

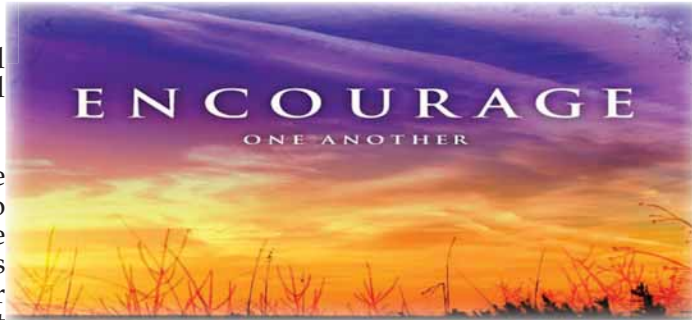


# The BEACON

Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News

May, 2017

## From the Pastor's Desk:



Grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is time for me to write my final contribution to *The Beacon*, and these are my last weeks to serve as your interim pastor. I hear your excitement about Pastor Courtney and I am very confident she will be a blessing to you. I express a caution; her capacity to be a blessing to you in significant part depends how you are with one another, and whether you sustain a reaching into the world to bring the blessings of God's intention, or whether you retreat from that reach.

I have served in parish ministry for 27 years now and in a variety of ways I have known a number of congregations. Within that number there are now four congregations with whom I have spent significant time and expended much energy. Each congregation has had its own particular players and its own particular "playing process." The playing process is very important as to whether the outcome will be good in the sense of communicating warmth, love, care, and purpose into the world, or whether the congregation will "hang up" in lethargy, lack of purpose that is good purpose, and a quarrelsome depressive atmosphere in which little joy in God, ministry, and one another is characteristic of the situation.

As you may know one week in the month of May (the week of Monday 8 through Friday May 12) I will be in my first week of intentional interim training. In preparation for this training there are some required readings which I have accomplished, and a portion of which I want to share with you. The quotes I share are authored by Peter L. Steinke and derive from two of his books: *Healthy Congregations, a Systems Approach* and *How Your Church Family Works, Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems*.

First a quote from *Healthy Congregations, a Systems Approach*: "The health of a congregation is multifaceted. It is a power-sharing arrangement. Attitudes count. Working together counts. Faithfulness matters. Mood and tone are significant.....the two emotions most detrimental to health are vengeance and bitterness. Conversely, the most nourishing attitude is gratitude. Healthy congregations certainly foster caring spirit and encourage a confident tone..... [Healthy congregations] are graced and gracious, generous with

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

each other and outsiders. They are communities of thanks and praise."

Peter Steinke is an experienced Lutheran pastor and a church consultant who assists congregations seeking assistance to deal with those matters the congregation defines as matters of "problem" and "difficulty."

He has a very interesting approach, but that approach is not fully apprehended by me as of yet. I want to lift up some matters for your thinking as you move through the transition from this time of interim pastorate into the first, transitional months of relationship to and with your newly called regular pastor, Pastor Courtney.

In the book *How Your Church Family Works* while writing about a congregation with whom he worked Steinke writes: "Both the pastor and leaders began to see their problems as a matter of a whole (in contrast to the prior disposition to identify others as objects of blame and assignment of failure), as a matter of mutual influence. After they redefined their problem, they had a whole new perspective – and they were thinking systematically. With anxiety slackening, they were ready to proceed to the next step toward change. It was yet another kind of definition: self-definition. Instead of defining themselves against one another, they resolved to define themselves to one another. As long as there is blaming, it is nearly impossible to institute change. Blaming is a sign people are stuck in their instinctive nature." Blaming is a nature which impedes our ability to come to effective initiatives, a

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nature which accelerates anxiety, and anger, rather than correlating with gracious tone and generousities.

Several pages later Steinke writes, "The church is a gathering of dissimilar parts. It is not necessary that the parts be identical to one another. It is necessary that they be identified with one another...The church, striking in its diversity, is most effective in its working together for mutual benefit." An aspect of Steinke's writing is this: when anxiety rises absent effective recognition and dealing with (not denying, but dealing), it is a sign that people are becoming pre-occupied with self-preservation.

The quotes I have provided from Steinke I find provocative for my thinking, and feeling; they are not intended as a prescription or a magic solution. However, I believe they point towards some important thoughts which correlate with a stronger, more effective congregation. These are my thoughts, and I hope they are of utility to you as you, individually in relation to one another, and as a congregation in Christ in your unity of diversity.

1. All congregations face challenge in our times. The 1950's and early 1960's with their floods of people into our Lutheran congregations no longer exist.

2. As it was in the 1950's and the 1960's anxiety is high in the land, and human need is still a human reality. We remember that even 2,000 years ago the ministry of Jesus was one of bringing sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, food to the hungry, visitation to those in prison (however it might be that those prisons might have been constructed) and human response to the outcasts, the widows, the orphans, and the alien strangers. Such is the purpose even today of our life in Christ.

