

# IN TOUCH WITH GRACE

September 2010

## PASTOR'S PAGE

**BLESSED ARE THE FLEXIBLE,  
FOR THEY SHALL NOT BE BENT OUT OF SHAPE!**

*My sister Robbin gave me this sign recently; don't you just Love/Hate it?*

Transitional times in congregations are both affirming and challenging. It affirms the great work and influence of Grace in the present to nurture each other, to educate young persons, and to reach out to those less fortunate. You can see that you are doing wonderful work, and so do I! This time also offers challenges. No longer can 'just because we have always done it this way' be the reason for not changing something.

Indeed, we have been given the great gift of getting ready for a new pastor and we must look at and take advantage of Graces influences and talents so we are prepared. And we might have to change. Change how we connect with, relate to, and include those around us; both inside the parish and out our neighborhood. And change, whether good or not, sometimes will make us anxious.

Thank you for the time and efforts you have taken on the dreams sheets, (lots of ideas for your transition team to put together.) Someone asked why we are putting up sheets on who we want to be instead of whom we want our pastor to be. The answer is quite simple, in order to call the best leader for Grace, we first need to know who we are and where God is calling us to go. So thank you for your patience in the process also.

So what's next? Your transition team will be asking questions, holding adult education times and putting all of it together, so you can hear what they found and know they were listening. Understand if we are to hear where God is calling Grace for the next 6 to 10 years it may require even more change and patience. A different model of congregational work may be called for. Instead of a few professionals or volunteers leading the charge, all of us may need to become key players. For when each person in a faith community uses the gifts given them, the whole family becomes a driving force for love and effective vibrant center in shaping a new church for its members and for the neighborhood.

I hope you will enjoy this journey with us, (your transition team, staff and council), as we discern where God is calling Grace and then learn who God is preparing to join you on the journey.

Pastor Pat

## Council President's Report

Since the last article I wrote to the Congregation was in June, I will try to bring you all up to date as to what's going on at Grace. We should begin by thanking God that we have been so blessed. We should also celebrate the accomplishments and affirmations of commitment by God's people at Grace.

**Vacation Bible School** was held August 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> and was a smashing success. 37 children attended. Special thanks to Karen Nikula, Lana Alleman, Alicia Runquist, Jessica McCoy, Cassie and Justin Pray and many others for all the planning and implementation of the program. They made VBS a wonderful experience.

**Project Home** was being housed as a third site for the month of August. This was done as an emergency measure as people were being turned away nightly through July (for the first week of Project Home we are providing safe housing for 20 guests). Thank you to Sig Johnson and Barb Kinney for overseeing the recruitment of volunteers. A giant thank you to the 50 plus volunteers who helped in one way or another to see the project through to completion.

**Grace has once again come through big for the students in Sierra Leone.** Thanks to the generous support of many of our members, 57 children will be going to school whom, without this money, would not have a future filled with hope and opportunity. On behalf of those students please accept our humble and heartfelt thanks.

**Pastor William Siong has chosen Grace to begin the new ELCA Mission church,** Good Samaritan Lutheran Church. The national ELCA will be supporting this effort for the next five years by committing to paying Pastor Siong's salary and the Saint Paul Area Synod will provide \$5,000.00 per year for the next three years to support this endeavor and additional

financial support is being sought from many of the east side area Lutheran churches. To begin with, Pastor William will be occupying the office that formerly housed the youth director, and his Congregation of four families will hold weekly Bible study. They will also hold a once a month worship and communion service in the Sanctuary. The details of times, space etc., are being worked out between both churches as to avoid any misunderstanding of space usage. We are delighted that Good Samaritan will strive to reach out in Christian love to the many Hmong who live within the area of Grace and we should all support this Congregation with our prayers.

The lower entryway, the Good Shepherd Lounge, the tower rooms, and several of the offices at Grace received a **new look** thanks to generous gifts from the Endowment Fund and Special Gifts and the work of Property and Decorating Committees. A special thanks to Florence Tjornholm who put in countless hours picking colors, negotiating a painting contract and overseeing the painting project (removing items from walls etc.). This is phase one of a three-phase facelift for Grace. Phase two will be new carpet (see the suggestion on the poster located in the South Tower room). Phase 3 will be new furniture for the Good Shepherd Lounge and lower entryway. The Council has firmly stated that no major purchase or improvement can be made at this time without first procuring all necessary funds to complete the project.

