# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1730 Old Hudson Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55106-6199
651-774-9617
www.gracelutheranstpaul.org



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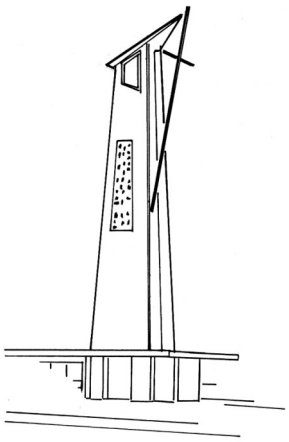

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Ministers: The People of Grace**

**Staff**:

Craig Richter, *Senior Pastor* ..... 651-488-1504 (*home)*
Paul Hesterberg, *Associate Pastor* ..... 651-702-1194 (*home)*
Kerry Reif, *Administrative Assistant* ..... 651-774-9617
Kathleen Hollar, *Organist* ..... 651-633-5247
Olaf Malmin, *Sanctuary Choir Director* ..... 612-644-5219
Edward Shaffer, *Financial Manager* ..... 651-748-2823
Jan Steingas, *Triple Gs Choir Director* ..... 651-739-4252
Connie Smeby, *Joyous Juniors Director* ..... 651-738-3937
Pete Zitzewitz, *Bells of Grace Director* ..... 715-386-3062
Elbert Simmons, *Custodian* ..... 651-774-9617

The *IN TOUCH* is a monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church. Please submit items for publication by the 13th of the month prior.

**President's Report**

The annual meeting of Grace was held on January 31, 2010. Thank you to everyone who attended. The budget for 2010 was approved. Just a little information regarding 2009: Grace did finish the year in the black. The income exceeded expenses but the budget was not met. Given the state of our economy and the job market we should be very pleased that we are holding our own. I would encourage everyone to keep their pledge up to date as expenses go on all year round.

I would like to again thank all the members of Grace who so willingly serve on Council and Committees. New Council members for 2010 include Carl Alleman, Jeff Gorton, Barb Kinney and Ned Shaffer. We appreciate all the work done by those going off Council: Larry Adam, Floyd Nelson, Anne Oberlander and Chris Runquist.

- Sue Atneosen

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Church Council meets the third Tuesday of every month. All members of Grace are welcome to attend. Agenda items should be submitted to the president two weeks prior to be included on the agenda.

**Mid-week Lenten worship**

**March 3** Supper 5:45; Worship 6:30 in the Tower rooms
**March 10** Supper 5:45; Worship 6:30 in the Tower rooms
**March 17** Supper 5:45; Worship 6:30 in the Tower rooms
**March 24** Supper 5:45; Worship 6:30 in the Tower rooms
**April 1** 10:30am Maundy Thursday service;
**POTLUCK** following
7:00pm Maundy Thursday service in the Sanctuary
**April 2** Good Friday service at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
**April 4** Easter services at 6:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am

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**Palm Sunday breakfast - March 28**

Come and enjoy an amazing breakfast prepared by the staff of the **Lake Elmo Inn**. The brunch is sponsored by youth and their parents as a means of raising funds for our youth ministry.

Tickets are $5.00 for adults and youth.
Children 12 and under are $2.50.

**Palm Sunday Breakfast Menu:**

Scrambled eggs
Sausage
Cheese Potatoes
French Toast
Cinnamon Rolls
Danish Rolls
Juice
Milk
Coffee

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**Welcome New Members!** We extend a warm welcome to the newest members of Grace Lutheran Church's family:

- Kim Carlton
- Palmahn and Wehso Cooper, and Sietta Chesson and Quiqui Cooper
- Krista Moore, and Brad
- Samuel and Etta Parsons, and Germaine
- Kim Phillips, and Marrisa and Mitchell

**Meet Your Leadership!**

New leaders were elected to the Church Council at the Annual Meeting in January.
We thank those who have served in the past and those who are currently serving.
Your service to Grace is invaluable.

