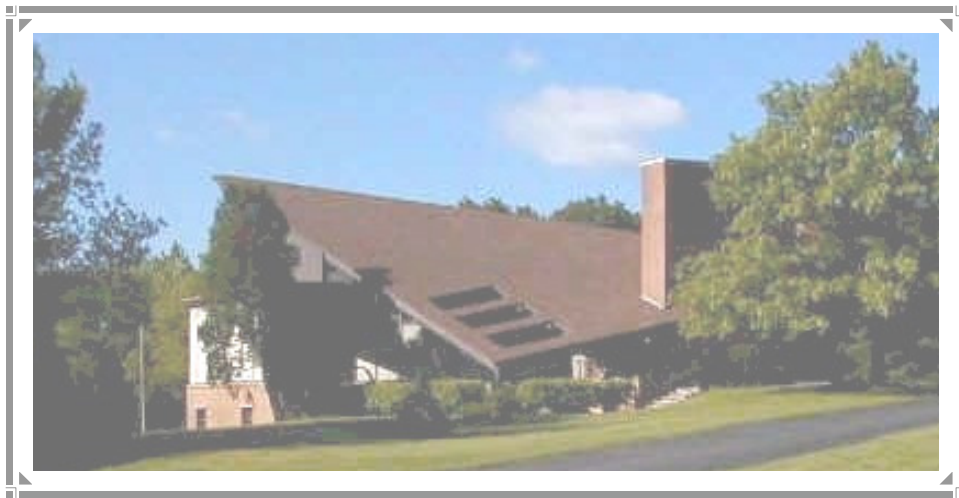


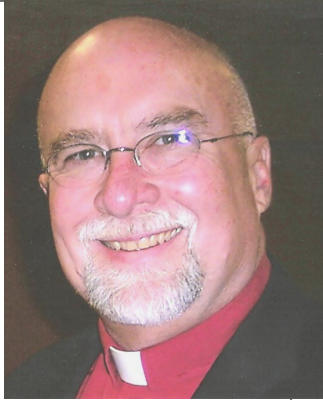
# *Grace Happenings*

## *Summer 2011 Newsletter*



# Grace Happenings

## Pastor's column –June 2011



Just two weeks ago I was with the New York State Council of Churches in Washington, D.C. for the best part of the week staffing the annual “Peace & Poverty Mission,” during which New York’s ecumenical leadership sits down with members of our congressional delegation to talk about public policy proposals addressing those issue areas. The ecumenical leadership has included Lutherans (Bishop Jerge has attended every year except this,) Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, members of the United Church of Christ, Reformed Church in America, and Quakers. As far as I know, ours in the only such ecumenical delegation making visits like this.

In the spirit of sharing, and because Grace is a congregation with a deep history of caring on many levels, I thought it would be fun to tell what some of my very part time work is about.

It's been ten years that New York’s Protestant leaders have been making peace and poverty pilgrimages to Capitol Hill. They believe that in the give and take of political debate moral principles are crucial. Without such principles firmly grounding deliberations, so-called “solutions” often endanger the vulnerable and benefit the comfortable.

The leadership designates the issues of concern – immigration justice, poverty, and peace led this years' agenda. Staff consults with agencies such as Church World Service and denominational public policy offices in Washington to prepare background, inviting them to brief us, and makes appointments with members of the New York Congressional delegation with relevant committee responsibilities. Typically, the first day begins after arrival at a hotel near or on Capitol Hill. We gather for a time of discernment about the guidance scripture gives to the issues and how the group will address them. Issues are decided far in advance and information about the issues is prepared by staff and sent to attendees weeks before the pilgrimage begins.

The second day is devoted to learning. Briefings, legislative updates and strategy about chosen issues give insights for the meetings with legislators the following days. The briefings are usually held on the Hill, either in a denominational building or local congregation. Briefings are led by staff from denominational offices and sometimes their issue colleagues. Over the these have included Jim Wallis of



*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.*

Sojourners, Marian Wright Edeleman of the Childrens Defense Fund, David Beckman of Bread for the World, Tom Andrews of Win Without War, and Phil Wogaman, ethicist and pastor emeritus of Foundry United Methodist Church.

