



The BEACON

Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News

January, 2015

Give a smile,
Get one back,
Give a hug
And see the smile...

It's Happening at Grace
Lutheran!

From the Pastor's Desk It's Not a Resolution; It's a Lifestyle



Happy New Year, folks! It is that time of year when people sit down and start listing out their goals, their hopes, their plans for 2015. For many, statements will be made like, "2015 will be the year I go to the gym," or "2015 will be the year I pay off my credit card debt." We all make these sorts of statements, whether consciously or unconsciously. Some take their resolutions very seriously: there are formal lists made, there are goals, there is accountability. Some keep them close

to the vest, tucked in their heart knowing what they want to change, what they want to accomplish with the year ahead, and it's their own personal thing to keep to themselves. No matter how you go about it, each of us takes the time as the calendar turns over to the new year to ponder in our hearts what we want to do with our lives in this new year – this new year that is a clean slate, a chance to start anew.

Resolutions can be a great thing, because they set goals, but they can also just be downright frustrating, because inevitably we will fail at some. We will get busy, we will change course, something will happen that makes them impractical, and then we end up spending the first part of the year kicking ourselves, rather than celebrating what we are accomplishing. I think part of the problem with this is that we see resolutions as simply something to check off of a list, something to be moved on from, rather than seeing them as a significant change in our lifestyle. Saying you're going to go to the gym is about more than just packing a bag and going, it's about saying you're committing to being healthier, to making conscious decisions about your way of life, and how you spend your time. Saying you'll pay off your debt is saying you're committing to making different decisions with your finances, maybe sacrificing to make it happen. It's not a resolution; it's a lifestyle change – which brings me to my question for all of us as we enter into 2015 as a church community. What lifestyle changes do we need to make as a church?

It is a new year, a chance to rethink, reinvent, reimagine, and I challenge us as a community to think about what we want to do differently this year. Who do we want to be when December 2015 rolls around? Who do we want to become as a community this year? What lifestyle changes

can we make that will make us a church more equipped to live out the gospel, to serve God's people, and to love each other more fully and more intentionally? My prayer for us as we enter into this year together is that this is a year of many things: a year where we spent some intentional time as adults talking about our faith, in real, honest, and relevant ways, that we commit to our youth more, commit to making sure that their experience in Detroit in July is life-changing, that we commit to thinking more about how we can serve our community. I know we do so much already, but there's always room for growth, that we spend more time together in deep, meaningful worship, that we expand how we think about worship and how it is that we join together to praise God. There is so much that we can do together, there are so many ways that we can grow together as a community, as a fellowship of faith, and I hope that you will share your ideas with each other, with me, with God. Help us to discover a Grace Lutheran lifestyle this year. Help us to grow this year, to learn this year, to become more committed to being God's hands in the world. We may fall down, we may fail at times, but we will also soar, we will succeed, and we will glorify God in all of our attempts. I pray that this is a year of health, excitement, and blessings for all of us. I pray that with whatever lifestyle changes you are seeking to make this year, you may have determination, strength, and courage. I pray that whatever lifestyle changes we decide to embark upon as a church may bring us closer to each other and to God. I pray that for each and every one of us it may be a blessed, peaceful, happy, new year.

Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina



Inside this Issue

Council News.....	2
Pastoral Acts.....	2
Important Information for Church Volunteers.....	2
What's in the Showcase?.....	2
Noisy Offering Report.....	2
Strangers in Kenya.....	3
Food Pantry News.....	4
Mug Club News.....	4
Book Club Information.....	4
Super Bowl Party.....	4
Online Giving Is Coming To Grace.....	4
Calabar Mission Report.....	5
Lutheran Camping Events for January.....	6
Picture Highlights from Christmas Eve.....	6
Flowers, Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	7
Calendar.....	8



TOGS: Greeting Card sale is underway. Youth are planning a fundraiser on Super Bowl Sunday (details to come).