**Church Council**
President Sue Atneosen, 2011
Vice President Jeff Gorton, 2012
Secretary Bella Hanson, 2011
Treasurer Ned Shaffer, 2012
At Large Members:
Carl Alleman, 2013
Linda Denson, 2012
Rev. Paul Hesterberg
Maxine Keller, 2012
Barb Kinney, 2011
Karin Nikula, 2011
Rev. Craig Richter

**Audit**
David Benck, 2011
David Fransen, 2012
John Klein, 2013

**Business Management**
Knute Nelson, Chair
Rick Major
Dave Oberlander
Ned Shaffer, Liaison

**Congregational Life**
Maxine Keller, Chair
Lana Alleman
Linda Denson, Liaison
Karin Nikula
Ann Tobisch
Ada Yakal

**Education**
Sig Johnson, Chair
Jim Dike, Youth
Bella Hanson, Liaison
Rev. Paul Hesterberg, Adult
Ken Jackson, Adult
Karin Nikula, Children's
Connie Smeby, Children's

**Endowment**
Larry Carlson, 2012
Jeff Gorton, 2011
Carolyn Hesterberg, 2013
Greg Mohwinkel, 2011
Florence Tjornhom, 2012

**Missions**
Mark Pearson, Chair
Sandy Abernathy
Sue Atneosen, Liaison
Ed Dike
Lorraine Dike
Bob Hegland
Carolyn Hesterberg
Barb Kinney
Shirley Walby

**Mutual Ministry**
Ron House, 2012
Jim Mohn, 2012
Kristine Mohwinkel, 2011
Linda Sackreiter, 2011

**Nominating**
Barb Holtan, 2011
Colleen McCoy, 2012
Karin Nikula, 2011
Alicia Runquist, 2013
Ned Shaffer, 2011

**Outreach**
Carol Golder, Chair
Bella Hanson, Liaison
Tootie Hennington
Jonathan Rose
Renae Storbakken

**Property Management**
Maxine Keller, Chair/Liaison
Carl Alleman
Larry Carlson
Ed Holtan
Randy Nikula
Norm Walby

**Special Gifts & Memorials**
Paul Gorgos, 2011
Ken Jackson, 2013
Bill Kinney, 2011
Linda Sackreiter , 2013
Keith Smeby, 2012

**Stewardship**
Linda Baer, Chair
Larry Atneosen
Jeff Gorton, Liaison
Florence Klinkerfues
Chuck Rada
Connie Smeby
Margaret Swenson

**Worship**
Jan Steingas, Chair
Kathleen Hollar
Barb Kinney, Liaison
Olaf Malmin
Craig Richter
Connie Smeby
Norm Walby
Nancy Zitzewitz
Pete Zitzewitz

**Youth and Family**
Carl Alleman, Liaison
Jim Dike
Julie Major
Dorothy Mohwinkel
Rev. Craig Richter
Sue Wickert

## Worship Notes

**March 7th – 3rd Sunday in Lent**
"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." That statement may, or may not, come as a surprise to us. God is without sin while we are sinful. Of course we're different from one another. The surprise is that God does not condemn us though we are sinful.

Texts: Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**March 14th – 4th Sunday in Lent**
"God reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." Each of our three lessons tells of forgiveness, healing, and new beginnings: the people of God set foot in the promised land and a merciful, loving father welcomes home his son.

Texts: Joshua 5:1-9; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 11:1-3, 11-32b

**March 21st – 5th Sunday in Lent**
"Remembering the Passover, the Exodus and a New Beginning in Christ." Our Sunday School children will lead us in worship this morning by refreshing for us the story of God working through Moses to free an enslaved people. Similarly, God in Christ frees us from sin and death.

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21; Phillipians 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8

**March 28th – Palm Sunday**
"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" The cheering crowd in Jerusalem is quickly tempered as Jesus looks at the city and mourns that its inhabitants have never understood or received God as God wished they would. We set foot in yet another Holy Week sharing the ignorance of our ancestors and the hope that comes in Jesus the Christ.

