Director of Christian Education Beth Scholl	762-1403
President Paul House	280-4115
Vice President Charles Flay	829-3962
Treasurer Kathy Pavelock	245-1590
Financial Secretary Dana Smith	697-9450
Secretary Charlene Kirk	339-2180
Evangelism Chairman Teri Devan	734-1372
Stewardship Chairman Pat Clark	762-5654
Property Care Chairman Bob Smith	697-9450
Publicity (PR) Karen Devan	762-4222

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 12

Visitors at Christmas

by *Jerry Ousley*

11/17/2009 7:45 AM

Christmas has always been a time when people get together. We don't do it as much as we once did, but there was a time when Debbie's entire family would come to our house for Christmas dinner. Counting children, husbands, wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, we've had as many as fifty people in our house on Christmas day. To be honest, there were times when I wasn't sure that the floor joists upstairs, or downstairs for that matter, would hold us all up. But they did.

We would set folding tables up in our living room, moving out or, back out of the way the recliner, couch and love seat, to make way for the spread and so that we could all be seated together. Deb would cover those folding tables with a nice, long table cloth and it would look as if we had one long table. Folding chairs accompanied the set up and we would have a feast. It was great times together. And then I wonder why I've gained so much weight over the years!

Many folks get together at Christmas. Some even like getting together so much that they make two and even three stops at in-laws homes, aunt Margret's, and Mom and Dad's. It can wear a body out but frankly it's good that people get together and share.

But, wow! What a clean up after all the company's gone! I suppose it's worth it though because we just never know what another year is going to bring.

Lying in the manger in that little stable under the inn, Jesus had visitors too. First there were the shepherds. They had been tending to the flocks at night out on the hills overlooking the tiny burg of Bethlehem. I suppose it was a quiet night, not unlike many others for these second shift shepherds.

But then something happened. They were visited first. An angel appeared announcing the birth of the Christ the Messiah. This angel didn't make his announcement to the king of Israel but to these humble, common shepherds. Then, the whole heaven was filled with a great angelic choir singing praises to this newborn baby. After they had gone the shepherds immediately left the flocks and went to see this tiny wonder God's gift to the world at Christmas. Hastily they descended the hills and made their way to the stable

where they saw with their own eyes the Christ Child.

Nearly two years later, after Mary and Joseph had moved to a house in the village, they had another visit from the Magi or Wise Men from the east. They had seen a star that was unlike all the others. It was a special star created just for this time. They followed that star all the way to Israel. They made a stop at Jerusalem, because surely such a great event would be known by the king. But that's a story for another time. In short, they were told of the prophecies that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

The star reappeared and led them straight to the house where Mary, Joseph, and the infant, Jesus were staying. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Again, these gifts have their own story for another time.

All these visitors were very important people in the story of Christmas. But I want to submit to you that this Jesus who was visited by all these people also wants to visit you. Perhaps this Christmas finds you feeling gloomy because of the loss of someone special, or maybe it conjures up unpleasant memories for one reason or another. Jesus wants to visit you to comfort you and let you know that you will never be alone.

He also wants to visit those who haven't made a decision to follow Him as of yet. He is visiting you this Christmas to let you know that there really is more to this season than just going in debt for presents, going to parties and getting a few days off from work. He wants to spend some time with you letting you know that your life can be forever changed because He was born, coming into this world to pay the penalty for our sins. He wants to be your personal friend and Savior. Go ahead; answer the door. You've got a visitor this Christmas and it's none other than the King of kings!

Jerry D. Ousley is the Author of four books, "Soul Challenge", "Soul Journey" "Ordeal" and "The Spirit Bread Daily Devotional." Listen to our daily broadcast Spirit Bread. Find out more by visiting www.spiritbread.com or email us at jousley@spiritbread.com

Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com-CHRISTIAN WRITERS>

Lessons I learned from my father.

Here we are in Advent once again. I have been remembering one memorable Christmas.