**As is typical for summer months, worship attendance and giving is down at Grace.** We Minnesotans appreciate the beautiful weather and world that God has provided for us and we should all be encouraged to spend time traveling, visiting, and relaxing. However, the expenses of running a church do not take a vacation so please continue to support Grace as best as you are able. For many members of our Congregation, times are tough but there are many of us that have been abundantly blessed and we should all continue to support Grace proportionately. (cont. next page)

(Council President's Report, cont.) **Life at Grace continues under the able leadership of Pastors Pat and Paul.** There have been baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as meaningful worship since the retiring of Pastor Craig. A Transition Task Force team has been formed and they have already begun laying the groundwork for the transition process at Grace. To provide us with an accurate picture of whom we need to call as Pastor to lead Grace in the future, we need to revisit who we were, who we are now and where we see ourselves in the future. We have a flexible timetable of the process that we are undertaking to reach our goal of calling the best possible candidate to serve the congregation of Grace into the future. Our hope and plan is to vote on the call committee at the January Annual meeting. The Nominating Committee will be putting together the Call Committee which the Council will need to approve prior to the Annual meeting. I would strongly encourage every member of Grace to participate and cooperate with the transition team as they set about their tasks of information gathering. This is a time for each of us to have our voices heard. Let me assure the congregation of Grace that we continue to function and are working hard to meet the needs of the congregation and continue to provide meaningful worship experiences for everyone. We are moving forward in the process of finding a new called Pastor at Grace. The Council and leaders have taken on additional responsibilities and we ask for your prayers and support as we listen to each of the members of Grace because you are all equally valued and important on this journey as we move forward to proclaim and to celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this place and to open ourselves up to the direction in which the Holy Spirit is leading Grace into the future.

- 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.*

## WELCOME, GOOD SAMARITAN!



We welcome Pastor William Siong, his family and congregation members! Good Samaritan worships at Grace on Sundays at 12:00 noon.

### Good Samaritan's Mission Statement:

The Lord calls us to

- GATHER in worship and fellowship
- SHARE our gifts and resources
- LIVE by the gospel
- CARE for the poor and oppressed.

Good Samaritan's vision statement is to bring the Good News and share the love of our Lord Jesus Christ with the Hmong community in the Twin Cities. Good Samaritan will work as one with the Holy Spirit to install the significance of belonging in Christ's family rather than one's own clan.

*Please join us for the installation of  
Mission Pastor William Siong,  
Pastor Developer of the newly formed  
Good Samaritan Lutheran Church*

*Clergy are invited to vest  
and join the procession*

*Grace Lutheran Church  
1730 Old Hudson Road  
St. Paul, Minnesota*

*September 12, 2010 at 2:00 pm.  
Reception to follow*

### NAME TAGS COME HOME TO GRACE AND ROOST

We all know that it's easier to meet and greet a stranger if they see our names. (It's even easier to remember each others names that way.) But the name tags have to be here in order for that to happen. Bring them back, put them in the pretty basket on the center table, and use it every week. Help us to reach out.  
-Grace's Outreach Committee

### BOOK SALE BOOK SALE BOOK SALE BOOK SALE

First weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) in October the library committee will be having a used book sale to raise money for new DVDs, books and CDs. You can help two ways: first bring in books to sell 2<sup>nd</sup> come and buy. So now's the time to clear out those old mysteries and westerns you've read a hundred times and come and buy some new ones.

### BOOK CLUB IS STARTING

PLEASE JOIN US

COME ONE COME ALL, SEPT. 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 7:00

FOR AN ORGANIZTIONAL MEETING &  
HELP US PICK SOME FUN READS.