News

Music and Worship: Services are planned up to Lent. Discussion is underway with St. John's on a joint Ash Wednesday Service.

Parish Education: Planned Sunday School Christmas program.

Mission and Discipleship: Online giving will be presented in January.

Old Business: Jennifer Golden, Sharon Phillips-Cary, and Chris Jacobs were elected to the Audit Committee.

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday, January 18, immediately after the 10:45 a.m. worship, there will be a meeting for all church volunteers who work with our children and youth. We will be discussing the recently passed legislation, which impacts our process for doing background checks. If you teach Sunday school, volunteer for Vacation Bible School, work with the Kids Choir, or work with our kids in any way, we need you to attend this meeting so we can begin to discuss how we will conduct this new process. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Tina.

WHAT'S IN THE DISPLAY CASE?



The display will include New Year's celebrations around the world. We have found an article called 'How to Have a Happy New Year' by Victoria Doudera. Here are some excerpts.

Many New Year customs that we take for granted actually date from ancient times. This year, ring out the old and ring in the new with a New Year tradition—or two!

Make Some Noise

- In ancient Thailand, guns were fired to frighten off demons.
- In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness.
- In the early American colonies, the sounds of pistol shots rang through the air.
- Today, Italians let their church bells peal, the Swiss beat drums, and the North Americans sound sirens and party horns to bid the old year farewell.

Stop by the display case in the Welcome Center to learn more about New Year's Traditions.

"NOISY OFFERING" END-OF-YEAR REPORT

We have the final numbers for what our congregation has generously donated in 2014 to the "Noisy Offering" the first Sunday of each month. As reported earlier this year, the money goes towards the Konde Diocese.



Over the years, our synod has sent money to Konde Diocese in Tanzania, Africa for medical supplies, educational and worship materials, religious texts, and money for a variety of projects (digging a well, motorcycles for pastors to use in their ministry, etc.).

Grace has also sent scholarship money for students to attend Manow Lutheran Secondary School, because education above the elementary level is not available locally. This money comes from individuals, as it is NOT part of our synod's budget. At Grace, we collect what we call "noisy offering" once a month for this purpose.

As your representative, I attended a session about this topic and found out that it costs \$850 per student to attend high school! I challenged everyone to send two students, a male and a female, to secondary school. Here are the results for the scholarship fund:

January	\$ 140.22
February	218.50
March	139.12
April	126.70
May	118.60
June	141.35
July	140.64
August	146.85
September	114.65
October	149.60
November	129.79
December	142.13

2014 Total \$1,708.15

God bless you all for your generosity! Please keep that "noise" coming each month, and remember that we also accept money that folds.

Love in Christ,
Cora Sue Herbst

Pastoral Acts



Marriage:

December 13-Adam Gephardt and Desiree Massonette.

Baptism:

December 21-Brayden Eugene Markley
Parents: Kimberly Krout and Gerald Markley, Jr.

STRANGERS IN KENYA

MURPHY UPDATE

ISSUE NO. 20

KEBARUA KENYA

RIFT VALLEY ACADEMY/ AFRICA INLAND MISSION/ DEC. 2014/ YEAR 10

Two tiny letters

AP. Those two letters carry more weight around high school education than any others. And this past year, those two letters have summarized the majority of our work here.

Heather has been tackling the task of developing a brand new AP course (which stands for Advanced Placement, a curriculum prescribed by College Board, creators of the SAT) for World History. The process began during our last home assignment (2012) when she attended a workshop in California. Since then, she's been working steadily on designing the initial course for our school.

The 2014-2015 school year launched the course, and it's been a challenging and life-consuming whirlwind for teacher and students alike. The course covers all cultures from the dawn of time to modern day, and unlike the AP English course that Ryan has taught for the past 5 years—which is primarily skill-based rather than content-based—Heather's course is content-based. That means that Heather has just six months to get through a few



thousand years of history (our year-round schedule means that our students go home with their parents in December and April). You can see the challenge.

