



HAPPENINGS

FROM THE PASTOR

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There is a depth to the people of God unlike any grouping of people we may have joined in our lives. We may not grasp it in our minds, and at times we may not even feel it, but it's there. Individually, as St. Paul says (Rom.12:5), we are members of one another. I don't think Paul meant that as a metaphor for heartfelt high regard. I believe he meant it literally, on a spiritual level.

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). There is a vine of wild grapes growing through the maple tree next to my driveway. Although there are many branches carrying many clusters of little grapes, I'd

be foolish to think of each branch as something separate from the others. It's all one big mess of vine!

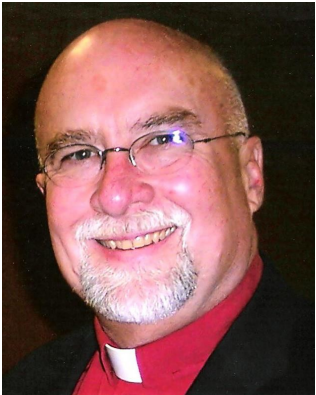
So it is with all of us who are, or ever have been, a part of the community that is Grace Lutheran Church. Grace Lutheran Church is *everyone* who ever embraced this community. Even if you haven't been here physically in some time, or come rarely, you belong to Grace's heart. In the same manner, wherever life has taken you, Grace will always be a part of you.

Thus I reach a hand of welcome and joy to everyone to join us on our Homecoming Sunday, September 18th. Come and worship; come and enjoy the picnic after the service! Even if your life has taken you elsewhere, Grace is always a home

for you—we're calling attention to this spiritual truth by calling September 18, 2011 *Homecoming Sunday*.

I chuckle at Ram Dass' quip, "I'm only Jewish on my parents' side." Christianity would add that we're only isolated beings on our parent's side. We all are one in Christ Jesus, and that's a fact.

"...wherever life has taken you, Grace will always be a part of you..."



HOME COMING SUNDAY— SEPT. 18TH, 2011

COME ONE, COME ALL! JOIN IN THE FUN!

WORSHIP at 10:30 AM

HOW TO RSVP:

(Child care is available.)

Sign up in the narthex—OR

Stay after church for the home-coming picnic. Bring a cold side dish or dessert to share. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and paper goods.

Call the church office—372-0244—OR

Email the church office— office@graceniska.org

Let us know how many people will be attending and what you are bringing. Thank you!



WILL BE BACK IN SESSION ON SEPT. 18TH, DURING WORSHIP, IN THE YOUTH ROOM. JOIN US FOR OUR FUN FALL SESSION!

ADULT STUDY MOVING TO THURS. EVE.

Starting Sept. 15th, the Adult Study group will meet from 7- 8PM in the Sanctuary. Based on your responses to the “Adult Study Preference” Survey, we will be looking at a comparative study of Confucius, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad—four extraordinary human beings who influenced world civilization more deeply than any other human beings in history. In short, we’ll look at the roots of how and why most of the civilized world thinks and believes as it does. We will be using DVD lectures by Dr. Mark W. Muesse, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Asian Studies Program and the *Life: Then and Now* Program at Rhodes College. Each lecture takes up one-half of each session. The other half will be our questions and discussions.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM

needs volunteers who can volunteer for a 4-6 week session or just occasional classes. Augsburg Fortress curriculum comes complete with lessons and activities and is simple to teach. If you can help out, please contact Rachel Mathis or Ron Nimmer.

OTHER EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS:



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP will be getting back into the swing of things on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, AT 1:00 PM** at Cynthia Nimmer's home. We'll be working on week 7—Patience/Kindness and Goodness in *The Workbook on Virtues and the Fruit of the Spirit*. If you've never been but would like to try it—please know—any time is a good time to join in the discussion.

Sarah's Key, by Tatiana De Rosnay, is the bestselling novel the **BOOK GROUP** will begin discussing on **MONDAY, SEPT. 19, AT 7:00 PM at Chris Powell's**. The story is dark but riveting, as it alternates between Paris in July of 1942—(“beautiful, painful, compelling”, says one reviewer, as it tells how Jewish families in occupied France were systematically removed by French officers)—and 60 years later when an American journalist investigating the roundup stumbles onto secrets that link her to Sarah, one of the little girls who was taken. **Let Chris know if you will need a book.**

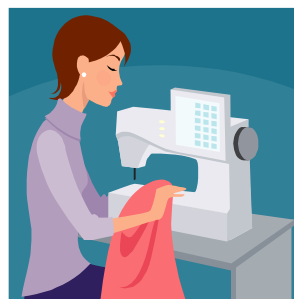
MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