Want more info? Look on the website

### Writing Workshop

Have you wanted to learn how to write down those family stories, or maybe you love fiction or poetry? Pastor Pat and her writing partner, Deb Lewis will be leading a workshop on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am to noon. Look for more information on our church website.

**Congratulations are in order.** After much deliberation and discussion, and prayer, **Good Samaritan**, a newly formed Hmong community based church will a be part of Grace. This means that we are sharing spaces, seeing new faces, and learning to live together with grace. Specifics? Right now they have an office, they will meet at 11:30 for Bible study or worship on Sundays , and we have invited them to be a part of activities such as coffee time, Sunday school, and other community times.

“**Stories to Tell, Gifts to Share**” has been the Stewardship theme at Grace throughout 2010 and now, after many fine faith stories from fellow Grace members that have appeared in past In Touch issues, we have invited people to tell us about the gifts they share around the church out of caring and devotion; tasks done behind the scenes, perhaps answering the question, “How does that get done around here, anyway?” Read on for some fine words about what the writer has been doing and why. It highlights the Time and Talent part of our offerings to our church.

**Barb Kinney**

My journey with Grace began 42 years ago, shortly after Bill and I were married. We were married in my home church in California and began looking for a church in St. Paul. We visited a Missouri Synod church because I was raised in one and Bill wanted to please his new bride. That didn’t work out and we next visited Grace. The next day Pastor Norman Nelson, the Visitation Pastor, was at our apartment door welcoming us to the eastside and Grace. We had found our church home!



With the premature birth of our daughter, Christine, we became more entrenched and involved. She was baptized that night and soon I was attending Mother’s Support Group, a group of young mothers helping each other understand and trying to cope with being a parent. We got to know each other both with and without our kids present. (Discipline and toilet training was always a hot topic!) It is special to know that our son Rob is still good friends with David Sprau with whom he lay beside while getting their diapers changed.

We then moved on to Merry Mates, a group that will always be a special in our Grace life. We had Back to the 50's parties (we were closer to the 1950's then), progressive dinners (who ever heard of rhubarb wine?), Polaroid parties (I don’t think that fireman believed we were a church group) and car scavenger rallies (who knew you could get lost so many times?) Good times, but also friendships that are still there.

But there was also serious service to be done. There was teaching Sunday School and VBS, serving on committees, preparing the chancel for worship, supporting Project Home, going on youth events, serving Easter breakfast and chaperoning New Year’s Eve parties. Through all these events one thing was constant, the people and faith of Grace. Sure, there have been changes, people and pastors come and go. But the reason we joined and the reason we have stayed all these years is the ownership we feel towards Grace, the responsibility to reach out into the neighborhood with the Gospel, to be a part of something bigger than us and that will last and grow into the future for the next generations. They will have new ideas and ways to make that happen, all the more exciting!



-Barb Kinney

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We thank Elbert Simmons, our custodian, for his years of service here at Grace and we wish him well in his retirement!



**Project Home in 2010** As a ministry of the St. Paul Council of Churches, homeless families spend the night in host churches when the county Family Service Center in Maplewood has no more room. The need became so great that the project was expanded to two churches every night of the year. This year additional funding was available from Ramsey County to open a third church and Grace was asked if we could be a host church for the month of August.

At Grace, **the project started in August of 2003** when nine members helped for three nights at St. Mark's Catholic Church in the Merriam Park neighborhood to see for ourselves what it meant to be a host church. After an Adult Forum discussion and approval by the Church Council, Grace "signed up" to participate in this ministry, with Sig Johnson and Barb Kinney volunteering to organize it. Volunteer training sessions were held in August and opening day for us was September 1, 2004.

Thank You to volunteers in 2010 who provided a **safe and welcoming shelter** in this our seventh year hosting Project Home children and parents suffering from great misfortunes. Thanks also to support from our staff, Kerry Reif, Pastor Pat and custodian Elbert Simmons, and the organizations and music teachers who were gracious and approving of the cause as they shifted their routines to make space available for the families.