Although she is only teaching one period of the course this year, the prep time has still been daunting. She's averaging about 5 hours of prep work per day (Mon. thru Sat.).

AP courses not only give students with passing scores college credit, but they also challenge all of our preceding courses leading up to the AP courses to increase their rigor and preparation. RVA's curriculum is growing and changing every year, and we're glad to be a part of the process—two tiny letters at a time!



MULTICULTURAL KIDS - Our annual Multicultural Day isn't just a time to celebrate diversity; it's a day to realize that many RVA kids claim affinity with various cultures. Micah (left) celebrated Kenya this year with his garb.



EXTENDED FAMILY - With Heather's extra teaching load this year, our nanny Anne has been an even bigger support to us than before. She invited us to meet and dine with four generations of her family in November.



SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK - Eugene Cho from Seattle and a visiting worship team from Iowa helped our school grow closer to Christ in October. This picture is from the final night when 300+ circled up for the benediction.



Food Pantry Ministry

CHRISTMAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Well, things were pretty hectic from Thanksgiving distribution until our Christmas distribution on December 15. Our plea for stuffed animals and toys was answered fourfold. We received enough goodies that every client, whether they came early or late, was able to find something. One mother told me that she found everything on her child's wish list in our sanctuary. Her smile actually lit up the room. At last count, we gave food to 270 families and expect that some will call even after Christmas. 60 volunteers helped to set up the sanctuary, and about 40 helped with the distribution on Monday. It is truly amazing to see the involvement of our own members as well as others who come from other churches and areas to help with our outreach mission. Easter distribution isn't until March 23, so everyone will get a little break. You can continue, however, to bring donations of cash and goods for the food pantry anytime throughout the year. Thanks again to all who support the food pantry at Grace.

GET READY TO "TAIL-BAKE" YOUR SUPER BOWL PARTY!

Super Bowl Sunday is February 1! What better way to prepare for the big game and get your party started the right way than hanging out with your church family, and picking up a dessert in the process? For this Sunday, we will gather for worship at 9:00 a.m. There will only be ONE worship service this Sunday, and then we will join together for a light brunch and dessert auction at 10:30 a.m. All proceeds from the auction will go to support the TOGS and the youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in Detroit in July.



For the event, we will need people who are willing to bake desserts to auction off. Look for a sign-up sheet in the early part of January.

Since it is the Super Bowl, have a good time and wear your favorite football t-shirt/jersey/team gear to worship.

MUG CLUB NEWS



Mug Club will kick off their regularly scheduled meetings this month! We will be meeting on Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Black Cap Brewing Company in Red Lion. Join us for a night of fellowship and discussion. Mug Club is an opportunity to gather with your church family in a relaxed, informal setting to discuss faith, world events, and how our culture affects our lives. Any and all over 21 years of age are welcome.



BOOK CLUB

In January, the book club will continue on to Part two of Anne Rice's Life of Christ with *Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana*. Anyone interested in participating can get a copy of the book from Jennifer Rudolf or Geri Jacobs. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. Please note that the meeting is being held the fourth week this month.

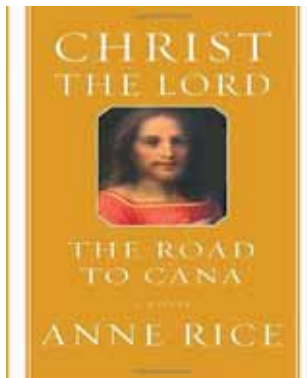
The following description of the book is quoted from amazon.com:

"Anne Rice's second book in her hugely ambitious and courageous life of Christ begins during his last winter before his baptism in the Jordan and concludes with the miracle at Cana.

It is a novel in which we see Jesus—he is called Yeshua bar Joseph—during a winter of no rain, endless dust, and talk of trouble in Judea.