During my law school years I drove to Rome from Syracuse to see my dad on most weekends. He was a widower and living alone, and we enjoyed Sunday dinner together. Christmas in 1979 was on a Friday. I had a final exam on the morning of December 23, so I was trying hard to muster up the Christmas spirit.

My father was known as a last minute shopper – as in 4:30 on Christmas Eve. When my mother was alive, she did the gift shopping for the family, and Dad usually shopped for her at the last possible moment. In 1972 he bought her a vacuum cleaner. It was not his finest moment. Nevertheless, he learned from that blunder and resolved to shop earlier.

When I visited him on December 20, the Sunday before Christmas, Dad asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I told him I wanted a ski cap (blue to go with a new jacket), a whistling tea kettle and Chanel No. 5.

On Tuesday, December 22, I received a call from one of my father's friends and learned that he had been in a serious car accident. He had 9 broken ribs, had lost some teeth, some nasty cuts and abrasions. Rome Hospital was shipping him to University Hospital.

I was studying for an exam when I got the call. I abandoned my books, and headed over to the hospital. My father was in rough shape, but he was not in critical condition. I stayed with him for a while then went back to my books. I pulled an all nighter, and took my exam on the morning of December 23 – completely exhausted.

The doctors released Dad from the hospital on Christmas Eve, and I brought him home. He was recovering, but in a lot of pain. I gave no thought to Christmas presents for myself. I was so grateful to have him home!

Christmas morning arrived. I made breakfast and we turned on the radio for some Christmas carols. "Go get your presents," he told me. I looked under his little tree, and there were three packages waiting for me: a great ski cap, Chanel No. 5, and a whistling tea kettle. I was, and honestly I am still overwhelmed.

The vacuum cleaner episode taught Dad a lesson about gift giving. In fact, he learned several lessons.

He appreciated his dear wife. He had taken for granted her loving and forgiving spirit before.

When her feelings were hurt, he resolved not to let that happen again.

Dad thought about what Mother would like, and he tried to make her happy. He did not wait until the last minute. He sought out ways to show his love.

Dad did not forget those lessons after Mother died. I know that he walked to downtown Rome during the lunch hour on Monday, and found those gifts for me. He did it because he loved me, and wanted to show me that.

This year, let's all learn these lessons.

Let's appreciate each other every day. Say thank you. Smile, and do kind acts for one another.

Put the needs of your loved ones ahead of your own. Make them happy, and you will find that you will also be happy.

Don't put off showing your love. No one promises you tomorrow.

And, lastly. Do not EVER buy your wife a vacuum cleaner for Christmas.

God Bless us – every one!

Peace,
Andrea



"It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD." *Lamentations 3:26, TNIV*

Good to wait? It's hard to imagine a more counter-cultural message! In our time of Twitter and other instant messaging, fast food, and general impatience, the very idea that waiting can be good is unheard of. But here it is: Advent – a season of waiting.

During Advent, the church confesses the wisdom that Jeremiah spoke so long ago: "It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD." The church's observance of Advent serves as a quiet, peaceful oasis for people who are harried and hassled and trying to run in every direction at once. The church invites her children and the children of the world to come aside during these days for some spiritual R & R; rest and reflection on God's promises! Rather than fussing and fuming about society's commercialization of Christmas, the church quietly offers another way for us to approach December 25th.

To put this in perspective, the first half of the church year, beginning with Advent (approximately December through June) highlights the life of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the teachings of Christ, with Jesus' parables and miracles playing a major role. The Church Year is a "recycling program" that provides us with a sacred sequence of observances and celebrations that assist us in experiencing the fullness of our faith. Every season of the Church Year has a special meaning, distinctive customs, and its own history. The start of this recycling of holy time begins each year on the First Sunday of Advent, a time given for us as Christian people to be spent in remembering, repenting and rejoicing.

That is the church year "in a nutshell," and it reveals how Advent fits into the overall picture of our learning experiences and worship of our God and King.