Before the first visit on Wednesday all were prepared for a structured scenario in each office in which one person agreed to take the lead, see that the meeting was opened with prayer, introductions were made and the issues set out that the group wished to discuss. Other members had agreed to be the primary spokesperson for each issue.

Since some visits were scheduled rather close together, the buildings are large, the hallways long, and unless one went through the tunnel under the buildings there was a need to go through security to enter the buildings separately. With over a dozen visits to make, small groups went to each, stopping only for lunch at a house cafeteria.

Appointments were scheduled to discuss peace, poverty and immigration in offices of those New York House members who sit on committees dealing with those issues (Bishop, Clarke, Engel, Hinchey, King, Meeks and Tonko) and with those newly elected in November of 2010 (Buerkle, Gibson, Grimm, Hayworth.) Long-standing relationships with members of Congress were reaffirmed, and fruitful relationships with staff of new members were established. Bishops and denominational executives are in a unique position to build relationships with members of Congress. They are viewed as the leadership of the collective Protestant voice in New York State, and the importance of relationship building cannot be exaggerated. Throughout the year there is continued communication with members of Congress about the ethical and practical implications of courses of action that are contemplated. Some legislators have wished aloud that colleagues from other states would have this kind of feedback from their home state. The Peace and Poverty Missions have been an effective way to build good will and dialogue with the New York Congressional delegation. Although results are not always tangible, at times we can point to results. Shortly after the delegation arrived home this year, Rep. Maurice Hinchey's office notified us that, at our request, he had become a co-sponsor both of the Afghanistan Exit and Accountability Act and the Reuniting Families Act.

I've often made the point that there are two styles of prophets in the Old Testament. We are familiar with Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Amos, all outsiders thundering God's judgment. Then there is Nathan. Nathan built a relationship of trust with King David, so that when it mattered, Nathan's word of judgment ("You are the man!") hit home. As Nathan could speak to David because of their relationship, so these relationships provide the opportunity for the religious leaders of the Council to speak constructively with our Senators and Representatives.

*Pastor Dan Hahn*

## **Grace Happenings**

Published ten times per year

By

**Grace Lutheran Church**

1930 Hillside Ave.,  
Schenectady, NY 12309

## **Pastor Dan Hahn**

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**Organist & Choir Director**

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Phone: 518-372-0244

### **2011 Congregational Council**

#### **Members:**

**Council Members:** Cynthia Nimmer, President; Glenn Gerber, Vice President; Chris Powell, Secretary; Cathy Joynson, Mary Gray, Shelley Hebert, Mike Perry, Christian Hogrefe, Rachel DeTeso-Mathis, Ellen Cash, Sue White and Ron Nimmer

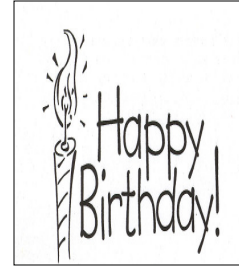
**Congregation Officers:** Robert Powell, Treasurer, Bob Couchman, Asst. Treasurer, and Bill Hebert, Financial Secretary

## **Reminder**

**On Sunday, June 19, 2011  
Grace Lutheran Church's  
Worship Services  
change to**

**9:30 AM**

## Summer 2011 Birthdays



- 6/3—Madeleine Page
- 6/4—Brittany Jensen
- 6/5—Pam Moore
- 6/12—Mary Kelly
- 6/15—Chipp Matthews
- 6/17—Peg Hopper
- 6/19—Christine Perham
- 6/20—Brianna Melanson
- 6/21—Dan Madsen
- 6/22—James Duell
- 6/22—Leslie Page
- 6/23—Ernie Varga
- 6/25—Lorraine Chambers
- 6/28—Jacquelyn Jensen
  