Highlight of the month was **being able to include Project Home children in our Vacation Bible School**. Hand written notes in first graders' best printing were on display saying "Thank you. We had fun. I like my yellow shirt"

Grace members also called in family and friends to join them in this service, and our sister congregations of St. Pascal Baylon, Progressive Baptist each provided volunteers for a week as they have done since the start. Pastor Sara Morse and volunteers from Hazel Park church enthusiastically staffed many other shifts. We had many partners in the community of faith.

"*Maybe we could do this twice a year,*" commented one Grace volunteer. "*Be sure to call me next time,*" offered another. It was a new experience for some and a dedicated belief from many others that this is what discipleship is all about. The experience provided rich rewards for the givers as well as the receivers. Religion in action!

**Mission of the Month for September is: Project Home.** Area churches provide a temporary emergency shelter until longer-term housing can be arranged for families, especially women with children. During the month of August Grace, St. Pascal's and Progressive Baptist churches hosted this program. As Mission of the Month for September, your donations will allow this city-wide program to continue. Please give generously. Checks can be made out to Grace.

**Join us for a trip to Feed My Starving Children.** On September 22, 2010 from 8:00-9:30pm we will be assembling packages of food at the Eagan site of Feed My Starving Children. We have room for 20 people to help out. Please sign up on the poster in the Good Shepherd Lounge. Please contact Julie Major if you have questions-651-738-6440.



**Sunday School begins September 12th!** The teachers are excited to soon be back with the students again! We will be studying the Heroes (and Heroines) of the Old Testament this fall. The lessons are full of *adventure* and *drama* as we learn about God using 'ordinary' people to do extraordinary things! **Any child three years old through Sixth Grade** is encouraged to join us to learn about Deborah, Samson & Delilah, Samuel, David & Goliath, the Two Kingdoms, Daniel, Elijah, the Judges, Prophets, Kings, and more! Every other month we will have a special event - come and be a part of the fun!

**Halloween Party—EVERYONE is invited!**

We're having a party! On **Friday, October 29th**, you are invited to come to bob for apples, eat popcorn balls, play games and just have a fun time. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. Dress up and have fun! The organ will provide scary music. Keep watching for more information on this exciting event.



**New Book club!** Are you interested in being part of a book club? We are too. Come to a brief meeting on **September 23 at 7 pm** in the Tower room. We are beginning from scratch, discussing intent, when to meet, what is our name and what do we want to read. Bring five of your favorite books.

**Calling All Instruments** Do you play a musical instrument? We have a lot of wonderful instrumentalists who have been lending their talents this past summer and throughout the year, but we always have room for more. It doesn't matter how long you've been playing your instrument, you are welcome. This includes piano players, too! Contact Kathleen Hollar. 651-633-5247.

**Piano/Organ Lessons** Kathleen Hollar is again offering piano and organ lessons at church. She has been working for First Note for the last two years, giving lessons primarily in Coon Rapids and Fridley. She is now offering lessons; open to all ages, at church starting this fall. Contact her at 651-633-5247 if you are interested.

**The Sanctuary Choir** "In God we trust, in Him rejoice," is a line from the anthem the Sanctuary Choir will sing at Rally Sunday next month. I think that could act as a theme for Grace Church this next year. Our creative, energetic and enthusiastic Interim Pastor, Pat Ondarko, is

working with a group of talented, dedicated church leaders to ensure that she will turn over to our new Senior Pastor a church that is not merely marking time but is vibrant, growing and alive. I am determined that the Sanctuary Choir will be part of that process. We have a solid core of talented, dedicated and veteran members, but I am also determined that we add some more singers to our roster this year. We have a lot of important singing to do here "at home," but we are also exploring doing some joint projects with other church choirs. Join us Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. for rehearsals, and find out what dropping "r's", minimizing diphthongs, releasing the lower throat, arching the back of the mouth and making successive notes different in intensity from the ones before it are all about—and why these all help this choir sound as good as it does. It's a lot of work but a lot of fun. **Rehearsals start September 9. Welcome!!!**

**TRIPLE Gs** (*Grace's Glory Group*) This "choir" is **open to anyone who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older** - a truly intergenerational group. We sing contemporary Christian music, traditional songs and everything in between! Rehearsals are on selected Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:25 in the downstairs choir room. If you have any questions, call Jan Steingas at 651-739-4252.