Texts: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11;
Luke 19:29-48

**REMINDER:**
There is no GRACE AT NIGHT during Lent.
The next service will be Monday, April 12.

## Lay Ministers for March

**March 7, 2010**
Acolyte ..... Ryan Westling
Communion ..... Larry/Sue Atneoson,
..... Laurie Ruchie
Liturgist ..... Jonathan Rose
Money Counters ..... Team B - Colleen Gillis
Nursery ..... Joan Carlson
Ushers ..... Team D - Bill Kinney, Ed Holtan

**March 14, 2010**
Acolyte ..... Justeen Schmidt
Communion ..... Greg/Kris Mohwinkel,
..... Thomas Mohwinkel
Lay Reader..... Olaf Malmin
Money Counters ..... Team C - Char House
Nursery ..... Sigrid Johnson
Ushers ..... Team E - Paul Gorgos

**March 21, 2010**
Acolyte ..... Andy Valasquez
Communion ..... Larry/Judy Adam, Sig Johnson
Liturgist ..... Kris Mohwinkel
Money Counters ..... Team D - Knute Nelson
Nursery ..... Coley Gillis
Ushers ..... Team F - Norm Walby,
..... Mark Pearson

**March 28, 2010**
Acolyte ..... Justin Pray
Communion ..... Ed/Barb Holton, Dick Gunderson
Lay Reader..... Sue Atneosen
Money Counters ..... Team E - Maxine Keller
Nursery ..... [open]
Ushers ..... Team G - Ken Jackson

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Financial Summary

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|---|---|
| January Income | $25,320.70 |
| January Expense | $28,126.89 |
| Difference | -$2,806.19 |

**Successful Sunday School/Youth OLYMPIC EVENT**

What a fun afternoon we had with our own version of Olympic events. The 16 attendees each got a gold medal and 'torch' for their parade before 'lighting' a cauldron. What delighted faces when 'flames' erupted!

After 'skating' (with feet in shoe boxes) and blowing 'skiers' 'downhill', and helping hockey players skate (with magnets), plus other activities, we replenished our energy with hot chocolate, Olympic Rings (mini donuts) and ice cream cups provided by the Congregational Life Committee. Then it was outside where Jim Dike had shoveled a 'luge' track around the west side of the church. There was even 'curling'! The weather was perfect for outdoor winter fun!

**Attention 10th, 11th, and 12th graders!**

After Seed Time (10:45—11:45) on March 7th we are asking 10-12th grade students to return and SIGN THE WALL in the redecorated Youth Room. We'll eat pizza and watch a movie.

**Thank You For The Fun!**

I would like to thank the Grace family and friends for attending the Pancakes and Puppets program on Sunday, February 7, 2010. It is a joy to see all generations enjoy an activity together. There was a bigger turn out than we had expected, but there was plenty of food. Thank you to the following people for their extra effort in helping out with cooking, cleaning, setting up, performing, or anything else that needed to be done.

I apologize if I miss anyone who helped for the day, but I truly appreciated everyone's help. The day would not be possible without people saying 'yes, I will help'.

Pastor Craig Richter
Pete and Joshua Wickert
Kate, Cassie and Justin Pray
Greg, Kris and Thomas Mohwinkel
Jim, Julie, Jared and Justin Dike
Chris and John Schilz
Frank and Sam Hopp
Rick, Julie, Erick and Kaity Major
Ryan and Abigail Westling and Madison
Kari and Joshua Fredrickson
Nate Buck
David Benck
Carl Alleman

I look forward to Pancakes and Puppets in 2011. Please consider helping out next year and enjoy the fun.

Sue Wickert

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Don't Forget

Daylight Savings Time

Turn your clocks **ahead** on March 14!

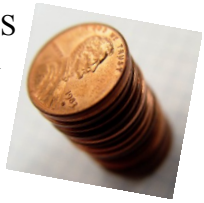
**"Bind Us Together"** is the theme of this year's convention of Saint Paul Area Synod Women's Organization (SPASWO) at St. Paul Lutheran in Stillwater on April 16-17. Material offering is recycled cell phones and LWR Health Kits. List of kit items can be found in the January issue of In Touch or on the library shelf. The convention is open to all. Delegate deadline is March 29. Others, April 7. See library shelf for details.

