

IN TOUCH WITH GRACE

June 2010

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

From the Interim Pastor

Dear Family of Grace,

As a church that has a well liked pastor leaving after being a part of your community for a long time, you certainly want a tested, spiritual leader, who knows how to partner and when to lead. Someone with vision and caring, that can help you look at who you are, and where God is leading Grace as you discern what this new call might mean for the next ten years. Someone who can step in and get the regular day to day work done. Teach confirmation, lead Bible studies, and preach.

To do all that perfectly I would have to be Jesus, and Jesus I am not, not by a long shot! During the next year or so I probably will at sometime hurt someone's feelings or step on someone's toes; in other words I will make mistakes. But please understand I never will do so knowingly.

My husband Jim and I have two grown children and three grandkids. I love to read, write, and sing. I still feel the joy of God in the ministry I do. I'm eager to find out what brings you joy.

Over the past 25 years I have learned that I love to create and lead, but also have learned that given half a chance, the parish knows where it needs and wants to go and only needs someone to help them lift up the possibilities.

I've heard great things about your church. It sounds like we make a fine match. Blessings and joy, and I am looking forward to walking on this journey with you.

Pastor Pat Ondarko

From the January 2010 Newsletter of the Saint Paul Area Synod

“Behold, I make all things new....” *Revelation: 21:5*

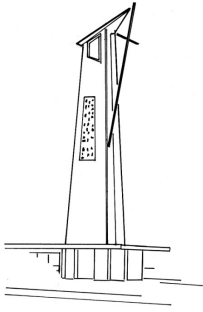
I like this verse in large part because it's both promising and vague... I'm not sure what the “new” that is promised looks like—only that it is indeed a promise coming from the Lamb of God sitting on the throne. I'm not sure whether its literal meaning is for life after death or for present dark time. Or both. But the words of the promise are unmistakable: “Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

...[We can claim] God's promise of constantly lifting us out (raising us up?!) of our doldrums and bad habits. Birthing something new in me

that wasn't there before. Shining a light in the dark night of the soul. Waiting for us at the end of life with what John Ylvisaker called “just one more surprise.” (ELW 732).

Tomorrow morning you'll look in the mirror and think to yourself, “Same ol' me!” Go to church and think, “Same ol' church.” But not really. No two days are ever the same, and neither are you from one day to the next. God is always making all things new.

-Bishop Peter Rogness



Our Mission Statement:

Grace Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who:
CELEBRATE the unconditional love and grace of God;
PROVIDE Christian learning opportunities for all ages;
SUPPORT all who need love and care;
SERVE the community and the world.

The Leadership of the Church

Council President's Report

As the members of Grace receive this copy of the In Touch, Pastor Craig will be preparing to retire from full time ministry. Our lives have been richly blessed through our time together. I, like many others in the congregation, am deeply grateful to have had Pastor Craig as my Pastor and friend and on behalf of the Congregation of Grace would like one more time to extend our heartfelt thanks and our best wishes to him, to Katharine and the Richter family. I hope that many of you will be attending Craig's farewell reception, May 30 from 11:00-1:00.

On June 1, our Interim Pastor, Pat Ondarko will begin to serve Grace. She will perform all the duties of Senior Pastor as well as to help guide the Congregation of Grace through the process of discernment. Pastor Pat has the training, experience and enthusiasm to help us as a Congregation to explore what our strengths and weaknesses are as well as where God is calling us through the Holy Spirit to go in the future. We will then have an accurate picture of what characteristics and qualities will be necessary for our Called Pastor to possess to lead us forward in confidence, hope and joy as we seek to worship and serve God, the community and the world.

I would encourage the members of Grace to pray for guidance as we begin moving forward in this important process. Please continue to uphold each other as well as your Pastors Pat and Paul and the church council in prayer.

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.

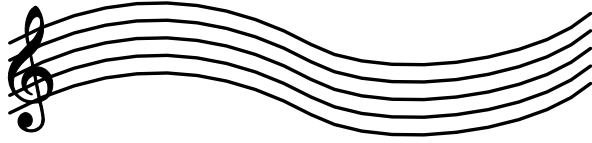
Grace Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who:
CELEBRATE the unconditional love and grace of God

Much of what makes your visits to Grace so special are due to the behind-the-scenes work of people selflessly giving of their time. Throughout this issue you will see names of those people. Our apologies to anyone who may have been overlooked.

