

IN TOUCH WITH GRACE

May 2010

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

From the Pastor

Happy Trails to You...

During my younger years I enjoyed the way some TV personalities ended their shows: comedian Red Skelton said, "God night and God bless". Andy Williams sang a benediction and Carol Burnett tugged her ear (which was a silent gesture of "I love you" to her grandmother). Jack LaLane, the exercise enthusiast dressed in black tights, sang with two German Shepherds next to him. (Katharine sings the song upon request.) Walter Cronkite told us "that's the way it is" and the Waltons said many, many, many "goodnights". Roy Rogers and Dale Evans sang the one that was my favorite: "Happy Trails to You".

With this issue of the In Touch, it's time for me to sign-off here at Grace.

The path of my life, with perhaps a good bit of it still to be traveled, has been strewn with many gifts. Time after time my path and the path of others have joined; the good souls who have walked with me told their story and patiently listened as I told mine. At times one of us was sour or sad, at other times one had wisdom to share or some source of joy that was just too good to be kept to ones' self. Because of such people and the time we've spent together, blessings have been shared and I've grown in faith and worldly wisdom. In my companions' company I have experienced God's grace, sometimes quite unexpectedly, and those moments are ones to be savored.

As all other people have, I've experienced rough spots, potholes in which I've been stuck;

places where the road dipped into a valley in which problems and their accompanying emotions seemed to stop me completely. But someone (usually Katharine) has been there to set me on my way, a bit damaged or changed, but viable nonetheless. I could spend my retirement examining my scars, recounting various hardships or naming in my mind the people I believe wronged me. I would rather however, remember the road – especially the rough spots and the people with whom I've struggled – as points that have been life-shaping and faith-forming; points at which God was teaching me something.

I am fortunate – walking my particular path in partnership with Katharine and our children and the wider circles of family, friends and fellow travelers. With the people in the churches I have served, with you, people of Grace, I have become richer in many ways for having known you as a partner in faith and as a pastor. Our walk is one for which I will be forever grateful.

At the end of May our paths will separate. I truly believe we have ample cause to be thankful for all that God has given us and for the guidance of the Spirit as we go our ways. We have been redeemed by Christ and by him given power and purpose. There is no doubt - we are blessed and we travel in the presence of our patient and loving Lord. I have more than enjoyed your company.

*Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Happy trails to you, keep smiling until then....*
(Ear tug.)

I will always be, yours in Christ,
Craig

Grace Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who:
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Grace Lutheran Church welcomes into the fellowship of Christ and His Church, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Elana Kay Olson, daughter of McNeil and Danielle (Michalek) Olson. Elana, whose sponsors are Melissa Mahoney and Joseph Olson, was baptized April 17.

Gwendolyn Ann Schutta, daughter of Shane Michael Kehborn and Krystle Schutta. Gwendolyn, whose sponsors are Sarah Braman and Benjamin Kehborn, was baptized April 24.

Elsbeth Renee Doree, daughter of Eric and Angelia (Gillespie) Doree. Elsbeth, whose sponsors are Brian Doree, and Matthew and Sandra Woolsey, was baptized April 24.

Easter Garden Thanks to all those who contributed to our beautiful Easter Garden. We are sorry if you didn't get to take home the plant you ordered. Next year we will be implementing a new way to order and pick up the plants. Again, thank you.
-Barb Kinney



The Eternal Candle for May is dedicated to the Confirmation class of 2010 at Grace by Larry and Sue Atneosen. May your faith and commitment to God continue to grow throughout your lives. We celebrate your presence here.

From WELCA: Confirmation Prayer Partners and Everyone. Please remember in prayer this year's class of five 9th graders. They will share their statement of faith Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00pm. Affirmation of Faith, Sunday, May 16.

Stories to Tell and Gifts to Share Helen and Dorothy Mohwinkel shared some cherished memories of yesterday at Old Grace Lutheran Church. They write that "A few of us are still here to remember and tell about the beautiful memories we have of growing up in Grace Church." This is part two of our memories.