- 7/12—Madelyn Perlee
- 7/14—Thomas Perlee
- 7/17—Peter Gray
- 7/18—Loren Grimm
- 7/22—Barbara Couchman
- 7/24—Roland Peteler
- 7/26—Deirdre Hahn
- 7/28—Linda Duell
- 7/28—Glenn Gerber
- 7/30—Blake Pavlik
- 7/31—Julianne Vooyo
  
- 8/5—James Lewis
- 8/7—Norman Cash
- 8/16—Rachel Mathis
- 8/18—Marcia Grimm
- 8/19—Jackie DeTeso
- 8/24—Mike Perry

ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE  
RESPONDING TO U.S. SEVERE STORMS

MAY 2011 [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster)

An outbreak of tornados tore across the Midwest on May 22, 2011, leaving a path of destruction from Texas to Minnesota. Especially

hard-hit is Joplin, Mo., where a powerful tornado leveled the parts of community, killing at least 89 people. Residents describe the city as "unrecognizable."

This outbreak is one of several destructive storms this spring. Communities throughout the Midwest and South have also faced widespread damage due to floods and severe storms.

ELCA Disaster Response is supporting communities overwhelmed by tornados, rising waters and leveled by destructive winds. Our church is

reaching out to the survivors of these devastating storms and assessing the needs—working together for as long as it takes.

Your help is needed today to bring immediate relief and ongoing support to communities affected by these disasters. Gifts designated to "U.S. Severe Storms" will be used in full—100 percent—to help disaster survivors clean-up, rebuild and recover. Donations given "Where Needed Most" help to respond immediately and effectively where it is needed most. Because of your generous offerings of prayer and financial support, the ELCA walks alongside disaster survivors on their long road to recovery. Thank you!

Yes, I want to help!

- ELCA Disaster Response: U.S. Severe Storms \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0074
- ELCA Disaster Response: Where Needed Most \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or send your check directly to:  
**ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300**  
 write "U.S. Severe Storms" or "Where needed most"  
*on your check's memo line.*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Godwork. Our hands.

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- ELCA Disaster Response: Where Needed Most \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or send your check directly to:  
**ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300**  
 write "U.S. Severe Storms" or "Where needed most"  
*on your check's memo line.*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Godwork. Our hands.

**JUNE 2011 MINI-NEWS**  
*The Home Furnishings Program*

***Needs of the month***

*Linens: blankets, towel sets (bath/hand/face), dishtowels, potholders*

*Housewares: wastebaskets, flatware, spatulas, large spoons*

*Small appliances: toasters/ovens, small microwaves, irons*

***Please note:***

*Because we are benefiting from donations via the Regional Food Bank  
and because we are short on truck-run volunteers,*

***the only donations we are accepting at this time are:  
beds, dressers, and items listed above.***

***Please help if you are able.***

***We apologize if we cannot get to you promptly.***

***We thank you for thinking of us and our clients who are in need.***

***We welcome those who can arrange to drop donations off at our warehouse.***

***Call 346-2444 or email [homefurninc@aol.com](mailto:homefurninc@aol.com)***

***Program Coordinators: Jamie Doriguzzi and Michelle Miller***

***Website: [schenectadyhomefurnishings.org](http://schenectadyhomefurnishings.org)***

## Financial Report

Submitted by Glenn Gerber

Grace 2011 income and expenses against goals:

<u>Overall Budget</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Projections</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>Differences</u>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,931.</b>	\$ 109,160.	\$ 36,034.	<b>\$ 36,259.</b>	\$ 225.
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 12,631</b>	\$ 148,543.	\$ 52,372.	<b>\$ 46,290.</b>	- \$ 6,082.
	Difference	<b>- \$ 39,383.</b>	<b>- \$16,330.</b>	<b>- \$ 10,031.</b>	\$ 6,307.
<b>Envelope</b>					
<b>Giving</b> (Included in above total Income amount)					
	<b>\$ 19,258</b>	\$ 98,000.	\$ 32,350.	<b>\$ 32,242.</b>	<b>- \$ 108.</b>

Overall budget income and envelope income for April 2011 were more than expected resulting in a year-to-date actual as compared to expected being basically on target (overall income +\$ 225 and envelope income - \$ 108).