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's coming; however, His coming among us shows itself clearly in three ways – past, present, and future. The readings that highlight His coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of His incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the future focus on His Second Coming on the Last Day, at the end of time. Finally, there are the readings that highlight His coming in the present. They focus on Christ's ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

Going back to a previous paragraph, we notice that Christians spend Advent "in remembering, repenting and rejoicing." This Church season has always been one of "mixed emotions." In the early church, the focus was more on penitence, whereas today, most people focus more on rejoicing and anticipation. As I've grown and changed in my walk with God, I've learned to really appreciate that older view.

First, consider for a moment a holy, pure, and perfect God...a God who dwells in "unapproachable light" (*1 Tm 6:16*)...a God in whom there is "no darkness at all" (*1 Jn. 1:5*). Now, this holy, pure God is faced with His human creation – sinful, rebellious, disobedient humans who simply cannot and will not live as He intended them to live. Oh, and by the way, they are often dirty and smelly, too, and they come down with all kinds of diseases...and they die and decay. Even their attempts at righteousness come up far short of the mark – "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (*Is. 64:6*)

As Pastor O'Connor often stated, "It's a good thing that God isn't fair." If He acted fairly, we would all deserve to be rejected by Him and spend eternity apart from Him. But our God isn't like that. Our God is love (*1 Jn. 4:8*), and He expresses that love in a most distinctive way; He acts without our merit and in pure love reconciles us to Him. How? By absolutely humiliating Himself...by becoming one of us...by taking on human form. He "...made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (*Phil. 2:7-8*)

And so in Advent, we await the absolute humiliation of our God. Holy, pure, God of light, becoming a man, earning a living by sweat and hard work – earning our salvation by allowing Himself to be tortured to death by humans, making us right with God, earning for us a place as God's children and friends.

That is why my joy and anticipation is tempered by penitence. Mary's beautiful, innocent baby boy would endure horrible bodily pain, utter shame, and the terror of death. That little baby, the Anointed One of God, would forever fulfill what God foretold in *Leviticus 17*, "...it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." He humiliated Himself and accomplished that great work for you, for me, "...once for all." (*Heb. 10:10*)

So as we rejoice, we prostrate ourselves before Christ, the God-man, in praise and thanksgiving for His gift, His atoning sacrifice of flesh and blood and His conquest of death and hell forever through His resurrection from the dead.



May we and the whole Church of Christ have a blessed Advent season and...

A Merry (tempered with penitence) Christmas!

– Jim Seybert

LOVE LETTERS OF CHRISTMAS

C—**CHRIST** Jesus has come from heaven.

H—The **HOLY** I am

R—**REJOICE** with the mighty angels

I—an **INFANT** both God and man—oh
love letters of Christmas telling me God
loves everyone and all, love letters of Christmas
telling me God so loved the world

S—A **STAR** moving through the heavens

T—Great **TIDINGS** of joy

M—A **MANGER** that Jesus slept in

A—the **ANGEL** who watched the baby boy, love
letters of Christmas telling me God loves
everyone and All, love letters of Christmas
telling me God so loved the world

S—a **SAVIOR** is sent from heaven

S—Great **SHEPHERD** is He

S—the **SON** of the living God brings Salvation to
you and me, oh, god loves everyone and all,
love letters of Christmas telling me God so loved
the world.



Iraq—Did You Know?

1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq.
2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization.
3. Noah built the Ark in Iraq.
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq.
6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in Iraq.
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh-which is in Iraq.
9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
10. Amos cried out in Iraq.
11. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem.
12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq.
13. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq.
14. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the "writing on the wall" in Iraq.
15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.
16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
17. The wise men were from Iraq.
18. Peter preached in Iraq.

And you have probably seen this one. Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq, means country with deep roots. Indeed Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible. No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

Given to Pat Clark by Pastor John O'Connor

Ten Guidelines For Keeping Christ in Christmas

TAKE time to be alone and ponder your relationship
With Christ.