TRANSPORTATION: Most adults did not own cars and both young and old walked almost everywhere (to church, to school, to the Minnehaha drug store for a coke) unless they took the streetcar. The streetcar cost a dime and that seemed like a lot of money. This was an enjoyable time when we could "chit-chat" about almost anything.



LUTHER LEAGUE: Junior League was for those in confirmation and Senior League for those already confirmed. Senior Leaguers often stayed in the group until they got married. Young people were warned about the evils of the Commercial Club just a half block away on White Bear Ave. It was considered a "den of evil" because beer was served there. Mostly we obeyed this rule. During World War II the building was the place where food rationing stamps were issued.

CONFIRMATION: Classes were for two years. We would meet twice a week and had a lot of memory work which we had to individually recite in class. Confirmands had to sit in front rows for church services on Sunday. Sometimes girls would giggle or boys would act up and this was a cause for Pastor Walck to call their name out loud and put a stop to it. We had "questioning Sunday" one week before confirmation. The class was sweated in front of the congregation and Pastor Walck would ask us questions at random about our memory work. We would shake in our shoes for fear we wouldn't be able to answer correctly. No books were allowed so we could "peek in" for the answer.

COMMUNION: We were taught that it was important to go to Holy Communion at least four times a year. On Saturday night before Communion Sunday we went to a preparatory service. Pastor Walck impressed upon us the importance of why we were partaking of the body and blood of Christ in the wine and bread. This gave us a feeling of closeness to our Savior.

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Joshua Wickert's Eagle Project Details

What I'm doing:

Painting, Scraping, General Cleaning

Date: Saturday, May 15th, and Sunday, May 16th

Time: 9:00 AM until finished, or until 5:00 PM

Place: May 15th: Meet at Mounds Park playground

May 16th: Meet at tunnel under Highway 61

Suggested items to bring:

- wear paint clothes
- paint scrapers
- work gloves
- brooms
- paint brushes
- rakes
- chisels
- safety glasses

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP if you are able to help and if you need directions:

Phone: (651)-731-6458

Email: ultrajosh@gmail.com

Congratulations Graduates! Congratulations to your families, as well. We would like to recognize your accomplishments by honoring you at the worship service on Sunday, May 23rd. You will also be the guests of honor at a reception following worship.



Please let us know if you, or someone in your family is graduating this spring. We would also like to include those who graduated in December. Please call the church office (651-774-9617) with your name and the school from which you are receiving your diploma or degree.

Xtra Years of Zest (Those 55+) Jerry Sprau has invited us to his farm for a pig roast and educational tours of the area around Dexter, Minnesota on Saturday June 5. This is for any Grace member that would like to see wind turbines in action and the expensive equipment needed to grow corn and beans. Side trips will be educational and interesting. We will board the vans at church at 8:30 AM and arrive in Dexter around 10:45am. Cost of the entire event will be \$20.00. RSVPs are needed to reserve vehicles. For questions or reservations call Larry Carlson at 651-738-8812 or/and Norm Walby at 651-735-0955

The Library's New Selection Reading a book helps develop a hobby, obtain a travel companion, or learn a new language at no cost to you. Our library contains new books of inspiration, fiction, history, and commentary. Browse the library, check-out a book or books of interest and bring it back when it has been read. Leave one of the cards in the box indicating your name and date of use.

Thank you to these individuals and others unknown for gifting Grace Lutheran Church with a varied selection of books: Susan Brown, Olaf Malmin, Bob Golder, the Tjornholm family, Cathie Geister, Betty Martin, Dick Gunderson, Kathleen Hollar, Pastor Hesterberg, Judy Nelson. If you find books at home with a card envelope from Grace, return them to the library shelf to be filed.

May Day! The Sunday School children will have a May Day party on Saturday, May 1 at 1:00pm. Snacks, activities, and a lot of fun are in store! Ask your child's Sunday School teacher for more information.