Legends of a Virgin birth have long surrounded Yeshua, yet for decades he has lived as one among many who come to the synagogue on the Sabbath. All who know and love him find themselves waiting for some sign of the path he will eventually take.

And at last we see him emerge from his baptism to confront his destiny—and the Devil. We see what happens when he takes the water of six great limestone jars, transforms it into cool red wine, is recognized as the anointed one, and urged to call all Israel to take up arms against Rome and follow him as the prophets have foretold."



ONLINE GIVING COMING TO GRACE!

Online giving is being tested in January and will be available to anyone wishing to participate early in February. Electronic funds transfer is the method being tested and can be deducted from your checking and/or savings account. Vanco Services provides these services on behalf of Thrivent Financial for a reasonable fee. Look for additional information in the bulletins in mid-January 2015.



CALABAR MEDICAL MISSION REPORT: OCTOBER 6-10, 2014



A team of doctors provided treatment and surgeries during the one-week Calabar mission. In the December 2014 issue of *The Beacon*, we printed a thank-you letter with

a couple pictures from the trip. This issue includes more pictures provided by Dr. Asuquo N. Inyang, the Calabar Medical Mission 2014 Team Leader. Dr. Inyang also submitted an in-depth report on his trip. We would like to present you with the highlights of his report from this mission that Grace Lutheran helped to support.

- Here is a list of the donors for the mission- Wellspan Health, Boehringer Ingelheim, Americares, MAP/ Gems International, World Surgical Foundation, Casa Corazon, Grace Lutheran Church of Red Lion, Flying Feet, Heather Tucker, Leonie Campbell, Brian Pettiford, Brian Flowers, Denise Kenna, Ashley Keeton, Maggie Preston, Vernon Preston, Anne Parson, Lou Salazar, Adam Plowman, Chester Wei, ToNhu Vu and Wellspan Pain Management Center, York Hospital Cardiac Surgery OR personnel, York Hospital Electro-Physiology lab personnel, York Hospital OR personnel (most especially the "green team-Tammy and Mary-Ann") who would not let materials go to waste, the York Hospital Short Stay Unit personnel who kept giving me things for the mission till the very last minute, the AAY staff – Kelly, Cathy, Emily, and Andrea.

- I was called by Mrs. Atai Nyambi on behalf of Efik National Association, Inc (ENA) to lead a medical mission to Calabar in 2014. Coincidentally, when the call came through, I was reaching to pick the phone to call on the ENA to ask when the next medical mission will happen, and if I could join them for the mission. From that moment onwards, I felt this was not just a mere co-incidence, but rather I felt this was God-inspired, and I felt empowered, strengthened and emboldened for the mission.



- Liaison with Cross River State Government (CRSG) of Nigeria: Since we particularly wanted to engage the government, we decided to involve the government in our plans. Starting in September 2013, every meeting agenda included an update on the government.

- Medical Supplies and Equipment: With assistance from Dr. Ekopimo Ibia, and Mr. Emmanuel Nsemoh of ENA, inc., we solicited assistance from various companies, institutions, and individuals to obtain support, not only in the form of medical hardware and supplies, but also in apparels, foot wear, toys, books, and journals to be used as part of the community outreach during the mission. All the items collected were carefully collated, and diligently labeled, and inventory of the items were sent to ENA, and Pro-Health International who were our local partners for the mission.



- Between news of possible danger from terrorists and kidnappers, to the Ebola outbreak that touched Nigeria, volunteers were scared off in droves. From the initial size of 70 people, the team dwindled to six people who made it from North America to Nigeria, and then 5 people made it to Calabar (one doctor had fallen ill while travelling).

- Women and Children Hospital: When Mr. Nyambi complained he was no longer hearing from his contacts in CRSG, I asked Dr. Ibanga to unleash our Plan B. Iko got Mrs. Onari Duke at very short notice, to provide the Women and Children Hospital for our use. She obliged, and worked frantically and tirelessly, round the clock in the course of only a few days to get the hospital ready for us, and also prepared the Guest House located next door to the Hospital for our lodging.

