



HAPPENINGS

FROM THE PASTOR

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What's so unique about our faith is that among other things, God is right here, right now, and right there in common folk and common objects. We worship in the name of Jesus, a common man if ever there was one—a carpenter's son from the back-country that was Galilee. When we worship we celebrate—and proclaim! - God's physical presence in the bread and wine of communion. And these are common items. Our wine is Manischewitz, by the way. It most certainly is not a Château Pétrus or Romanée-Conti (yeah, I googled to get those names).

We also celebrate that God is present in, with, and through congregations such as ours—thousands and thousands throughout our world.

Among the thousands, God is present in, with and through the people of Grace. Now each congregation has its own personality. Each has strengths, weaknesses, and, like it or not, a reputation. Trust me when I tell you that over the years, Grace Lutheran Church has enjoyed a very good reputation.

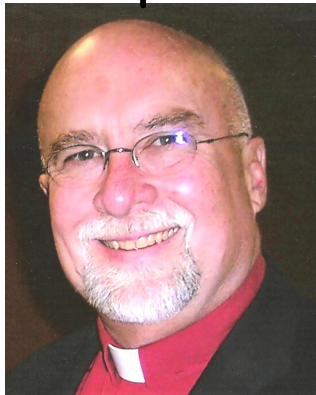
- The people of Grace are known to seek ways to alleviate human suffering here and abroad.
- The people of Grace are known to resolve their differences in peace.

I think that Grace reflects some facets of God's love that are not that common

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"...supporting Grace is supporting this vision of God's great gracefulness. ..."

- The people of Grace are known to welcome and support diversity.
- The people of Grace are known to treat people's differences as superficial; God's love for people as essential.
- The people of Grace are known to support "wrestling with angels" over life's meaning and purpose.



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our study of the *Fruits of the Spirit* will be concluded at our meeting on **Friday, October 7**. Please read to the end of the workbook.

We will take a 2-week break, then meet again on **Friday, Oct. 28th**. Using a study from *The Lutheran Magazine*, *The Sabbath: Being, Having, Doing Enough*, will be discussed.

Friday, Nov. 4th, we will utilize another study (as yet to be determined) from *The Lutheran Magazine*. This will be our only meeting in November.

Monday, Dec. 5th and the following 2 **Mondays, Dec. 12th & 19th**, we change our pace and consider Advent. *While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent* includes a chapter to read and daily reflections for each week. Individual books for this study will need to be ordered. *If you find it difficult to commit to a weekly study for a whole year, you may find this Advent study a good alternative.*

All meetings are held at Cynthia Nimmer's home at 1:00 PM. Please contact Cynthia for further information.



BOOK GROUP TAKES ON NEW FORMAT

The **Grace Reading Group** will be doing things a little differently this year. We will continue to meet on the **third Monday** of the month (except for the busy month of December) at **7:00 PM**, but will be meeting **(NEW)** in the **Narthex at church**. In addition to the book selection for the month **(NEW)** we will be including a short story for discussion. We are **(NEW)** collecting suggestions of books to read for the year from everyone and will make selections and publish that list as soon as possible.

Members and friends of Grace are invited to participate in the Reading Group on a regular or as-interested basis.

The group thanks Jackie DeTeso for her many years of leadership, wisdom and book delivery service.

COMING SOON....

NEW GRACE

DIRECTORY.

PLEASE NOTIFY

KAYE IN THE

CHURCH OFFICE

OF ANY CHANGES.



Save THIS date!

Women's Annual

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 15th

Do you have this book?

God: stories

Edited by C. Michael Curtis

This book was used for a Sunday morning adult study series in 1999 with Pastor Jo. The **Grace Reading Group** will be selecting stories from this book and others for our 2011-2012 discussions. Please see Chris Powell if you are willing to loan your copy to the group—or better yet, bring your copy along and join us as we revisit this collection and more.

MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

UPDATE on the LITTLE DRESSES PROJECT: Inspired by the visit to Grace by Mary Rainey, (social director at Salvation Army and member of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Scotia) and Chris Powell's efforts at Grace, JoAnn Koenig-Hagymas convinced her department at GE (U.S. Employee Services) that this project was worthy of a GE volunteer day to make these dresses. Held in Bldg. 5 in the downtown plant on September 22, JoAnn and the GE organizers, with the help of Chris, conducted a sewing workshop with 66 volunteers participating. The total number of dresses produced was **78** (they were hoping to complete more than 60 dresses in the 6-hour timeframe). GE was also generous enough to include the latest batch (48) of dresses from Grace in with their shipment. *(Thank you, GE!)* Chris and JoAnn are still hoping for more dresses from Grace. If you feel called to be a part of this mission service, please contact Chris or JoAnn for more information. And, now—here's the best news of all—from the GE event, other churches in the area are now expressing interest in becoming involved in this project.



**THE SICM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES HAVE MOVED TO
1055 WENDELL AVENUE, SCHENECTADY, NY 12308-2807
(WENDELL AVE. ENTRANCE TO UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)
PLEASE SEND ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEW ADDRESS.**

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 10/06 Pamela Zepf
- 10/08 Sophie Mathis
- 10/12 John White
- 10/17 Emma Hebert
Denise Harlow-Pavlik
- 10/18 Bill Hebert
- 10/21 Merle Longwood
- 10/26 Shawn Bracebridge
Ester Salasoo

**FROM THE PASTOR
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

- at least in congregations our size. And supporting Grace is supporting this vision of God's great gracefulness. Because of our current size, Grace struggles to maintain its vitality. For the sake of the facets of God we believe important for the world to see (and see through us) I do hope you will prayerfully consider your support of Grace. For sure, money is a mundane topic. Still, the word "mundane" comes from the Latin word for world, and God is present in worldly things. Please consider your offerings to be holy things.

Grace Happenings Newsletter is published 10 times each year. It is a NEWSletter—and, as such, information needs to be received in a timely manner. Please submit articles to Kaye by noon on the 20th day of the month in order to have your news included. *Thank you!*



From the Church Office



Grace Happenings

is published 10 times @ year
by

Grace Lutheran Church
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Grace Lutheran Church is an inclusive community grounded in the love of God and committed to welcoming all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age or physical ability. We encourage all people to share in thoughtful worship, relevant education, and service through faith in action.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES *

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Grace's Church Council met on September 13th. Pastor reported he presided over one marriage, one interment and one funeral, is working with 2 potential new members, the Stewardship team is about to get underway, the Meditation group has begun, the Adult Study group is about to begin, and letters have been sent to inactive households inviting them to Homecoming Sunday. The Treasurer reported there is a \$34,000 deficit year-to-date. Old Business: Homecoming Sunday is Sept. 18th with a potluck picnic to follow worship in Fellowship Hall, the "Saints of Grace" event has been postponed until Spring of 2012, JoAnn Koenig and Shelley Hebert will represent Grace at SICM. Merle Longwood will coordinate Bread for the World appeals, the Mutual Ministry team will meet soon. New Business: Mike Perry will take responsibility for salting the walks and parking lot during the winter and changing the sign out front as needed, the annual Smorgasbord will be Dec. 17th, a regular Sunday service will be held on Christmas Day, and we are looking for a new Community Crisis Network coordinator. Committees/Teams that have not already met will be meeting soon. The next Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 11th.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS *

TOTAL AUGUST INCOME—\$ 14,803

\$ 4,416.00 Envelope Giving
\$10,000.00 Mission Plus Bond Fund transfer
\$ 387.00 Miscellaneous income

TOTAL AUGUST EXPENSES—\$ 17,402.00

\$ 11,552.00 Normal expense items
\$ 5,850.00 Concrete repairs

YEAR-TO-DATE budgeted income totals \$59,585; expenses total \$94,175 leaving a deficit for 2011 of (-\$34,589).

YEAR-TO-DATE envelope income is \$5,171. LESS than projected.

Please bring your envelope giving up-to-date to enable Grace to meet its financial commitments.

* You can read the full report (as submitted by Chris Powell and /or Glenn Gerber) posted in the Narthex.