Talk Points The next scheduled Talk Points is May 9: "Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves: The Teaching of the Buddha and the practice of Zen." We'll explore the fundamental teaching and its embodiment in Zen Buddhist practice in our culture today. Kenneth Ford was drawn to Zen through the writing of some of the pioneer Buddhist teachers in the United States. He began regular practice with Japanese Zen master Dainin Katagiri in Minneapolis some 30 years ago, and has studied at Tassajara Zen Monastery and Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in California. He is presently a lay teacher at Clouds in Water Zen Center in St. Paul.

Other discussions are being scheduled. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact Bella Hanson at 651-774-9995.

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Godspeed and Blessings to Pastor Craig and Katharine Richter! Be sure to join us for a Thank You and Farewell reception for Pastor Craig on Sunday, May 30 from 11:00am-1:00pm. It will be a time to give our gratitude for his years of pastoral service. Let us celebrate the gifts he and Katharine



have been to Grace, and send them off with our prayers of support and best wishes for the next phase of their lives.

If you have videos or photos you'd like to share at the celebration, please bring them to the church office and the party planners will use them and return your items to you.

If you are unable to attend the celebration, you may bring cards and letters to the office and they will be given to Pastor Craig.

From Jessica McCoy:

Pastor Craig Richter

He's great. He's awesome. He's cool.
He's one of a kind.

He is not only our pastor but our friend.
He is there for us when we need him.
Always listening and ready to give advice.
He cares about us, he truly wants to see us all happy.

God has blessed us by sending us Pastor Craig and his family. I send my love and best wishes to Pastor Craig, Katharine and the entire Richter family.

I want them to know how much I appreciate them for being a part of my life. We love you Pastor Craig. You are a blessing in all of our lives.

Grace Church Picnic The Congregational Life committee announces the Grace Church picnic will be on Sunday, June 6 beginning at 11:30am. We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings; potato salad, beans, ice cream, coffee and lemonade. The congregation is asked to bring a dozen or so bars or cookies, and paper plates.

Lenten Recipes Ned Shaffer would like to thank the many people who took the time to comment favorably on the soups served at the Lenten supper on March 10th. Many of you asked if he would share the recipes. The answer is yes. If you would like to have the recipe for either or both of the Cabbage and Kielbasa Chowder or the Potato and Carrot Soup (both in a family size quantity) send a note to him at ecshaffer@comcast.net or drop a note to him in the church office.



By Request

Raspberry Bars - Lana Alleman

2 - 12 ounce bags of frozen raspberries
1 cup of sugar
1/4 cup water
2 T corn starch

Boil raspberries and sugar, add water mixed with corn starch. Boil until thickened.

Crust

2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1/2 or 1 stick of butter softened
1/4 cup shortening

Mix until crumbly, reserve 1 cup. Put the rest into a 9x13 pan and pat down. Pour the raspberry mixture over the crust. Sprinkle the 1 cup of reserve crust over the top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, until just a little brown.

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“If Not We, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?” is a combination hymn sing and think-tank to be held on Sunday, May 2 at 3:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 1730 Old Hudson Road, near the corner of White Bear Avenue and I-94. We know there are many of our neighbors on the Eastside of St. Paul that are in need. The question is: “How can we help?” We are planting a seed. After the hymn sing we will gather over coffee and coffee cake. We will



discover what already has begun in helping our Eastside neighbors and brainstorm on what we dream of doing next. Come join us on May 2nd. Let us put our heads together to help our neighbors on the Eastside of St. Paul. Please RSVP by calling 651-774-9617.

Concern of the Month for May - Habitat for Humanity International Our concern of the month for May is Habitat for Humanity International. Two years ago members from Grace ventured to El Salvador to work on a Habitat for Humanity project. This May the Missions Committee asks that members of Grace continue to support Habitat’s work in El Salvador as Grace Lutheran’s Mission of the Month. Since 1976 Habitat for Humanity has worked as a non-profit organization to gather a wide range of volunteers and business donors to plan and construct or rehabilitate modest homes for low income families. So far this commitment to serving the needs of those with inadequate housing has built over 300,000 houses around the world, providing 1.5 million people with safe, decent, affordable housing. Habitat for Humanity works in all 50 states and 86 other countries. Your generous contribution to Habitat for Humanity will help this work continue. Please use your blue offering envelop and make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

New Members The next New Member Fellowship will be on Saturday, May 1 at 10:00am with New Member being received on Sunday, May 2. A New Member dinner will be Thursday, May 6 at 6:30pm.