**The Bells of Grace** The Bells of Grace ring 4 1/2 octaves of English handbells and 3 octaves of hand chimes. And, just your luck, we are looking for some new ringers. We play for services about once per month.

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, starting September 8th, and see how it works. It's an opportunity for everyone.

- Pete Zitzewitz, Director

**September 5th, Labor Day Sunday: Wear Your "Work Clothes" to Worship** In recognition, celebration and thanksgiving of the jobs we do in the world, you are invited to wear your "work clothes" to worship on Sept. 5th. If you wear "regular clothes" to work, bring something that you use at work. We worship together each week, but often do not know about each other's "other lives" outside of Grace. This will be a way to share your job with the rest of us and give thanks for the blessings God gives us. We are God's people in worship and at work. You will also be invited to write your name and job on a (paper) leaf and add to a vine in the narthex. This will serve as a reminder that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (and leaves!).

**September 12th, Rally Day Sunday Jubilee! Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases**



We will be celebrating the return of the Fall Schedule at Grace and at school and work. Please bring your backpack, briefcase, lunchbag, computer tote, etc. to worship. We'll gather them up by the altar and pray for God's blessings on them and us as we go out in to the world. God is with us always, and we are God's disciples. If you didn't get your chance to add your "leaf" to our vine in the narthex, you will have another opportunity to do that. The Sanctuary Choir will sing at worship, and Sunday School and Adult Education will resume. Join us in our "Jubilee Year!"

**XYZs – eXtra Years of Zest!** We are starting up again with a new year full of activities. Join us September 10th at 1:30pm to learn a little about YouTube and the coming year's schedule. Call Larry Carlson if you have questions. 651-738-8812

**Men's Bible Study** Our Men's breakfast/Bible Study **begins Saturday, September 11 from 8:00-9:00am.** The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, unless otherwise noted.

We will study the Old Testament books of Ezekiel and Daniel using study materials from Luther Seminary. The cost of the book is \$6.00. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Paul at 651-774-9617 or ask any of the following gentlemen: Larry Atneosen, Wayne Erickson, Ed Holtan, Ron House, Floyd Nelson, Chuck Rada, Jonathan Rose, Norm Walby, or Pete Wickert. Join us for this chance to talk-a-little, read-a-little, think-a-little, eat-a-little with this not-at-all exclusive group!



**American Red Cross**

**Bloodmobile: Donors and Volunteers Needed on September 13.** Grace is sponsoring the Red Cross Bloodmobile on Monday, September 13 from 1:00-6:00pm. The Missions Committee needs your help as a volunteer or donor.

New volunteers or donors are always welcome. Blood donations are used in a wide variety of treatments for illnesses and injuries. We hope to sign up over 90 people for blood donations. Help is needed with baking cookies or bars, assisting Red Cross set up from 12:00-1:00pm, greeting or serving from 1:00-3:30pm or from 3:30-6:00pm, and take down/clean up from 6:00-7:00pm. The Missions committee appreciates your offering of time and talent for this mission work. Look for Donor and volunteer sign-up sheets in the Good Shepherd Lounge or call Carolyn Hesterberg at 651-702-1194 or Shirley Walby at 651-735-0955.

**Seasons Cycle – So Do Marriages** All marriages experience seasons of Harmony and Joy alternating with times of Frustration and Disillusionment. A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you new tools to weather the changes using deeper communication and love. In an intimate retreat setting, away from the rest of the world, four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions you discuss

in the privacy of your hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals beginning Friday at 7:00 pm and concluding Sunday at 5:00 pm. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are October 22-24 in Duluth; and November 19-21 in Brooklyn Center. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick and Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete and Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).