READ the story of Jesus' birth and note how people
Responded—Mary, Joseph, the shepherds,
Simeon and Anna.

PRAISE God at Christmas. Join other Christians
in celebrations of music and praise.

HELP those in need at Christmas. Follow the example
of Jesus whose heart was filled with compassion
for those who were suffering.

KEEP your **TO DO** list as short as possible.
Limit your social obligations so there is
time for reflection.

USE cash when you buy gifts to avoid holiday
debt. Invite your relatives to support a
mission cause instead of giving you a gift.

TELL others about the Savior. Find opportunities
To give a tract or a Bible.

REMEMBER Christ's church around the world.
Some of these churches are enduring great
hardship.

LIVE like Christ in this season. Be compassionate,
Forgiving (especially in mall parking lots and
with harassed sales staff). Be sensitive to the
people with whom you work and play.

BE JOYFUL at Christmas! You are celebrating the
Greatest event in the history of the world—the
Arrival of God in human form.



It's almost Thanksgiving and this time of the year always gets me to thinking about how wonderful it was to be a kid and looking forward to that special day of turkey, pie and a houseful of family. I think often of my Grampa Briggs and how much he enjoyed sitting at the head of the table looking out over his family. Family! Now much of my family is Grace Lutheran Church since all my kids are far away and the grandparents have long ago received their reward in Heaven. Now my thoughts run to that beautiful home on Carter Road.

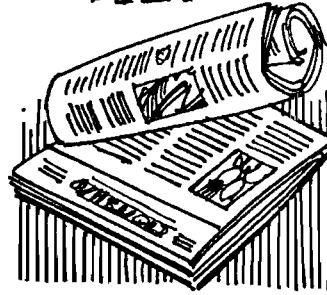
I still can't get over it! Each time I drive past Carter Rd, I am still amazed. When I pull into our parking lot and see the beautifully manicured acreage, the lovely flowers in our garden beneath the crosses, the beautiful new sign with the flowers beneath, the landscaping along our building, I am so filled with peace. Each time I walk into our beautiful worship facility, I get a thrill. When I open those beautiful wooden doors giving me entrance to our sanctuary, I stand in awe. The beautiful crucifix, the lovely altar, baptism font and lectern, all made especially for us by Harden Furniture from a design by Pastor O'Connor, the marble floor beneath, All the wonderful stained glass and banners.

These are all pieces of the puzzle that makes up Grace Lutheran Church. How can anyone who has been part of this ministry over the years take any of this wonder for granted? It's impossible isn't it? When I think about Pastor O'Connor and his dream, a dream he never doubted. I think back to the days when I wasn't sure his dream was possible, but I should have known that with God's help all is possible!

As we come to the beautiful season of Advent and Christmas, take any and all opportunity to be with your sisters and brothers in Christ, invite family and friends to come and worship. Remember, the most important piece of God's puzzle is His people. We are why He created this wonder, beautiful, sometimes mixed up world. Then to top it off He gave us His Son, Jesus to perfect our salvation. Be part of the heavenly excitement of the coming of our baby Jesus.

Pat Clark

STEWARDSHIP NEWS



On Stewardship

Throughout Scripture, God exhorts His followers to give generously to those in need and to His Church. Giving is an expression of our faith in, our love for, and our gratitude to the Lord for who He is and all that He has done for us through His Son Jesus. Tithing is the practice of honoring God by faithfully giving one tenth of our incomes to Him. Certainly we can honor and worship

God even if we give less than the tithe as long as we give willingly and cheerfully through faith. The tithe, however, is a meaningful benchmark and a Biblically based guide for our giving—a goal both to attain and surpass. With God's help, we can make a commitment to begin the journey of faith and become tithers and even go beyond the tithe. As our trust and faith in the Lord grow, so will our giving.

Dear Lord, You are the owner of all the animals in the forest and all the cattle on a thousand hills. Grant us faith and wisdom to acknowledge You as the creator, owner, and giver of all things. We pray that You will bless us with faithful and giving hearts so that we may be willing to return to You a portion of what You have already given to us. Help us to open our hearts to the needs of Your Church on earth and to the needs of those around us. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.