Budget expenses for March 2011 were as expected with a year-to-date actual less than projected.

*The Financial Team works diligently to manage expenses against income. Keeping your envelope giving current will enable Grace to meet its financial commitments.*

## Women's Study Group

The Women's Study Group will be taking its summer break and will resume in September.

### Altar Flowers Summer 2011

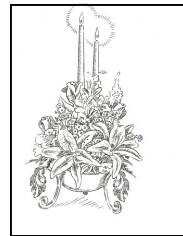
6/5—Virginia Kelley in Memory of our 58th Wedding Anniversary

6/2—Steven and Laretta LeFevre in honor of our 43rd Wedding Anniversary

6/26—Connie Sattler in Memory of her brother

7/17—Peter & Dot Gray in honor of Peter's 83rd Birthday

8/14—Merle Longwood in Loving Memory of Jean Hynes



**If you wish to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one, there is a sign up board to the right as you go out into the Narthex. You will be billed directly by the florist. The altar flowers are generally taken to the sick or shut-ins after the service. Thank you.**

## Recap of CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 10, 2011**

*(submitted by Chris Powell)*

**The meeting opened** at 7:10 p.m. with devotions on the early church (Acts 2:42-47) and prayer led by Pastor.

**The minutes** from the April Council meeting were approved as amended.

### Pastor's Report –

- **Rev. Dennis Meyer will cover for Pastor** during his trip to Washington, DC, **May 16-19**, for the annual Council of Churches meetings with Congress persons.
- There will be reception of **new members and baptism in July**.
- We have received **numerous applications** for the Administrative Assistant position. Interviews will begin near the end of May.

**High activity** of Grace website “visitors” appears to reflect applicants for AA position.

**Treasurer's Report** for April was presented by Glenn Gerber and approved.

### Old Business –

Grace will be represented at the Synod Assembly, June 5-7.

### New Business –

- The sign out front will reflect the **change of worship time (9:30 a.m.) to begin June 16 and run through September 4**. Changes will also be made on Facebook, the Gazette ad, and our phone message.

- The **Stewardship team** is beginning to form.

A “**homecoming**” event will be held on **September 18** to celebrate the return to our Fall/Winter schedule and of our members, friends, and **especially our children** as we come together again to learn and hear God's Word.

### Outreach –

- **The new road sign placement** has tentatively been **approved** by the County (for the corner of Hillside and Providence). The sign will be smaller than the one in front of the church but larger than the very old one on the corner of Providence and Balltown Rd., and will have space to have changing, catchy sayings.
- The **sign in front** of the church now displays our **website address**.
- Watch for the **Gazette ad** for Grace soon.

**November 6**, All Saints Sunday, is the date we will honor the **Saints of Grace** during worship, followed by a **church supper** (lasagna?). Key organizational leaders in the community will be invited

### Property –

- Repairs to the concrete foundation and siding will be made in the months ahead.
- The window above the choir area has been repaired. A gold ball was the culprit.

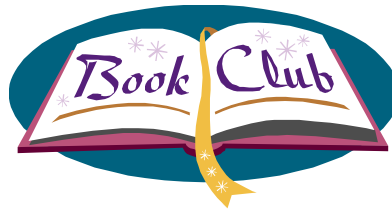
A list of “**things that need to be done**” and will be posted it in the **Narthex** for people to **choose from and complete the task** at a time convenient for them.

**Vision and Ministry** – There are now four applications for grants. The V&M team will review and make decisions in the weeks ahead.

### Christian Education –

- **June 5 will be the last day of Sunday School**. Teachers will be **honored** during worship that day.
- **The children will sponsor an Ice Cream Social** immediately following the service.
- **Child care will be provided during the summer** worship services this year.

The book group will not meet in June. They will meet in July at their annual potluck supper at Chris Powell's camp on Warner Lake, date to be determined. The group will discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, and their own choice favorites. If you are not on Chris' email book group list, please see her for inclusion and details about the July gathering.