**March Circles**
- Ruth meets Monday, March 1 at 9:00am
- Martha meets Tuesday, March 9 at 9:15am
- Deborah meets Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

The topic for Session 7, "The Renewing of Our Minds," is based on Romans 12 and 13. Author Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich is leading us through the book of Roams. "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" and states sometimes our faith feels stale and we get tired. Paul, writer to the Roman believers, helps us experience new life when we are part of Christ's body of Believers.

**Thank Offering.** Easter arrives April 4 this year, bringing anew the promise of eternal life through our resurrected Savior. With so much to be thankful for we look ahead to the ingathering of daily offerings we've set aside all year, to be held Sunday, October 10. Read the Easter Story in John 20, Luke 24, Mark 16, and Matthew 28.

**Mission 2010**: A quilt top (unfinished size 64x84) would make a fine at-home project for you if you sew. Need fabric? Grace SEW Group can help! Your labor of love would greatly add to Grace's quilt production which averages 50 quilts a year. The world-wide need never ends, for quilts and also for layettes and wrapped soap. Thanks to our dedicated quilters and all who donate materials and time. Money donations would help buy filler and batting.



**Miles of Pennies** monies go to LSS Safe Homes for homeless youth in St. Paul. How about this: place a jar on your desk at work, label it and see how many pennies you can bring to the large jar on the library table. Our 2010 goal is $200.00.

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*Thank you*

The Missions Committee would like to thank all the donors and volunteer workers who responded to the Red Cross Bloodmobile held here at Grace on February 1. Donations of 43 units of blood were collected by Red Cross staff. This was made possible by many hours of assistance from phone callers, food and cookie providers, greeters, servers and set up/take down crews. Your generous donations of blood and time will go to help many people. We really need more blood donors to share their blood with the ill and injured. If you have not helped as a volunteer or donor, please consider taking part at the next Bloodmobile on April 12 at St. Pascal's.

MERRICK Community Services

*Working in partnership with St. Paul's Eastside since 1908*

Mission of the Month for March are the food shelves operated by Merrick Community Services. For over 100 years Merrick Community Services has provided a wide range of programs for Eastside families. This includes preschool / learning readiness, youth programs, family programs and services such as holiday food baskets and Christmas toys for children as well as the two food shelves at Roosevelt Homes and at 1053 Hudson Road. The Missions Committee asks that you help support these food shelves during March with a generous donation to the Mission of the Month. Please use your blue offering envelope and make your checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

**Become Part of Our Music Program!**

**Sanctuary Choir** The Grace Lutheran Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights at 7:00p.m., and I encourage any of you who may have sung in the past or who might have thought about singing this year to please do so. Rehearsals are as much fun as they are hard work. Come and join us. The Sanctuary Choir usually sings every other Sunday and for special services such as Reformation, All Saints, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Singing in a church choir is a special ministry and I hope many of you will make it yours this year.
*Olaf Malmin, Director*

**The Triple Gs** The Triple Gs (aka Grace's Glory Group) wants you!!!! We are a singing group of young (grade 7 and up) and older adults (no age limit!) who love to praise the Lord. We sing praise songs, contemporary Christian anthems, "oldies but goodies," and everything in between. Our rehearsals are usually at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the choir room downstairs, about twice a month. We sing at the worship service about once a month. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Steingas at 651-739-4252 or jojaraam@aol.com.
*Jan Steingas, Director*

**The Bells of Grace** The Bells of Grace ring 4 1/2 octaves of English hand bells and 3 octaves of hand chimes. And, just your luck, we are looking for some new ringers. We play for services every third Sunday. If you are interested (or even curious) about joining this exciting group, please talk to anyone in the choir or contact the church office. Or you can come to a rehearsal in the balcony on Wednesdays at 5:30 to see how it works.
*Peter Zitzewitz, Director*