Pat Clark, Stewardship Chairman

Advent Worship Schedule

November 29: 1st Sunday in Advent
 December 2: * Midweek Advent Service 7:00 PM
 December 6: 2nd Sunday in Advent
 December 9: *Midweek Advent Service
 December 13: 3rd Sunday in Advent
 (Sunday School Christmas Program)
 December 16: *Midweek Advent Service 7:00 PM
 December 20: 4th Sunday in Advent
 December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 PM

****Covered dish suppers will be held before each Midweek Advent Service beginning at 5:30 PM

COMPARISON CHARTS OF CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

C-1: JEHOVAH GOD VERSUS ALLAH

THE NATURE OF GOD	CHRISTIANITY: Jehovah	ISLAM: Allah
Does God Change?	God does not change. James 1: 17: <i>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no varying, neither shadow of turning.</i>	Allah of Islam changes. Surah 2: 106 <i>If We supersede any verse or cause it to be forgotten, We bring a better one or one similar. Do you not know that Allah has power over all things!</i>
Is God Loving?	God loves everyone. John 3: 16: <i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...</i>	Allah is tempermental. Surah 32: 13: <i>If we so willed, we could have brought every soul its true guidance, but the word from me will come true: 'I will fill Hell with demons and men all together.'</i>
Is God Deceptive?	God cannot lie. Titus 1: 2 <i>In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;</i>	Allah deceives. Surah 8: 30: <i>They plot and plan, and Allah, too plans, but the best of planners (deceivers) is Allah.</i>
Is God a Trinity	God is Triune. Father is God: John 6:27 Son is God: Col. 2:9 Spirit is God: Acts 5: 3-9	Trinity is blasphemy. Surah 5: 73: <i>They do blaspheme who say God is one of three...for there is no Allah except one Allah.</i>
Who is in the Trinity?	Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19 <i>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:</i>	Islam believes the Christian trinity is God the Father, God the Mother (Mary) and God the Son (Jesus). Surah 5: 116: <i>"And behold! God will say: O Jesus the son of Mary didst say unto men, 'worship me and my mother as gods' in derogation of Allah?"</i>

C-2: JESUS OF THE BIBLE VERSUS JESUS OF THE QUR'AN

THE NATURE OF JESUS	CHRISTIANITY: YESHUA	ISLAM: ISA
Is Jesus Created?	Jesus is not created. Colossians 1:17: <i>And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.</i>	Jesus was created. Surah 3: 59: <i>The similitude of Isa before God is as that of Adam; He created him from dust...</i>
Is Jesus Lord or an Apostle?	Jesus is Lord. John 14: 6 <i>Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.</i>	Jesus is just Apostle. Surah 4: 171: <i>O people of the book, commit no excess of your religion: nor say of Allah aught but truth, Christ Isa the son of Mary was an apostle of Allah.</i>
Was Jesus Crucified?	Jesus was Crucified. 1 Corinthians 2: 2: <i>For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.</i>	Jesus was not crucified Surah 4: 157: <i>That they said in boast 'we killed Christ Isa, the son of Mary'...but they killed him not, nor crucified him.</i>