3. No congregation can, nor does, have responsibility to meet all human needs as it seeks to fulfill its ministry and mission; equally all congregations have responsibility to define ministry and mission to meet some specific human needs of the people around them, whether those people are "in" the church or "out" of the church. The decision as what to structure, belongs to the people of God in particular places. To work out the specific strategies and means, ALL congregations are called by the Holy Spirit to do some ministry and mission whatever its varied expression, strategy, and means.

4. A congregation more effectively manages its anxieties, not by denial but by recognition, and understanding that we trust the resurrection life of Jesus is in a better place than where it is otherwise. When we deal with our anxiety effectively, we neither deny nor are we overcome by it; rather we recognize it. This begins the process of asking: "How might I manage my anxiety more effectively?" and "How, even with my anxiety, might I engage in our common purpose of ministry and mission?"

5. A stronger congregation defines and redefines

over time its ministry and mission. Both (a) in relation to the world and the human needs expressed herein (needs which can be constant over time but which also can take shape differently in particular times and social contexts) and (b) the energies and abilities and gifts and interests of the people of a congregation. A stronger congregation knows within itself its mission and ministry. It is not a matter of a slogan posted on documents and website, but rather of a heartfelt, deep in the bone awareness on the part of those living into the context of congregational relationship.

6. A stronger congregation refuses to accept its worry about survival, even when it shrinks in size and in some ways capacity of ability. A small congregation strong in the Holy Spirit is a mighty endeavor, even if made up of 20 to 40 people, whereas a much larger congregation in number may be very insufficient in spirit and generosity. A stronger congregation keeps its eye on two primary purposes: (a) immersion in Word and Sacrament ministry and (b) being present to the neighbor, whether the neighbor is a person known within the congregation, or a stranger in the community of town, county, state, nation, world beyond the doors of the church building. In that presence to the neighbor is intent to discern the need of the neighbor, and take particular actions determined by the discernment to be a sign of light and life to the neighbor.

7. Finally, for purpose of this portion of the article, the congregation refuses the distraction, and the trap, of believing "the pastor will save us!" The pastor will not save you, the pastor cannot save you. Jesus has already saved you and invites you to worship him AND to serve him by serving your neighbors. You will need to do the following to serve the Lord and your neighbor. Be in graceful gratitude with strength of purpose in your differentiation of personality and gifts and expressions of worship life. Have joy in the good you have a history of doing. If you have joy in the good you have a history of doing, and if you make the history the current intent and practice (even if it changes shape), you and your pastor together will be a blessing to God, to the world, and to one another. In such a context it is very likely that your pastor will treasure you and you will treasure the pastor. However, if you choose instead to think the pastor will save us, the pastor will bring us growth, the pastor will inspire us, etc. etc. ...already you are on the way to a place that will defeat you and the pastor. For in such a circumstance you will no longer be living to your responsibility, and you will be attempting to displace it to the pastor. So, build to your strengths, build to your pastor's strength, and wrangle not with each other on the basis of anxiety and anger and bitterness and blame. Step forward each day to immerse in prayer, communal prayer, worship, and conversation of depth, especially at times of intensity and encouragement. Celebrate with one another the good you do, and encourage one another to the good. Treasure one another for the strengths you bring, knowing full well that no one – not the best lay person nor the best pastor – has all gifts and abilities. Finally, serve the Lord!

In Christ, Pastor Ed

# A LETTER FROM PASTOR COURTNEY

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ!

Have I told you all how excited I am to be joining the ministry at Grace next month?! As I have shared with many of you, the journey of our discernment together, from getting us first connected and then meeting, praying, and worshipping together, has been for me an amazing experience of God's faithfulness and guidance. I have been keenly aware of the immense privilege I am entering into, to serve in a place where the Holy Spirit is moving and shaking, with folks who are excited to be church together. Our God, who has been and is so abundantly faithful, will continue to be faithful to us into our future. Thanks be to God!

Right now, things are "busy" for Ben and me. You know about that, right? When you have a perpetual to-do list with closely approaching deadlines and curveballs thrown in every once in awhile just to make sure you're paying attention? Ben and I are currently wrapping up our final two weeks at the four congregations we have served in Nebraska. At the same time, we are packing, working on buying a house, looking for temporary housing, and setting up things with a moving company. That's not even including the paperwork. Oh, the paperwork!

As you also know, it's all too easy to get wrapped up in the "busy" and forget to pay attention to the things that really matter. In rushing around from activity to activity, in being spread too thin between work and family and sports and school and...everything, it's easy to forget to take time to stop and smell the roses, or whatever flowers you have outside your home. Every once in a while, however, I've been able to pause and remember what the "busy" of right now is really about: getting to Pennsylvania and starting our work together with the congregations to which we've been called. I don't think there's much value in being busy for busyness-sake, but when the tasks we do help us to serve God and each other, it makes the to-do list a little more bearable.