Thank you to Keith Smeby for being so dedicated with the Tape Ministry. And to those on Chancel Care—Sandy Jackson, Barb Kinney, Margaret Swenson, and Ruth Vierling—for ordering flowers, taking care of communion supplies, changing paraments and vestments and making sure the chancel is presentable for worship.

Worship and Music News

Mark your calendar! Sunday, June 13 is Augustana Choir Reunion Day at Grace. Directed by Olaf Malmin, the Augustana Choir alumni will be performing special music during the worship service, and all are welcome to attend. Don't miss this special event!



Thank you and blessings to those who have enhanced our worship experience!

Church Sanctuary Choir, Olaf Malmin, Director:

Larry Atneeson	Tammy Mohn
Sue Brown	Kris Mohwinkel
Carol Golder	Anne Oberlander
Linda Gorton	Kate Pray
Barb Greaves	Jonathan Rose
Luther Hesterberg	Marie Ruzak
Paul Hesterberg	Linda Sackreiter
Barb Holtan	Ed Shaffer
Ron House	Connie Smeby
Dave Hunter	Amy Steingas
Florence Klinkerfues	Jan Steingas
Jim Mohn	Pete Wickert

The 3Gs Choir, Jan Steingas, Director:

Hannah Benck	Justin Pray
Keirsten Jackson	Kate Pray
Kaity Major	Linda Sackreiter
Kris Mohwinkel	Amy Steingas
Jessica McCoy	Sue Wickert
Rhianna Peterson	Erin Wintheiser
Cassie Pray	

The Grace Bells, Pete Zitzewitz, Director:

Alyssa Boock	Kaity Major
Carol Goebel	Kris Mohwinkel
Lois Graff	Pam Ryan
Kathleen Hollar	Linda Sackreiter
Barb Holtan	Amy Steingas, alt.
Ed Holtan	Jan Steingas, alt.
Char House	Sue Wickert
Dave Hunter	Nancy Zitzewitz

Joyous Juniors, Connie Smeby, Director:

Aaron Benck	Ethan Taylor
Joel Nikula	Joe Wintheiser
Sarah Pearson	Megan Wintheiser
Ellie Schaaf	Sam Wintheiser

Additional instrumentalists:

Laura Gorton	Justin Pray
Rebecca Gorton	Kate Pray
Erick Major	Linda Sackreiter
Kaity Major	Rachel Steingas
Greg Nelson	Sue Wickert
Cassie Pray	Erin Wintheiser

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 three of these memories.

POT BELLY STOVE: In the basement in the small back room of Grace Church was a pot-bellied stove used for heating. This is where council meetings and confirmation classes were held when it was cold so the whole church did not have to be heated. Some mischievous kids occasionally put pepper on the stove making the air smell bad when the stove was in use.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS: The Sunday School boys and girls rehearsed three Sundays before Christmas. Most children had a recitation to memorize and recite at the program. The big treat was each child received a bag of hard Christmas candy with one cream filled chocolate drop in it. We didn’t get candy very often because it was considered a luxury and money was scarce. Little girls were so proud of their home-sewn dresses made by their Moms which we could show off when we recited our Christmas verses.

PAPER SALE: Sunday School promoted a paper sale approximately once a year to raise money. Children took their coaster wagons and went door to door gathering papers; then walked to church [pulling the full wagons and unloaded papers in the small back room in the basement of church. After unloading, children took their wagons around the neighborhood for another load.

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY: New Year’s Eve everyone was invited to a party. A lot of young people attended. Besides a lot of food, the biggest event of the evening was when the boys went up into the belfry and rang the church bell at midnight.

LENTEN FIRESIDE HOURS: Every Sunday afternoon during Lent the youth would go to church to sing, go for a hike, come back and eat about 5:00 PM. After eating was a devotional time when we sometimes had outside speakers who were never paid for their services. This was a very special time for bonding between the young people.

If you have a story or experience you would like to share, please call the church at 651-774-9617.

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PROVIDE Christian learning opportunities for all ages



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held August 1-5 from 6:00p-7:30p here at Grace. All children ages 3-10 are welcome. Feel free to invite neighbors, friends, and family to join us! There is no cost for our Rainforest Adventure! Registration forms will be available soon. Questions, or to offer to help or donate snacks and/or craft items, call Karin Nikula at (651) 735-6689.

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS OF GRACE: 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

Thank you to our Education Staff

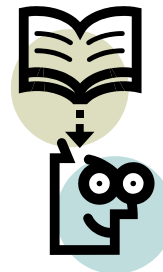
The Education Committee would like to thank the following people for reaffirming the baptismal promise that we make to our children and all members of Grace—that we learn and continue to discuss the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments and study scripture.