C-3: JESUS VERSUS MUHAMMED

JESUS VERSUS MUHAMMED	JESUS	MUHAMMED
Son of God or Just a Man?	Jesus is Son of God. John 10:36: Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?	Jesus was just a man. Surah 18: 4-5 And it (the Qur'an) warns those who say: 'Allah has taken a son.' Surely, of this they have no knowledge, neither they nor their fathers; it is a monstrous word that comes from their mouths, they say nothing but a lie.
Know the Thoughts of Men?	Jesus knew the thoughts of men. Rev 2: 23: ...and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts...	Muhammed did not know the thoughts of men. Surah 11: 31 I do not say to you that I possess the treasures of Allah, and I do not know the unseen.
Advocate with the Father?	Jesus is our Advocate. 1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.	Muhammed is not our Advocate. Surah 9: 80 (It is the same) whether or not you beg forgiveness for them. If you beg forgiveness for them seventy times Allah will not forgive them, for they have disbelieved in Allah and His Messenger. Allah does not guide the evildoers.
Use of Sword?	Jesus forbade the use of the sword. Matthew 26: 52: Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.	Muhammed urged the use of the sword. Surah 8: 65: O Prophet; urge the believers to fight. If there are twenty patient men among you, you shall overcome two hundred, and if there are a hundred, they shall overcome a thousand unbelievers, for they are a nation who do not understand.
Forgiveness or Revenge?	Jesus taught forgiveness. Matthew 5: 38-39: Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.	Muhammed taught revenge. Surah 2: 194 The sacred month for the sacred month, prohibitions are (subject to) retaliation. If any one aggresses against you, so aggress against him with the likeness of that which he has aggressed against you.
Sinless or Sinful?	Jesus was Sinless. 1 Peter 2: 21-22: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:	Muhammed was Sinful. Surah 18: 110: Say: 'I am only a human like you, revealed to me is that your God is One God. Let him who hopes for the encounter with his Lord do good work, and not associate anyone with the worship of his Lord.'

C-4: SALVATION IN CHRISTIANITY VS. ISLAM

SALVATION	CHRISTIANITY: GRACE	ISLAM: STRAIGHT PATH
Is Man born with Original Sin?	Man is born with Original Sin. Romans 5:12: <i>Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.</i>	Man has no original sin. Sin by deed only.
Is Jesus the only way to salvation?	Jesus is only way. Phil 2: 10-11 <i>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</i>	Jesus was a man, and a worshipper of Allah. Surah 19: 30 <i>He (the baby) said: 'I am the worshiper of Allah. Allah has given me the Book and made me a Prophet.</i>
Is Salvation open to Everyone?	Salvation is offered to all. Romans 10: 13 <i>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.</i>	Salvation is only in Allah's hands. Surah 2: 284: <i>Allah forgives whom He pleases, and punishes whom He pleases, for Allah has power over all things.</i>
Grace or Works?	Grace alone saves. Ephesians 2: 8-9 <i>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.</i>	Good works cancel bad deeds. Surah 11: 114: <i>For those things that are good remove those that are evil.</i>
Is there Assurance in Salvation?	There is Eternal Security. John 10: 28 <i>And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.</i>	Jihad is the only eternal security. Surah 3: 157: <i>And if you are slain, or die in the way of Allah, forgiveness and mercy from Allah are far better than all they could amass.</i>
Is Salvation Coerced?	God forces no one to salvation. Revelation 3: 20: <i>Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.</i>	Allah forces worship. Surah 2: 193: <i>Fight against them until there is no dissension, and the religion is for Allah.</i> Surah 9: 29: <i>Fight those who neither believe in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden, and do not embrace the religion of the truth, being among those who have been given the Book (Bible and the Torah), until they pay tribute out of hand and have been humiliated.</i>

Evangelism for December

Are you ready? Ready for what you ask. For 2010 and some evangelism, of course! Please check out the bulletin board to see where you can help out. There are many chances to get involved – even if only once a year.

Have you asked anyone about the wine trip? Find Anne Eldred, or any of the Bahr's or Steve or Teri Devan ask them to tell you all about it. (Lee Della went also but she has now left us for the winter.) The weather was great! That's all the details I'm giving away, so ask one of us!

December is fast approaching. Have you started your baking yet? I have done 4 batches of cookies to date. But my next project is to get ready for our 2nd Annual Cookie Exchange. It's going to take place on Dec. 6 during fellowship time. We'd love to have you take part, also! Here's all you have to do. First, you need to sign-up with your name and phone number. This is to ensure that you will get a call to tell you how many bags of cookies you will need. Then bake like crazy and place ½ dozen cookies in a baggie. Then bring them with you to church on Dec. 6. You will leave a bag of yours and take a bag of some one else's. Also there will be a box for the shut-ins this year. Sounds easy doesn't it? It's a great way to try some sweet treats!