**Joyous Juniors for Grades 1 - 6** We meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm. We not only learn songs to offer as we serve the Lord in Worship, but we also sing for fun, learn music fundamentals, church etiquette, have seasonal parties, and develop friendships. We welcome and encourage all students in Grades 1-6 to come and join our team!
*Connie Smeby, Director*

**TalkPoints for the month of March** are based on the book, The Healing of America by T.R. Reid.

When the World Health Organization rated the national health care systems of 191 countries in terms of "fairness," the United States ranked fifty-fourth. That put us slightly ahead of Chad and Rwanda but just behind Bangladesh and the Maldives. All of the other industrialized democracies cover everybody, produce better health results, and spend far less than the United States. T.R. Reid shows how they do it, while explaining complex issues in a clear, engaging way and uncovers the international models that could work at home.

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|---|---|
| **Fevbruary 28** | Dr. Dave Hunter discusses France |
| **March 7** | Sig Johnson discusses Japan |
| **March 14** | Bella Hanson discusses Germany |
| **March 21** | Rev. Paul Hesterberg discusses Taiwan and Switzerland |
| **March 28** | To be announced |

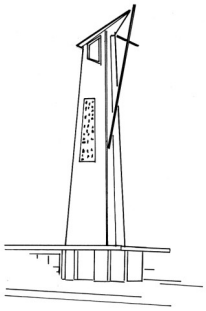
Plans for future Sundays will be to discuss various religions and study a book of the Bible.

**Xtra Years of Zest**
(Those 55+)

Join us on Thursday, March 11 at 1:30pm for Sweet Memories with Bill Mockenhaupt and Mary Severson. The banjo and accordion music is sure to get your toes tapping. We will be in the Tower rooms where refreshments will be served.

**Photos Needed!**

Farewell reception for Pastor Craig will be on May 30 from 11:00am—1:00pm. If you have pictures you would like to share, put your name and occasion on the back and drop it off in the office. Submissions will be returned.



# IN TOUCH
## WITH GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota
An ELCA congregation

## From the Pastor

*Just think, you're here not by chance*
*but by God's choosing.*
*His hand formed you and made you*
*the person that you are.*
*He compares you to no one else –*
*you are one of a kind.*
*You lack nothing that His grace can't give you.*
*He has allowed you to be here*
*at this time in history to fulfill*
*His special purpose for this generation.*
By Roy Lessin

That's a pretty powerful set of thoughts Mr. Lessin has put together. For people who have little self-confidence these words, if believed, ought to provide a great boost.

The disciple Peter, the fellow who would have sworn on a stack of Bibles (had a stack of Bibles been available) that he would never, ever, deny associating with or following the teachings of Jesus might have found these words comforting. Peter needed to remember that he had been selected by Jesus himself to be a disciple. Jesus was, as Peter himself confessed, the Messiah and therefore Jesus must have had good reason to choose him. Peter was allowed to feel badly about denying his allegiance to Jesus but he might have found some much-needed assurance in knowing that he had a purpose to fulfill even after his regrettable denials.

If Peter, a common laborer in his day, had personal gifts Jesus deemed worthy of using as one of his church developers, can't the Lord make equal use of any of us? It's easy to look in the mirror and see our facial faults; it's easy to perform some private self-examination and come to the conclusion that there are others better equipped but, if we believe Mr. Lessin's words, we realize that God has given each of us the ability to do something that furthers God's purpose, God's will for creation. Paraphrasing Lessin's words: *we are here not by chance but as part of God's design; God has given us our personal faith and our unique abilities; God's grace is sufficient to see us through any ordeal or task and we are in this particular place, in this particular time to fulfill God's will.*

In this season of Lent when self-examination is a good and proper thing to do I challenge you (I'll do this too) to spend a bit of time considering:

- Do you see yourself as performing God's will in the way you are living your life?

- Can you believe that God has fitted you out for a certain role? and are you playing your part faithfully?

- Can you believe, in those instances when you know you've failed as Peter did, that God has forgiven you and wants you to press on as best you can?

May each of us strive to be instruments of God's healing and peace in our part of his world.

Yours in Christ, *Craig*