Sunday School

Preschool - Kelley Reed, Jenni Smeby
Kindergarten - Karin Nikula
1st grade-3rd grade - Alicia Runquist, Lana Alleman
4th grade-6th grade - Joel Smeby
Resource Office - Sally Pearson, Amanda Hanson
Coordinator, Opening Leader - Connie Smeby

Adult Forums

Rev. Craig Richter
Rev. Paul Hesterberg
Bella Hanson
Ken Jackson
Sig Johnson



Confirmation Leaders

Rev. Craig Richter
Bella Hanson
Dorothy Mohwinkel
Kris Mohwinkel

Confirmation Faith Partners

Larry and Sue Atneosen
Linda Denson
Jim Dike
Amanda Hanson
Rev. Paul Hesterberg
Ed Holtan
Colleen McCoy
Greg Mohwinkel
Teresa Sandberg-Long
Connie Smeby
Amy Steingas



Grace Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who
SUPPORT all who need love and care

Pastoral Acts during May 2010

Baptisms

Alexis Marie Cheesebrough Petersen, May 15
Joelle Therese Nemo, May 15
Genevieve Valentina Menchana Gorton, May 22
Anthony Joseph Childs, May 23
Neil Evan Bwami Luswata, May 23
Neola Edith Basiina Luswata, May 23
Evan Joseph Shaffer, May 29

Funerals

Luella Anderson, May 14
Robert Bradley, May 13

Weddings

May 22: Andrew Wicklace and Crystal Thompson

Thank you to those who helped with this year's spring clean up! The windows were so clean that two birds flew into them.

Carl and Lana Alleman
Larry and Sue Atneosen
Larry and Joan Carlson
Linda Denson
Connie Evans
Lois Graff

Sandy Jackson
Jake and Sonja Kemen
Barb Kinney
Rick Major
Josie Meyer
Randy Nikula

Gary Peterson
Craig Richter
Margaret Swenson
Ruth Vierling
Norm Walby



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.



Prayer Garden of Happiness

First plant four rows of peas: Prayer, promptness, politeness, and purity of heart.

Next plant three rows of squash: squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.

Next plant four rows of lettuce: let us be faithful to duty, let us be unselfish, let us be truthful, let us follow Christ.

No garden is complete without turnips: turn up for church, school, and work. Turn up for those who love you and depend on you. Turn up with a smile, with energy, with new ideas, with determination for something good and worthwhile.

-Author Unknown

Grace Lutheran Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who
SERVE the community and the world

Sierra Leone Scholarships 2010-2011

Can you imagine going to school for \$60? At most schools, that won't cover the cost of lunches. At most universities, that won't even cover the cost of one book. For a child in Sierra Leone, however, the cost of going to school is \$60 for an entire year. This is possible due to the poor economy in Sierra Leone and the strength of the US dollar there.

You have an opportunity to sponsor a child in Sierra Leone and make a life-changing impact of him or her.



Please take a few minutes to prayerfully consider this opportunity. You may sponsor as many children as you'd like for \$60 each. If you are unable to donate the

entire \$60 for a scholarship please feel free to donate a partial scholarship at any amount that fits into your budget. We are hoping the commitments can be made and checks issued to Grace Lutheran Church by July 18. Use a pew envelope and mark it "Sierra Leone Scholarships" or use a blue Mission envelope, also marked "Sierra Leone Scholarships." Please note the number of students you'd like to sponsor and your envelope number. Thank you so much for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sue Atneosen at 651-774-9114.

SPONSORSHIP OF STUDENT(S) IN SIERRA LEONE FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

I/we would like to sponsor ____ student(s) in Sierra Leone for the school year. Enclosed is a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church for \$60 per student. Partial sponsorship of any amount is appreciated.

Signature

Print Name

Envelope Number _____

Mission of the Month for June:

ELCA—Lutheran Malaria Initiative

An initiative to educate U.S. Lutherans about malaria, advocate for global health initiatives, and raise funds to help combat malaria

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative is an unprecedented collaborative effort among the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran World Relief to mobilize the nearly 8 million Lutherans in the United States to join the battle against malaria -- a preventable and treatable disease that kills more than one million people a year.

An expression of our faith and of God's love for all, the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) will educate U.S. Lutherans about malaria, advocate for global health initiatives, and raise funds to help combat malaria. By combining proven field strategies, experience, expertise, and resources, LMI brings together a worldwide network of Lutheran congregations, partner churches, missionaries, and service providers in the fight against malaria.

