



# The BEACON

Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News

October, 2016

Give a smile,  
Get one back,  
Give a hug  
And see the smile...  
  
It's Happening at Grace  
Lutheran!

## The Kids Invade the Pastor's Desk



Instead of my usual article I have decided I'm going to switch things up. I'm going to let the kids ask the questions and... let Pastor Ed answer them instead. Let's see what interesting questions the kids had in mind.

1. Ivy E.- How much do you love god?  
"Lots. However, what is more important is, how much does god love me? I am a sinner, and there are times when I forget to love god, but he always loves me. The most important way anyone can show they love god is to love one's neighbor. Better yet, love one's 'strange, alien neighbor'"

2. Daisy J.- How much do you love your job?  
"Tremendously. I get to connect and talk to some pretty nice people. I also find that doing the Liturgy is one of my favorite things about my calling."

3. Madison W.- What did you do before becoming a pastor?  
"I was a social worker, and I've met some wonderful people, both as a social worker and here at Grace."

4. Brock W.- How are you doing here at Grace?  
"I am having a wonderful experience, but I'm not the one to decide that, how are you with me? Seriously though, I think it is so wonderful to have two very different worship services. It is having that choice that is so great. It is like eating a meal, and after all, we are having the Communion Meal every week. When you go out to eat in daily life, you don't always like to eat at the same restaurant, but eating the meal is what is important, and variety is what most people enjoy doing."

5. Cody P.- Do you play video games?  
"No I don't."

6. Inspired by Parker B.- What do you think of the elections this year?  
"The government is a gift of god" is a quote from

Martin Luther. People are very anxious and afraid in this presidential election. Martin Luther says "The government's purpose is to restrain the evil and promote the good."

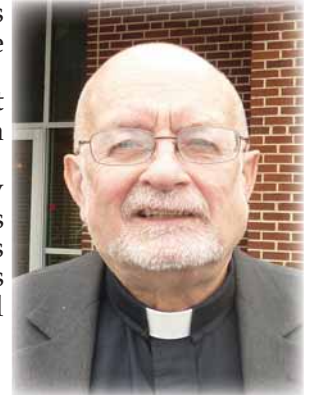
7. Ethan S.- What's your last name?  
"Robbins."

8. Elaina R.- What was your favorite subject in school?  
"Reading. I'm a guy who loves books."

9. Natalie R. (me)- What was your childhood like?  
"I was involved in a lot of dislocation, and I moved four times in my early childhood. My parents finally decided to settle in Hampton Township in Western Pennsylvania. A lot of the time my siblings and I went biking, spent time in the woods, and pelting each other in apple battles. In fifth grade I was throwing snowballs at cars and the first car I hit was my fifth grade teacher. I got into trouble with that one. If I would have known it was my teacher, I would not have thrown it."

10. Natalie R. (me)- What inspired you to become a minister?

"My family was very religious, but my mother was Catholic and my father was Lutheran. We would always go to the Catholic Church, and



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(Pastor's article continued from page 1)

my favorite parts were the sermon and communion. In ninth grade, I wrote a paper and declared that I wanted to become a pastor, but my parents didn't encourage me so I lost faith. After that, I was in the Vietnam War and saw a lot of horrible things that caused me to lose my way. Then I got in social work and found great purpose in helping others. My mother said that my doing social work was like "a secular version of parish work." I went back to church to see if I could find out and the sermon, the Holy Scripture, Holy Communion, the beauty of the stain glass windows, and the Benediction drew me back to church. Those things were what drew me to become a pastor."

That wraps things up on our 'Kids Question' for this month. I will get back into the usual swing of things next month. I hoped you enjoyed the switcher-upper this month, Thanks for reading this article.

-Natalie Rudolf

Pastor Ed says this about contacting him, "You can reach me most any time by calling me on my cell phone at any time. My cell phone is 724-272-2683. If I do not answer please leave a message - my cell phone rings four times before going to voice mail. Leave a message. AND if you have an emergency, wait about a minute and call me back, let the phone ring until I answer or the phone goes to voice mail, and leave a message again. I will return your call when I can. You can also use my house phone, 717-757-9166, but I want you to know we get so many robo calls, we always let the phone screen our calls and go to voice mail. I may not be at home, but I do check the home phone when I come home, so I will return any messages on our home line. You can also reach me by e-mail at pastored@nfcd.net. I check my e-mail several times a day but my laptop is not always with me, nor is it always wifi connected."

## REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER CONGREGATION MEETING

On September 18, the congregation held a meeting to vote for the call committee. There were enough for a quorum, so Ron Golden, the nominating committee chair, called us to order and put forth the following names for consideration: Dick Rhine, Keith McCleary, Deb Warntz, Tom Smith, Scott Hildebrand, and Joe Turek. The slate was voted upon and approved. Lin Rotz then proposed we add an alternate to the committee who would have no voting rights, but would attend all meetings in case one of the committee would have to resign. A motion was proposed and approved. Helen Laughman was suggested as the alternate. Lin then asked for a one-time motion to forego holding an additional meeting in two weeks to vote for this slate, since there are no other candidates. This was approved and the congregation voted to make the call committee slate official. This was also a unanimous vote.

This means the call committee is ready to begin the call process. *The Beacon* will keep reporting on updates as we receive them.

# CHURCH COUNCIL News

Church council met on Thursday September 8.

The budget for next year was presented to the council by Tom Smith. The council approved the proposed budget and it will be presented to the congregation at the combined service on the 16th of October. A formal vote on the budget will be held at the congregational meeting held November 13.

TOGS are going to Houston, Texas and plans are being formed to have fundraisers to pay for the trip. Look for more information in the coming months.

The Parish Education Committee is busy planning for Promotion Sunday.

The Property Committee is investigating our options of updating our security cameras and increasing the lighting on our parking lot.

The Mission and Discipleship Committee raised \$292 during our 'Disastrous Desserts Game Night' which is going to the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund.

The council has been working with the Treasurer's office to clarify some of our fund names and standardize the definitions of those funds so everyone is on the same page throughout our church. During the transition from our old accounting practices to the new Power Church Plus accounting procedures, some conflicts occurred. You will soon see more information on this subject.

Our interim pastor experienced his first Grace council meeting. I am happy to say he survived even though it was a long meeting. Pastor Ed passed some interesting insights on to the council concerning the call process, how it could be slow or how it could be fast. We all voted for it to be SWIFT. Pastor Ed has tons of experience and knowledge to share with us, but he wasn't going to make predictions in this area!

In closing, we shared the Lord's Prayer.  
Lin Rotz  
Council President

**Lector and Acolyte sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center. If you are a Lector, the lessons are in the Lector book on top of the mailboxes in the hallway outside the office.**



## STRANGERS IN KENYA



Thanks for your years of friendship and support!  
The Africa Murphys

### A letter from a parent of an RVA student

Dear Staff,  
I hope the year has started off well.

### Another Satisfied Customer

The top left picture might look like an ordinary first day of school photo for Heather in 7th grade world history... if there wasn't that suspicious looking character in the back left. Yup, that's right. The day has come where we are teaching one of our own here at Rift Valley Academy (RVA). Heather is thrilled (and Micah is tolerating the new work load). Our shared teaching load has increased now that Claire (also above) is in AM kindergarten. You may remember praying for our huge staffing need last spring, and God came through in a huge way (a 9-year kindergarten veteran teacher and a 3-month substitute for 3rd grade!) Heather's also back in her AP 10th grade class again; both of us are department heads still; and Ryan's teaching four 11th grade English classes.

I can't really think of any "special" prayer requests. You know how challenging new school years are, especially with 30 new staff, 90 new students, and the many adjustments of new schedules. Ryan is speaking twice in the next two weeks in front of the whole community (600+ people), so if you MUST have a specific request, there's one. :)

We wanted to share a letter sent to the RVA staff by a parent the first week of school. It gives you a good feel for this school's place in the missions community at-large here. (Names/places have been changed.)

A year ago, my wife and I encouraged the Smiths to consider RVA for their daughter. Bob is my colleague here in Uganda. We were thrilled when we heard Sally Smith was accepted into grade 8 for this new year. Of course, it was a huge decision for their family to take, considering they had few connections to Kenya, no clue about RVA, and had never visited the campus prior to the new parent/student orientation. They had simply gone off our word as well as what my daughter had to say while on school breaks. My wife and I were nervous about how they might view RVA since we felt very responsible.

Needless to say, they were very extremely moved by the orientation process. They were overwhelmed with the quality of the staff and their heart for the students. They were touched by the stories and sincere empathy that staff displayed in understanding what parents go through. They were amazed at the humility of the staff -- pointing out that even staff and RVA leadership drive vehicles to and from Nairobi for students and parents.