### *Prayer Request*

One of our own has been deployed and should be remembered in our prayers. On February 2, 2011, **Lieutenant Junior Grade Kevin Koenig**, U.S. Navy, was deployed to the Persian Gulf on the USS Reagan Aircraft carrier as a helicopter pilot.

Kevin is the son of JoAnn Koenig-Hagymas and the late Edgar Koenig, and brother of Kellee Koenig. He is a lifelong member of Grace and the first son of the congregation to be deployed in many years. He is shown with his wife Lindsay, and a helicopter similar to the one he will be piloting on this mission.

The USS Reagan left San Diego and will be on assignment for approximately eight months. There are 6000 Navy personnel onboard. Please keep Kevin and his shipmates in your prayers.

To All at Grace Lutheran:

As many of you know I will be retiring from Grace by July 1st.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and for you for these past 5+ years. Thank you for all that you have done for me and the prayers you have sent my way.

Fondly,  
Judy Peck



## June, July and August 2011

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	2 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	3 8 PM AA Meeting	4
5 - <u>7 Easter</u> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion <i>Sunday School Sponsored Ice Cream Social</i> <i>SICM Emergency Food Donation</i>	6 6:00 PM - First Monday Pot Luck 8 PM AA Meeting	7	8 7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	9 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	10 8 PM AA Meeting	11
12 - <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion	13 8 PM AA Meeting	14 6:30 - Council Meeting	15 7:00 PM Choir Prac- tice	16 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	17 8 PM AA Meeting	18
19 - <u>The Holy Trinity</u> 9:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion <i>Father's Day</i>	20 8 PM AA Meeting	21	22	23 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	24 8 PM AA Meeting	25
26 - <u>2 Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion	27 8 PM AA Meeting	28	29	30 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	July 1 8 PM AA Meeting	July 2
July 3 - <u>3 Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion <i>SICM Emergency Food Donation</i>	July 4 8 M AA Meeting	July 5	July 6	July 7 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	July 8 8 PM AA Meeting	July 9
July 10 - <u>4 Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion	July 11 8 PM AA Meeting	July 12	July 13	July 14 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	July 15 8 PM AA Meeting	July 16
July 17 - <u>5 Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion	July 18 8 PM AA Meeting	July 19	July 20	July 21 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	July 22 8 PM AA Meeting	July 23

<b>July 24 – 6 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship service – Holy Communion	<b>July 25</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>July 26</b>	<b>July 27</b>	<b>July 28</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>July 29</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>July 30</b>			
<b>July 31 – 7 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	<b>Aug 1</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 2</b>	<b>Aug 3</b>	<b>Aug 4</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Aug 5</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 6</b>			
<b>Aug 7 – 8 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion <i>SICM Emergency Food Donation</i>	<b>Aug 8</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 9</b>	<b>Aug 10</b>	<b>Aug 11</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Aug 12</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 13</b>			
<b>Aug 14 – 9 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	<b>Aug 15</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 16</b>	<b>Aug 17</b> September Newsletter Materials Due	<b>Aug 18</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Aug 19</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 20</b>			
<b>Aug 21 – 10 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	<b>Aug 22</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 23</b>	<b>Aug 24</b>	<b>Aug 25</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Aug 26</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 27</b>			
<b>Aug 28 – 11 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	<b>Aug 29</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Aug 30</b>	<b>Aug 31</b>	<b>Sept 1</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Sept 2</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Sept 3</b>			
<b>Sept 4 – 12 Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion <i>SICM Emergency Food Donation</i>	<b>Sept 5</b> Labor Day 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Sept 6</b>	<b>Sept 7</b>	<b>Sept 8</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Sept 9</b> 1:00 – Women's Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Sept 10</b>			
<b>Sept 11 – 13 Pentecost</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	<b>Sept 12</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Sept 14</b>	<b>Sept 15</b> 7-8:30 PM Depression & Bipolar Group	<b>Sept 16</b> 1:00 – Women's Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>Sept 17</b>			

Grace Lutheran Church  
1930 Hillside Ave  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