A game night will be held on Friday, January 22 at 7 or Sunday, January 24 at 1 PM. Bring your favorite game or cards. More details will be released, after we get past the holiday rush. It will be a fun time to get out and not worrying about your budget! And you will be increasing your spirit with those who feel the same. Does it get any better than that?

We will be holding an Evangelism meeting on Sunday, Jan.10, after Fellowship Time (about 11:30) to plan future events. Hope you can't wait to hear what we have up our sleeve. I know that the Heart Run and Walk is on March 6. The registrations and fund-raising can all be done on-line which should make it easier for many of you.

Yours in serving him,

Teri Devan

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday school continues on, adjusting to the time change. We currently have 16 children participating in Sunday school, give or take a few each week. Thank you parents and guardians for your dedication during this change.

“Christmas Magic”

Nothing says Christmas more than a Sunday School Christmas musical. We are preparing for the Christmas season with our annual Christmas pageant. This year the children will be presenting, “Christmas Magic”, a Christmas musical. The children look forward each year to performing for the church and they work very hard on their parts and songs. So please mark your calendar for December 13, in lieu of church service that Sunday, we will be presenting our annual Christmas Program. Come enjoy and support the future of Grace.

Each Christmas holiday we give the children a gift from the church. If you would like to donate a gift for each of the children or money to help with this expense, or if you have an idea of something special to give please see me. These gifts will be handed out after the Christmas program on Dec. 13.

Sunday school will be in recess for the holidays following the Christmas Program on December 13 until mid-January. I will be sure to let everyone know when we will begin our mid-winter craft/giving session.

Just a note: Do you save your BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION??? Or CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS FOR EDUCATION??? I will begin collecting Box Tops and Soup Labels for education. Please take the time to donate these for your local Elementary Schools.

Wishing everyone a peaceful, blessed Christmas this year filled with the miracle in which we all believe.

God's Blessings, Beth Scholl
Director of Christian Education

Islamic Works v. Christian Grace

ISLAM AND SALVATION BY WORKS	CHRIST AND SALVATION BY GRACE
Salvation based on scales. (Surah 17:13-14)	Salvation based on the Cross and grace. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
Salvation based on a lifetime confession of faith in Allah and his messenger Muhammed. (Surah 1:2-4)	Salvation based on a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-13)
God is impersonal; therefore, obedience to the five pillars is most important. (Surah 2:277)	God is personal and incarnate; therefore, relationship with our Heavenly Father is most important. (Isaiah 9:6; John 20:28)
Conditional love based on obedience to Allah. (Surah 60:1)	Unconditional love based on the blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:8)
Heaven is pictured as men sitting on couches being served wine by perpetual virgins. (Surah 4:57)	Heaven is pictured as the worship of Jesus Christ as He rewards men and women for their works after salvation. (Revelation 21; 1 Corinthians 3)
Allah only saves those whom he wants. (Surah 14:4)	God saves all those who will receive Jesus Christ as Savior. (2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2; Luke 19:10)
Sins are overlooked if the good outweighs the bad.	All sins must be punished since they offend a holy God. Therefore, the cross is necessary.
Salvation is never guaranteed (outside of <i>jihad</i> and martyrdom). (Surah 3:157; Hadith 1.35)	Salvation is guaranteed based on Christ's finished work (Luke 23), the Spirit's sealing (Ephesians 1:13), and the Word of God (1 John 5:12-13).
Muhammed himself did not know his eternal destiny. Why follow a man who does not know God's plan for his eternal life? (Hadith 5.266)	Jesus Christ finished the work on the cross. Salvation is not based on man changing himself. Salvation is based on God transforming man from the inside out. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 6:00 PM-Choir Practice 7:30 PM-Deacon/Elder meeting	2 5:30 PM-Covered dish supper 7:00 PM-Midweek Advent Service	3	4	5
6 8:45 AM-SS/BS 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-FS	7	8 6:00 PM-Choir Practice 7:30 PM-MMLWML Christmas party	9 5:30 PM-Covered dish supper 7:00 PM-Midweek Advent Service	10	11	12 9:00 AM-Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
13 8:45 AM-SS/BS 10:00 AM-Sunday School Christmas Program 11:00 AM-FS	14	15 6:00 PM-Choir Practice 7:30 PM-Council Meeting	16 5:30 PM-Covered dish supper 7:00 PM-Midweek Advent Service	17	18	19
20 8:45 AM-BS SS in recess 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-FS	21	22 6:00 PM-Choir Practice	23	24 7:00 PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OUR SAVIOR IS BORN! ALLELUIA!	26
27 8:45 AM-BS SS in recess 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-FS	28	29 6:00 PM-Choir Practice	30	31	WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY IS IN RECESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!	