They basically voiced what I think all parents appreciate about RVA. The service that you and your staff provides goes way beyond what any other types of boarding school (Christian or other) might offer. RVA is a special place. Thanks for your leadership in keeping the school's vision and mission.

Stay encouraged in 16/17,  
John Doe

## FALL CLEAN-UP



Saturday, October 8 will be our annual Fall clean-up beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will be working outside to clean up the flower beds, removing annual plants and trimming trees. Inside, we will be cleaning the kitchen area and the social room, as

well as the pews and book racks in the sanctuary. If you are planning to work outside, please bring your gloves and tools. If the kitchen is your favorite area, we will provide all that you need. Donuts will be provided for the workers. This stewardship project usually lasts about two and a half hours but we will take any time that you can give. Hope to see you at church on the 8th.

## THE BUILDING FUND NEEDS YOU

Yellow building fund envelopes can be picked up in the Treasurer's office. Why should you consider an additional donation to the building fund? Our endowment that maintains the physical building and its contents is shrinking. It is a priority we need to grow before our funds run out. We have approximately \$74,000 in our account and while that seems like a lot, it goes to maintain the expensive things like the steeple, roof, and instruments. An unfortunate reality is the money often goes out in big chunks. If you are blessed with some leeway in your budget, consider a donation to the building fund. You can rest assured that the money you donate will have very visible results you can see and of which you can be proud. Previous generations of our membership have given us this endowment. Our generation needs to continue the legacy.



## BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be October 20 at 6:30 p.m. The book club always welcomes new members and meets on the third Thursday of the month. This month, we are reading *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. Anyone interested in participating can get a copy of the book from Jennifer Rudolf or Geri Jacobs.

Goodreads.com summarizes *The Invention of Wings* as follows:

“Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

Kidd’s sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women’s rights movements.

Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful’s cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better.

## WHAT’S IN THE DISPLAY CASE?



The display case will feature foreign and domestic artifacts of different religions for the month of October. Take some time to check out some interesting artifacts and devotional items used as part of different religious practices. The items from India are used in Hinduism and are from the Uttar Pradesh Providence of Northern India and the holy city of Benares or Varanasi (the Ganges River area). They include Deities, water pots for carrying Holy Water, incense burners, oil lamps, a Hindu Gita and a Tibetan Prayer Wheel. There are Catholic and Jewish items and other interesting objects that are labeled.



## Munich! I mean Red Lion.

**Join us on Sunday, October 23 at noon for German music, food, games and drinks. Let’s fill the Social Hall like the Germans do. The cost of Oktoberfest is the same as last year \$10 for adults, \$6 for ages 9 to 20, age 8 & under free.**

**Make a reservation by including your family numbers for a head count on any of the sign up sheets: by the elevator, on the Welcome Center sign up board and on the Spirit Cellar table. Envelopes are available for payment at those places as well. Place payment inside, names on outside and place in the Treasurer’s Office Lockbox to the right of the doorway in the Portico Entrance Hallway.**

## 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 are 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 Jen Rudolf at: swimmerjenusa@yahoo.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.



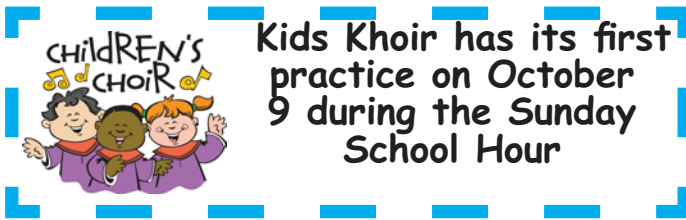
## T.O.G.S. NEWS

The first T.O.G.S meeting will be held October 9. This is a planning meeting to decide what we are going to do and how we are going to serve. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. downstairs. Pizza will be provided.

## October Celebrations



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Doris Douglas     | 19 Regan Flory       |
| 02 Julia Kinard      | 21 Wicky Barnes, III |
| 07 Roy Grove         | 23 Linda Dennish     |
| 08 Beth Hollingworth | 23 Ally Warntz       |
| 08 Regina Thompson   | 25 Dayne Bailey      |
| 09 Jeffrey Barker    | 25 David Laucks      |
| 09 Jana Shoffner     | 28 Edna Howard       |
| 16 Kelly Anderson    | 29 Lisa Germick      |
| 17 Thalia Jones      | 29 Germar Rudolf     |
| 17 Mark Stanley      | 30 Melisa Dellinger  |
| 18 Jennifer Rudolf   | 30 JoHanna Shaffer   |



**Kids Khoir has its first practice on October 9 during the Sunday School Hour**

## LUTHERAN CAMPING

The following events are listed online at [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org). Visit the website or call (717) 677-8211 for more information.