Southeast Asian Ministry (SeAM) is a faith-based ministry serving as a catalyst to empower refugees and immigrants. We educate the public about immigration issues and provide services with compassion and excellence.

1. Its getting hot outside, but quilts are still needed at Southeast Asian Ministry. Refugees arrive everyday to Minnesota to start new lives. We distribute quilts and blankets to newly arrived refugees to help them begin setting up house. Our quilt closet is empty! Donations can be brought to the SeAM office Monday-Friday between 9-5pm.

2. Southeast Asian Ministry is turning 30 in 2011. If you would like to be involved in planning SeAM’s 30th Birthday party, please contact Jennifer at 651-293-1261 or seam-stpaul@hotmail.com.

3. Grant-writer sought to help SeAM acquire new funding: If you have experience in writing grants, we need your assistance! Please contact Jennifer in the SeAM office for more information. Thanks!

- Jennifer Schneider, Executive Director

Clean Up Day is May 15! Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 15 beginning at 8:00am and running until noon. Help us clean up the building and grounds to give Grace Lutheran Church the care she deserves. Among the tasks to be tackled are: cleaning the windows, the chairs in the Tower Room, light switches, and drinking fountains; dusting window sills, parts of the Sanctuary, and office areas; raking around trees and bushes; vacuuming the stairs and the lower level. Bring cleaning supplies, gloves, rakes and a friend. The more people we have, the more fun it will be! Beverages and treats will be provided. Call the office with questions. 651-774-9617.





May Circles. Session 9 concludes our study of Romans written by Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans," has provided us with an in-depth look at the thoughts and teachings of Paul, a devoted, fanatical Jew who came to believe that the Jesus who died on the cross was living, and was the Jewish Messiah. Paul's mission was to preach this Good News to non-Jews and bring them to a deeper understanding of what being a Christian meant. For session 9, "Wise in What is Good," read Romans 16. How do we cultivate wisdom in a culture that needs it desperately, but is so easily distracted?

- Ruth Circle: Monday, May 3 9:00am
- Martha Circle: Tuesday, May 11 9:15am
- Deborah Circle: New name? New time? New format? Your thoughts, please. Call the church office.

WELCA 8th Triennial national convention to be held July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, WA. Over 2000 Lutheran women from all around the nation gather every three years for inspiring speakers, fabulous music, Bible study, connecting and learning about the great work of national Women of the ELCA. Details later. Registration will begin September 2010.

Rachel's' Day. May 2 will be a time to remember children at risk in our community and around the world. Join us in worship Sunday, May 2 as Grace women and our music department commemorate the day.

2010 Summer Bible Study. "Pray Always" by Rev. Gladys G. Moore will appear in LWT June issue: "Persistence" ; and July/August issue: "Waiting with Patience and Hope," and "Power." Plans are in the works for Bella Hanson to lead us in two gatherings at Grace for thoughtful discussion on prayer: a Thursday in June and a Thursday in August. Both to include supper and fellowship time along with the discussions. Details to come.

2010 - 2011 Bible Study, "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity," by Revs. Linda J and D. Jensen Seyenkulo. An enrichment session to preview the 9 session study, which begins in September 2010 LWT magazine, will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saturday, September 25. Subscriptions for 1 year (10 issues) is \$12.00. To subscribe call 1-800-328-4648. - Margaret Swenson - 651-738-2030

Lay Ministers for May

May 2, 2010

Acolyte.....Cassandra Pray
 Communion.....Linda Denson, Ruth Vierling, Carol Westling
 Greeters Chuck and Della Rada
 Liturgist..... David Hunter
 Money Counters..... Team D - Knute Nelson
 Nursery.....Joan Carlson
 Ushers..... Team D - Bill Kinney, Ed Holtan