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative is made possible through a partnership with the United Nations Foundation. Please use your blue offering envelope and make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

2010 Summer Bible Study

"Pray Always" will appear in Lutheran Woman Today in the June and July/August issues. Author Rev. Gladys G. Moore presents three sessions: June issue: "Persistence" session one; July/August issue: "Waiting with Patience and Hope," session two and "Power" session three. Our circles and all women of Grace and friends will gather to learn the importance of persistence, patience, and the power of prayer. Moore writes, "As we bring our authentic selves to these studies, may we be reminded that each of our lives is indeed a prayer, as Jesus lives and serves through us."



Come, every woman of Grace, you are invited and welcome to an early evening of Bible Study and fellowship with treats provided. How does an ice cream social sound? Plan on one get-together to cover the three sessions on Thursday, August 12 at 6:30pm in the South Tower Room. Please read through the material on Prayer in the two summer magazine issues before you come, and be part of a fine discussion led by Bella Hanson.

Thank you to Barb Greaves, our delegate to the April 16-17 convention of the Saint Paul Area Synod Women's Organization held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stillwater. Barb brought three health kids and eight recycled cell phones as material offering.

Layettes. Six are packed up so far for a June delivery to Lutheran World Relief. Always needed are button-in-front baby sweaters, flat fold cloth diapers and sleepers. Money donation? We'll buy! Garage sale items, used and clean are welcome.

Quilts, layettes, soap will be delivered in June.

Missions 2010 Grace DEW group will resume quilt-making in September, the third Wednesday, 10:00am lower level. Bring a 64x84" quilt top (if you sew) and help kick-off our fall production. Fabric is available for your summer's quilt project. Workers are always needed.

Thankoffering Sunday October 10 at Grace. Set aside thank you's to God for blessings received and bring them on October 10 or anytime throughout October. This offering goes to national Women of ELCA and represents a major portion of their annual budget.

Miles of Pennies Keep those coins coming! We exceeded our \$200 goal in 2009. Large jar on the library table awaits your collection.

Eye glasses, cancelled stamps, wrapped soap and "Labels for Education" (bar code section only) can be placed in the small baskets on the library shelf.

The Business of the Church

Calling All Grace Lutheran Business Owners

Marketing and advertising is not like it used to be. Thanks to social media such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, marketing and advertising is more than ever about community! In light of that, we have an opportunity to put together a directory of businesses for members of Grace and the community it serves. As a small business owner and member of Grace for over 40 years, I am asking anyone at Grace Lutheran who would be interested in being part of a member business directory to give me a call 651-994-1341 or email me at monique.mcclure@gmail.com. There are more small business owners in our congregation than any of us realize. Hoping to hear from you soon, so we can generate more business and confidence in our community.

-Monique McClure-Hegge



Summer is here! But don't forget about Grace. Your contributions are what keeps the church going, the lights on, and our programs running. Sadly, expenses do not take a vacation. Please continue to give.

Financial Summary

April Income	\$28,025.43
April Expense	\$22,513.70
Difference	\$5,511.73
YTD Income	\$109,040.16
YTD Expense	\$116,983.94
Difference	-\$7,943.78

Kerry's Korner: I am updating our database and am specifically looking for current e-mail addresses. Please e-mail me at office@gracelutherstpaul.org with your address. You may also update any other information (phone number, etc.). By using e-mail, Grace will be able to get information to you quickly, and we'll be able to save paper and money.

And look for a newly designed website coming soon!

Blessings, Kerry

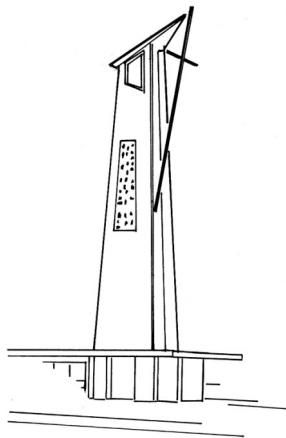
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

In Touch with Grace - June 2010



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: The People of Grace

Staff:

Rev. Pat Ondarko, <i>Interim Senior Pastor</i>	651-774-9617
Rev. Paul Hesterberg, <i>Associate Pastor</i>	651-702-1194 (home)
Kathleen Hollar, <i>Organist</i>	651-633-5247
Olaf Malmin, <i>Sanctuary Choir Director</i>	612-644-5219
Kerry Reif, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	651-774-9617
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.