**Bible Study Overview for 2010-2011.** Lutheran Woman Today Bible Study, "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity" is written by husband and wife team, Revs. Linda and Jensen Seyenkulo. Linda is

currently pastor of Trinity Ministries in the ELCA's Churchwide Vocation and Education Unit. Monthly lessons are in Lutheran Woman Today magazine. Introductory session for this coming year's study will be Saturday, September 25 at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Snelling Avenue, St. Paul, from 8:30am to 2:30pm with Rev. Jensen Seyenkulo, presenter. Cost is \$13.00 which includes speaker and lunch. Registration and payment due September 21. Forms on library shelf. (Nursery available.) Always time well spent for learning and inspiration. Plan to attend.

**School supplies** no longer being collected by Merrick Community Center. We will gear up later for their holiday gifts collection and please remember to continue regular good donations, as the need goes on.

**Consider subscribing** to Lutheran Woman Today magazine which is always filled with information and inspiration, including monthly Bible studies. 10 issues cost \$12.00. Call 1-800-328-4648 or send an e-mail to [subscriptions@augsborgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsborgfortress.org).

**Secret Prayer Partners for Grace's Confirmands.** The Women of Grace invites interested women and men to consider the privilege of praying for one of our young people during his or her three years of confirmation instruction. Contact Margaret Swenson at 651-738-2030.

**Thankoffering Sunday at Grace** October 10. The offering goes to national Women of ELCA and represents a major portion of their annual budget. We are giving back to God in thanks for His extravagant daily blessings and His promise to us of life eternal. October 10 is soon here; be ready to help Grace meet the 2010 Thankoffering goal of \$350. All are encouraged to participate.

**Mission 2010** Quilt production resumes September 15, 10:00am, lower level. Bring your lunch – coffee's on. New workers always welcome and needed. 30 quilts delivered already this year!

**September Circles** "Ruth," will meet Tuesday, September 7, 9:00am (normally 1<sup>st</sup> Monday); "Martha," Tuesday, September 14, 9:15 am. Topic: Reading the Bible. The verse for session one: Romans 15:4 (Phillips translation), "For all those words which were written long ago are meant to teach us today; that when we read in the scriptures of the endurance of men and of all the help that God gave them in those days, we may be encouraged to go on hoping in our own time."

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### **Pastoral Acts during July, August 2010**

#### Baptisms

July 18: Svea Rose Oman



#### Weddings

July 31: Mellissa Lancrain, Benjamin Nordsvan  
August 14: Adina Lindahl, Nathan Bausted

## Lay Ministers for September

### Acolytes

September 5 Jacob Wendt  
September 12 Kiersten Jackson  
September 19 Ryan Westling  
September 26 Justeen Schmidt

### Communion

September 5 Brad Hegge and Monique McClure-Hegge, Roger McClure  
September 12 Paul and Carolyn Hesterberg, Anne Oberlander  
September 19 Ron and Char House, Diane Cartony  
September 26 Larry and Sue Atneosen, Laurie Ruchie

### Greeters

September 5 Charles and Bev Henderson  
September 12 Elna Livingston  
September 19 Ken and Sandy Jackson  
September 26 Jake and Sonja Kemen

### Lay Readers

September 12 Dorothy Mohwinkel  
September 26 Peter Zitzewitz

### Liturgists

September 5 David Hunter  
September 19 Connie Smeby

### Offering Counters

September 5 Team D - Knute Nelson  
September 12 Team E - Maxine Keller  
September 19 Team F - Kate Pray  
September 26 Team A - Glenn and Pat Schoonover

### Ushers

September 5 Team F - Norm Walby, Mark Pearson  
September 12 Team G - Ken Jackson  
September 19 Team H - Jessica McCoy, Arfield Oie  
September 26 Team A - Larry Redeker

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### Recurring meetings

Church Council 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00pm  
Congregational Life 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00pm  
Mission Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 9:30am  
Outreach 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:00pm  
Property Management 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm  
Special Gifts, Mem 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 4:00pm  
Stewardship Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm  
Worship Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 8:00pm  
Youth and Family 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm

**Fall is here! Time to catch up!** Please prayerfully consider catching up with your pledged amount.



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH INTERIM/TRANSITION PROCESS TIMELINE

## June 2010 to July 2011??

Just a note: Some of these things will take longer than anticipated, some less, and some may be deemed not necessary. Mostly this is to help our Grace community see the progress its making during this year of in-between.