- Mr. Nsemoh and the local ENA officials advertised the mission on radio and television the week before our arrival, publicizing the different sites, and sensitizing the population for the mission.

- When the mission was fully in session, there were large crowds outside, they were very civil and well behaved, and were being seen by doctors very expeditiously. The ORs, Surgical Review, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Gynecology, Dentistry, O p h t h a l m o l o g y, Counseling, Pharmacy, Laboratory were all fully operational.

Grand Total of all patients treated during the mission: 2531. Total number of eye glasses dispensed: 377. Grand Total of Surgeries Performed: 79





LUTHERAN CAMPING

The Lutheran Camping Corporation continues to have events at their locations: The Whittle Farm, Camp Nawakwa, and Kirchenwald during the Month of January. For more information, contact the office at (717) 677-8211 or check out their website online at www.lutherancamping.org.

- *January 2-4-Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald
- *January 18-Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald
- *January 18-Chicken & Waffles at Nawakwa
- *January 18-CampPerson Meetings at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa
- *January 20-CampPerson Meeting at Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg
- *January 22-CampPerson Meeting at Advent Lutheran Church, York
- *January 25-CampPerson Meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg
- *January 25-CampPerson Meeting at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster

Due to January 1 falling on a Thursday, many meeting times have been changed:

- January 4 at 6:30 p.m.-Grief Support
- January 8 at 6:30 p.m.-Worship & Music
- January 14 at 7:00 p.m.-Finance
- January 15 at 6:30 p.m.-Council
- January 22 at 6:30 p.m.-Book Club

Please see the calendar for more information.

HOW TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome all submissions to the newsletter. The newsletter is a great place to ask for help, publicize an event you are planning in the church, tell people about something you or your family is doing, thank members, celebrate a victory. The possibilities are endless! The vision for the newsletter is to communicate between members in a clear and interesting format. If you would like to submit to the newsletter or help in any way, here is what you can do:

*If you are comfortable with computers, you may email Jamie Koons at: jamieleekoons@gmail.com. Please make sure your document is either a .doc or .pdf file. If you are including digital artwork, make sure it is at least 300KB in size.

*If you prefer paper, just drop off your submission in the mailbox marked 'newsletter' outside the office door. The mailboxes are located on a table across the hall.

Please keep in mind that the deadline for submission is the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter. If you have pictures or graphics that complement your submission, include them along with directions or suggestions on their use. Please include your contact information in every submission so the editor can get in touch to clarify or fact-check. If you are interested in a monthly submission or article, we welcome that as well.

PHOTOS FROM THE CHRISTMAS EVE PERFORMANCE

The kids have wowed us again with their 'Bible's Got Talent' Show, written and directed by Ellen Warntz. Here are some photographic highlights if you did not get the chance to come to the performance on Christmas Eve:



The Lutheran

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Lutheran Magazine will be offered for 2015 for \$12/year. Forms and envelopes for payment will be available by January 1.

January Celebrations



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 02 – Richard Hollingworth | 17 – Dennis Grove |
| 02 – Richard Webster | 17 – Cindy Pressel |
| 03 – Jay Keener | 17 – Marian Warner |
| 03 – Kody Peters | 18 – Erica Gottuso |
| 05 – Patrick Gwinn | 19 – LaDawn Anderson |
| 05 – Todd Osterhaus | 19 – Rae Williams |
| 06 – Jack Biles | 20 – Lynette Grim |
| 06 – Maigan Gideon | 20 – Dylan Peters |
| 08 – Jackie Atkins | 24 – Audrey Neff |
| 09 – Olivia Handy | 25 – Heidi Einsig |
| 09 – Nancy McCleary | 27 – Edward Dellinger |
| 10 – Rachele Ghiradella | 27 – George Eveler III |
| 12 – Ben Melusky | 28 – Cora Sue Herbst |
| 13 – Tammy Golden | 30 – Lisa Crawford |
| 13 – Josie Shoffner | 30 – Steven Gross |
| 14 – Evans Fishel | 30 – Daune Hartman |
| 15 – Glenn Smeltzer | |

*Jennie Golden's birthday was omitted from the December list. Her birthday was December 13. *The Beacon* apologizes for this error.