SALVATION ARMY SOUP KITCHEN lunch dates for Grace folks have been set for 2011-2012. They are: **Sept. 19, Nov. 21, Jan. 23, Mar. 19 and May 14.** **Volunteers** (soup makers, brownie bakers and kitchen workers/servers) **are needed.** For September, we need 5 soup makers (mostly opening cans and cooking pasta) and 3-6 brownie bakers (2" brownie squares, cut and individually wrapped). Worker

bees for the lunch itself, are asked to report between 10:30-11:00 AM that day to prepare cups of juice and fruit, make coffee, and butter/package slices of bread or rolls. We serve 150 for lunch and then stay to clean up the kitchen. Lunch is also made available for the volunteers. We're usually finished by about 1:30 PM. Please contact Chris Powell [372-4804 or powellc@nycap.rr.com] if you can help in September. Thrivent Financial supplies funding for this project.

LITTLE DRESSES PROJECT will be an ongoing mission for the coming year at Grace, and is the featured project this fall for the Upstate New York Women of the ELCA. Grace has shipped nearly 70 dresses to poor or remote villages in Africa to help clothe young girls, and to other areas of the world where young girls are vulnerable to being kidnapped or sold into the sex trafficking market. The pattern is very simple—starting with cotton fabric or pillowcase —and be as creative as you want, with or without embellishments. Please contact Chris Powell [372-4804 or powellc@nycap.rr.com] for instructions or more information. Donations towards supplies and shipping costs are always welcome!



MEDITATION IN A CHRISTIAN FORM

Meditation means many things depending on one's religious orientation (or lack of it). In a Christian form, it is a way of silent prayer. It means entering the silence, the "sound of sheer silence" Elijah encountered on Mt. Horeb. Some expressions of Christianity enter the silence to find God. Our expression enters to wait upon God who has long since found us. We enter not to seek but to thank. That said, the forms of meditation are remarkably similar across religious and secular orientations, as are some of the main effects, such as "getting over yourself." Pastor Hahn has had a mindfulness-based meditation practice for more than twenty years and invites you to join with him to learn and grow a Grace Meditation group. Beginning Sunday, September 11th, we will meet from 9:30 to 10:00 AM in the Hoplin Room.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 9/07 Barry Murdock
- 9/11 Connie Sattler
- 9/13 Julie Copeland
- 9/14 Harriet Scoons
- 9/16 Jack Vander Veer
- 9/17 Sabine Seiler
- 9/22 Elsa Hurley
- 9/28 Anne Reese



Grace Happenings

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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 twice this summer, on June 14th and again August 9th. **Pastor reported:** Karen (Kaye) Wergedal was hired as the new Admin. Asst., her first day was July 5th; the GLC newsletter has been added to the website; the Depression/Bipolar group will continue to meet weekly at Grace in the coming year; results of the Adult Study Group survey gave direction for a new study (see story on p.2 of this publication). **Treasurer reports** for May, June and July were presented by Bob Powell. **Old Business:** The stewardship team is being formed, more participants are needed; Nursery Care will be provided during worship in the summer; Homecoming Sunday will be Sept. 18, T-shirts will be ordered; "Saints of Grace" Sunday will be Nov. 6;. **New Business:** Kiddie Car lease was signed for 2011-2012; no 1st Monday Potluck in July, Aug.1st Potluck will be a cook-out picnic, Sept.'s will be the 18th Homecoming picnic. **Committees/Teams:** 7 organizations were approved for ministry funding; 2 upcoming Council vacancies were noted; Council approved Pastor Dan using his discretion in performing same-sex marriages and in offering our Sanctuary for the ceremony.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS *

July was a very busy month due to considerable activity in both areas.

TOTAL JULY INCOME—\$32,634.84

\$ 5,389.00	Envelope Receipts
\$ 50.00	Jan Cioffi (summer school rent)
\$12,500.00	Mission Plus Bond Fund transfer
\$ 42.80	American Clothing
\$14,587.00	Sale of Securities Funds

TOTAL JULY EXPENSES—\$29,938.91

\$ 9,183.62	Normal expense items
\$ 1,748.39	Fed./State Withholding Taxes
\$ 3,328.00	Annual Insurance premium
\$14,580.00	Ministry Grant distributions
\$ 1,098.90	Miscellaneous expenses

YEAR-TO-DATE budgeted income totals \$54,782.44; expenses total \$82,622.50 leaving a deficit for 2011 of (-\$27,840.04).

YEAR-TO-DATE envelope income is \$3,754. less than projected.

* You can read the full reports (as submitted by Chris Powell, Glenn Gerber and Bob Powell) posted in the Narthex.