**June 2010** Formal & informal processing of understandings and feelings related to Pastor Craig's retirement; process feelings of staff about his leaving and anxiety of interim year. Set up regular staff meetings; meet with as many council committees as possible. **Done!**

**July** Create a Transition Team; put timeline out on posters in bulletin, and on web site. Goal? To reach all members. With help, make a long poster of church time line; who we were, who we are, and who is God calling us to be. Church staff will work on a behavioral covenant for themselves. Study of equipment needs for future, such as phones, computers, office furniture, etc. conduct inventory of communication systems, newsletter, email; website, etc. **Done!**

**August** Put up Dreams for Grace sheets in coffee room, plan events for groups discussing where God is calling Grace, (workshops, retreats, strategic planning events. Over coffee on Sundays?) Church council will work on a behavioral covenant for themselves. Complete the needs inventory and start to develop funding mechanism. Evaluate Sunday school programs.

**September** Start up of children and adult education. Analyze confirmation, 2 meetings with teachers, kids, & parents. Analyze dreams sheets with transition team & council. Put up "We Are Listening" sheets with results and put in newsletter. Use one Sunday adult forum to talk about it. Transition team goes to Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> Calling the Called meeting.

**October** Stewardship & giving awareness month. Big push working with stewardship team. Time is taken for listening and reflection. Always keep updating progress to congregation. Proposal for funding capital budget finished.

**November** Communications project well on its way, Newsletter/e-mail/website project is finished. Council asks for input and starts to create call committee.

**December** Slow down to encourage all members to healthfully celebrate Christmas and holidays. Do one session on stress from Healthy congregations? Council creates the team of 6 for call committee.

**January 2011** Congregational meeting. Work with each committee to create goals for the coming year that focus on "Where Grace is Being Called." Call committee elected.

**February** Engage- gear up! Members in one of 3 strategic planning meetings. To talk about where Grace is called. A goal would be to get at least 150 to attend. All council members, leaders, and committee folks plus transition team HIGHLY encouraged to attend call committee working in tandem with transition team.

**March** The transition team will finish up their work after listening once more of information for the call committee. Congregational profile is completed. Profile is presented in adult forum, and put on web site. Profile sent to synod and candidate roster is requested. Synod offices invited out to a forum with congregation.

**April** The call committee will complete the congregational profile from the data collected by transition team, and shares it with the congregation in adult forum, and another venue, plus the newsletter. Staffing recommendations made to council by Pastor Pat.

**May** Pastoral candidates are received and interviewed by call committee. Call committee recommends candidate to congregation. Congregation votes on recommendation.

**June** Called pastor considers and accepts.

**July** Farewell to Pastor Pat. 2 weeks later, Installation of new Pastor at Grace hopefully August 1<sup>st</sup>.

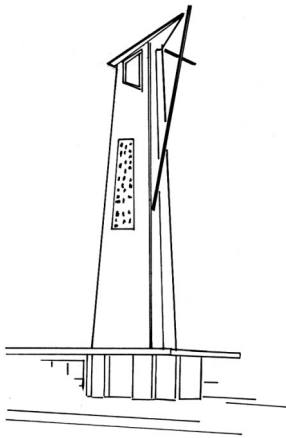
# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*In Touch* with Grace - September 2010



### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

#### Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Pat Ondarko, *Interim Senior Pastor* ..... 612-770-3368  
Rev. Paul Hesterberg, *Associate Pastor* ..... 651-702-1194 (*home*)

#### Administrative Staff:

Kerry Reif, *Administrative Assistant* ..... 651-774-9617  
Edward Shaffer, *Financial Manager* ..... 651-748-2823

#### Music Staff:

Kathleen Hollar, *Organist*..... 651-633-5247  
Olaf Malmin, *Sanctuary Choir Director* ..... 612-644-5219  
Connie Smeby, *Joyous Juniors Director* ..... 651-738-3937  
Jan Steingas, *Triple Gs Choir Director* ..... 651-739-4252  
Pete Zitzewitz, *Bells of Grace Director*..... 715-386-3062