May 9, 2010 - Mother's Day

Acolyte..... Erin Wintheiser
 Communion..... David/Phyllis Hunter, Kari Frederickson
 Greeter..... Bob Hegland
 Lay Reader Thomas Rose
 Money Counters..... Team E - Maxine Keller
 Nursery.....open
 Ushers..... Team E - Paul Gorgos

May 16, 2010

Acolyte.....Hannah Benck
 Communion..... Richard/Irma Raschke, Eric Dietz
 Greeter..... Joyce Hegge
 Liturgist.....Connie Smeby
 Money Counters..... Team F - Kate Pray
 Nursery..... Jennifer Grewing
 Ushers..... Team F - Norm Walby, Mark Pearson

May 23, 2010

Acolyte..... Jared Dike
 Communion..... Ron/Margaret Swenson, Christine Williams
 Greeters Glenn and Pat Schooner
 Lay Reader Peter Zitzewitz
 Money Counters..... Team A - Glenn/Pat Schoonover
 Nursery..... Coley Gillis
 Ushers..... Team G - Ken Jackson

May 30, 2010

AcolyteJacob Wendt
 Communion..... Brad Hegge/Monique McClure-Hegge, Roger McClure
 Greeters Ken and Sandy Jackson
 Lay Reader Phyllis Hunter
 Money Counters..... Team B - Colleen Gillis
 Nursery.....open
 Ushers..... Team H - Jessica McCoy, Arfield Oie

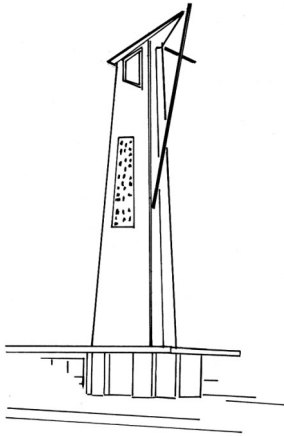
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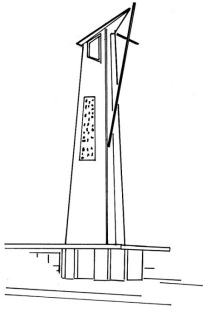
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: The People of Grace

Staff:

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

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



Our Mission Statement:

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Leadership of the Church

Council President's Report

In a continuous effort to keep the Congregation informed as to what is happening at Grace I will try to bring you up to date. There was a Special Council Meeting on Thursday, April 15 with Pastor Paul Erickson from the Synod office. At this meeting we discussed the Interim Pastor process further and receive two names and resumes of candidates that the synod has matched to Grace's needs based on the pool of candidates who are available for an Interim position and the list of desired characteristics that the Council and committees have composed. The Interim Pastor will serve in a full time capacity and will also lead the Congregation through the profiling of Grace and our search for the next Called Pastor to lead Grace. Interviews will be conducted and we will have input on the appointment to be made by Bishop Rogness. The Interim will begin work on June 1, 2010.

The celebration of Pastor Craig's 15 year tenure with Grace will be held on **May 30** following the church service. Hope to see as many of you as possible there to wish Craig and his family well as they move into a new phase of their lives. We are so grateful for all that Craig has given to this Congregation.

I attended a Synod forum on "Calling the Called" on April 19, an event for leaders from congregations currently in or just beginning the call process.

I would encourage all of you to continue to hold your Church, it's leaders and staff in your prayers. Times of transition can oftentimes be draining and require additional time and effort and knowing that we will be led by the Holy Spirit and uplifted in prayer will make the job that lies ahead so much lighter for those who serve Grace during this time of change. I would also like to encourage every member of the Congregation to continue to support Grace financially to the best of your ability. The expenses of operating the church, the mortgage, staff salaries etc. remain constant year round and even as summer approaches and many people think of vacations, or the beach or golf course on Sunday morning I would prayerfully appreciate your commitment to support God's house at Grace.

We continue to move ahead knowing that God will walk with us.

- Sue Atneosen

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.