Wedding Anniversaries



- 11 – Cindy & Joey Christenberry
 23 – Lindel & Peggy Rotz
 29 – Dennis & Vickie Grove



T.O.G.S. NEWS

Next Meeting Date:
 Sunday, January 11. We will be discussing Super Bowl plans and winter events.

Baking Lock-In:
 Saturday, January 31 to

Sunday, February 1. Youth will gather at the church at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of baking to prepare for our fundraiser Sunday morning!!

Hershey Bears Faith and Family Night: Sunday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Tickets are \$18.75, since we'll be sitting in the lower bowl this year. We need at least 15 people to attend to get the group price!

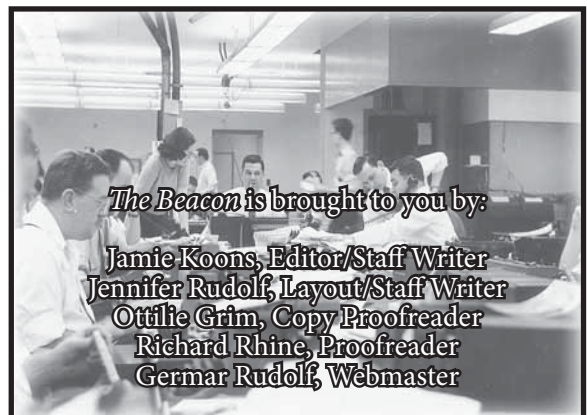
Each month, *The Beacon* reports who is sponsoring the flowers in the Sanctuary.

January's flowers are sponsored by:

- 04 – Edna Shekart (altar)
- 11 – Nancy Grissinger (altar)
- George McCallum (pedestals)
- 19 – Erma Grim (altar)
- Jay Keener (pedestals)
- 25 – Regina Thompson (altar)
- Barb Hartman (pedestals)

February's flowers are sponsored by:

- 01 – Richard Jacobs (altar)
- 08 – Richard Jacobs (pedestals)
- 15 – Erma Grim (altar)
- 18 – Ash Wednesday
- Shirley Pfefferle (altar)
- Jay Keener (pedestals)
- 22 – Dennis Walters (altar)



The Beacon is brought to you by:

- Jamie Koons, Editor/Staff Writer
- Jennifer Rudolf, Layout/Staff Writer
- Ottile Grim, Copy Proofreader
- Richard Rhine, Proofreader
- Germar Rudolf, Webmaster

January 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 Office Closed Happy New Year	2	3
4 9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service 6:30 pm : Grief Support	5	6	7 6:15 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice 6:15 pm - : Spirit Cellar Band Practice 7:00 pm - : Senior Choir Practice	8 6:30 pm - : Worship and Music Committee	9	10
11 Baptism of our Lord 9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service TOGS meeting	12	13	14 6:15 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice 6:15 pm - : Spirit Cellar Band Practice 7:00 pm - : Finance Meeting 7:00 pm - : Senior Choir Practice	15 6:30 pm - : Church Council Meeting	16	17
18 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	19 7:00 pm - : Property Committee	20	21 6:15 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice 6:15 pm - : Spirit Cellar Band Practice 7:00 pm - : Senior Choir Practice	22 6:30 pm - : Mission & Discipleship Meeting 6:30pm: Book Club	23	24
25 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	26	27	28 6:15 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice 6:15 pm - : Spirit Cellar Band Practice 7:00 pm - : Senior Choir Practice	29	30	31 7:00 pm: TOGS Baking Lock-in