### October 2016 Events

- October 2- Capture the Flag at Kirchenwald
- October 4-6 - Book Study Retreat at Nawakwa
- October 16 - Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa
- October 16 - First-Annual Bag Toss Tournament at Kirchenwald's Fall Foliage Day
- October 22 - The Wittel Farm Growing Project Harvest Festival at The Wittel Farm

## Wedding Anniversaries



- 03 Eric & Diana Smith
- 05 Evans & Donna Fishel
- 06 Chris & Amy Johnston
- 08 William & Sharon Stein
- 10 Sam & Jeanne Laucks
- 11 Brett & Susan Hammers
- 12 Sami & Kirt Peters
- 14 Edward & Daune Hartman
- 20 Chris & Doris Golden
- 24 Joe & Lorann Jacobs
- 27 Drew & Robin Walker
- 29 Vincent & Angie Kicas



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

October's flowers are sponsored by:

- 02 – Robert Miller
- 09 – Carolyn Noll
- 16 – Ed Dellinger
- 23 – Doris Douglas  
(fall arrangement)
- 30 - Regina Thompson

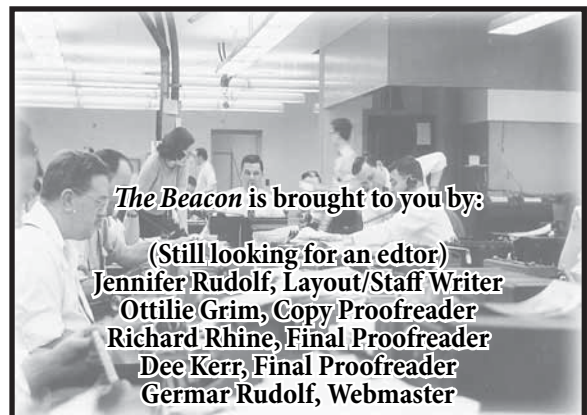
November's flowers are sponsored by:

- 06 The Smith Family  
Ned & Julia Kinard (Pesdestal)
- 13 Celebrating God's Blessing
- 20 The Keener & Curran Families
- 27 The Jacobs Family



## Food Pantry Ministry

We will be packing boxes on Saturday, October 29 and Nov 5 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the food pantry area. Volunteers are needed both days as well as for sanctuary set-up which is on Sunday afternoon, November 13 beginning at noon. Please mark your calendars for these important dates of our out-reach ministry here at Grace.



*The Beacon* is brought to you by:

- (Still looking for an editor)
- Jennifer Rudolf, Layout/Staff Writer
- Ottillie Grim, Copy Proofreader
- Richard Rhine, Final Proofreader
- Dee Kerr, Final Proofreader
- Germar Rudolf, Webmaster

# October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Noisy Offering 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Private Party 6:30 p : Grief Support - Revisit for new season start-up date.	3	4	5 6:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Band Practice 6:30 pm: Ringers by Grace Senior Choir 7:00 pm: Finance Committee	6 Region 8 ELCA Network for Mission Event 7:00 pm : Graceful Women	7 Region 8 ELCA Network for Mission Event	8 Region 8 ELCA Network for Mission Event 9:00 am: Fall Clean-Up 2:00 - 4:00 pm: Bell Ringer Seminar
9 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Private Party	10	11	12 6:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Band Practice 6:30 pm: Ringers by Grace Senior Choir 7:00 pm: Senior Choir	13 6:30 pm : Church Council Meeting	14	15
16 Reserved - Mission & Discipleship Committee Event 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	17	18	19 6:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Band Practice 6:30 pm: Ringers by Grace Senior Choir 7:00 pm: Senior Choir	20 6:30 pm: Book Club	21	22
23 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service 12:00 pm: Oktoberfest	24	25	26 6:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Band Practice 6:30 pm: Ringers by Grace Senior Choir 7:00 pm: Senior Choir	27 6:30 pm - : Mug Club @ Black Cap	28	29 8:30 am : Food Pantry Packing
30 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	31					