2009



BRING HIM ON "THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD"

As we prepare for Christmas, preparing our Christmas lists for mom and dad or grandma and grandpa or just your loved one or ones, sometimes we kind of forget the true meaning of this most sacred holiday. Jesus Christ the savior of the world is born! Isn't that the most exciting statement that you have ever heard! But consider this, what if, you never heard about this news or it was kept from you by a government that religion is not an acceptable way of life. What if, you lived in a world without Jesus or without God? What would your life be like? We are one of the luckiest nations in the world that we can practice our religion and worship our Lord whenever it pleases us. It's hard to realize with all the freedoms we have that there are countries and areas of our world that have not heard about the Savior or have heard but are not allowed to worship him. We must spread the Good News to these nations. This season why don't we think of these people and add them to our prayer lists. A life without God is no life at all. This season take some time to think about our Lord, I know it's busy, but make the time. Bring on our Lord and Savior, please bring him on the "Savior of the World".

In His service,

Dave Devan, Elder

We Would Like To Hear From The Pew!

Your input is very important. You do not need to be Pastor or an officer of Grace to submit articles. Please consider submitting something that interests you from time to time. *Rebecca & Pat*

Editor's Notes

Attention: It takes about seven days to put together the newsletter once the articles are in. Then we need about three days for mailing time to reach some who live in other states. Please help us meet our deadline by having your articles to Rebecca Harrington by the 18th of the month. rharr9@twcny.rt.com

Thank You
Rebecca Harrington

Birthdays

- 1 Jeanne Harmon
- 6 Emilee Gilbert
- 10 Amy McCormick
- 11 Dolores Antl
- 14 Lauren Warren
- 17 Mason Moran
- 18 Dylan Narolis
- 27 Tabitha Minor

Baptismal Birthday's

- 8 Morgan Gualtieri
- 8 Ashley Gualtieri
- 24 Amy McCormick
- 29 Steven Devan

Anniversaries

- 2 James & Jeanne Harmon
- 11 David & Louise Snyder

Come Join Hands With Us!

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(315) 697-2128

Hours of Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM
Women's Bible Study-Tuesday 10:00 AM



If you have articles that you would like to see published please contact Rebecca Harrington with the information. In order to make inclusion easier, please submit an electronic version of the material in Microsoft format.

Newsletter deadline for articles is the 18th of each month.

Elder David Devan	762-4222
Deacon David Snyder	829-5256
Deacon Andrea Dodge	336-4198
Deacon Patricia Clark	762-5654
Director of Christian Education Beth Scholl	762-1403
President Paul House	280-4115
Vice President Charles Flay	829-3962
Treasurer Kathy Pavelock	245-1590
Financial Secretary Dana Smith	697-9450
Secretary Charlene Kirk	339-2180
Evangelism Chairman Teri Devan	734-1372
Stewardship Chairman Pat Clark	762-5654
Property Care Chairman Bob Smith	697-9450
Publicity (PR) Karen Devan	762-4222