In the coming months I look forward to getting to know you all better and learning what your "busy" looks like. I'm not here to tell you to drop your favorite activity or stop being a Type-A if that's who you are, but I'll be here to walk with you and join you in taking a pause to notice where God is during your moments of chaos and joy. I hope to join you in conversation about where you see God at work in your life, and how your "busy" helps you live into your unique calling as a child of God. I am also here to work on how together we can get to a place where the items on our to-do list don't control us, but add to the flavor of a life lived in service to Christ.

My first day as your pastor will be June 1 and then I get to jump into Synod Assembly at my alma mater, Messiah College for the next two days after that. Then we will gather for our first Sunday worship together on June 4, the festival of Pentecost where we celebrate the gift of God's Holy Spirit that breathes new life into us and leads us to adventures and joys unknown. Quite fitting, don't you think?

I look forward to seeing you all next month and seeing how God works through all of us in the years to come!

Peace,  
+Pastor Courtney



## IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME

We have set the date for Saturday, May 13 to tidy up our wonderful worship space. Help is needed both outside and inside. This is an important volunteer opportunity because it helps keep our budget small in the area of general maintenance. We will start at 9:00 a.m. Dunkin Donuts treats will be provided to keep you strong in your work. Bring some gardening tools to help outside. If you prefer to dust and polish, inside work is also needed. More hands make the work fun and easy. Please plan to join us.





## WE NEED YOU TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION!

The financial crisis faced by the Food Pantry has given us cause to adjust our procedures here at

Grace. Our past history has been for us to have five distributions throughout the year with emergency food available in between distributions. In an effort to reduce costs, we will now have four distributions/one every three months, not related to holidays. By changing the dates, we will eliminate the rapid turn-around between Thanksgiving and Christmas which has become a burden for our volunteers who pack boxes and set up the sanctuary. In addition, it will eliminate the need to purchase turkeys twice in thirty days thus reducing our financial burden.

Grace receives about \$20,000 from the Pennsylvania Food Bank, a selection of free government food, donations from other churches and organizations but as we all have experienced, the cost of things increases constantly. For example, purchasing over 200 hundred gallons of milk for the clients costs nearly \$1000; creating our health care/cleaning boxes costs \$2500 and that is just for one distribution. We have been providing this service since 1982 and plan to continue in the future. Here's where you fit into the plan. The Church Council has requested that members help by bringing certain items to the church each month. During the month of April, laundry detergent was the asked for item and during May, you will be asked to bring a different item. Your continual support of the "yard sale ministry" has been awesome. The donations of clothing, household goods, sheets and blankets, books and toys continue to fill a need for nearly every client who visits Grace Food Pantry. What seems insignificant to us is often a very big deal to someone else. Your willingness to help is a constant blessing.

Your eagerness to continue to give monetary gifts, to help pack boxes, to help with sanctuary set-up and the actual food distribution is the only way that our pantry can survive. There is a small band of people who help with all these physical activities, but more people are always needed. Please mark your calendar now so that you are able to come to help. Packing boxes will be on August 19 and 26, with sanctuary set-up on September 10 and distribution on September 11. If you have never volunteered, please consider giving your time and your heart to the food pantry. If you are unable to help physically, there are envelopes marked Food Pantry available at both services for your cash or check designated Food Pantry. Join us in celebrating the existence of this out-reach ministry here at Grace Lutheran by giving your support in any way that you can.



## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for stimulating discussion (and snacks). We welcome all booklovers to join us.



If you would like a copy of the book of the month, contact Geri Jacobs or Jennifer Rudolf. Our May read is *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom. Goodreads.com has this to say about the book:

*"The First Phone Call from Heaven* tells the story of a small town on Lake Michigan that gets worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. Is it the greatest miracle ever or a massive hoax? Sully Harding, a grief-stricken single father, is determined to find out. An allegory about the power of belief--and a page-turner that will touch your soul--Albom's masterful storytelling has never been so moving and unexpected.

Readers of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* will recognize the warmth and emotion so redolent of Albom's writing, and those who haven't yet enjoyed the power of his storytelling, will thrill at the discovery of one of the best-loved writers of our time."

Taken from: [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17888952-the-first-phone-call-from-heaven?from\\_search=true](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17888952-the-first-phone-call-from-heaven?from_search=true)

## 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 Chris Jacobs at: [kndsis1@yahoo.com](mailto:kndsis1@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.

## A PERSONAL WORD FROM PASTOR ED

As I depart from this my first interim assignment and you the people of Grace Lutheran Church, you have been a delightful experience and I will miss you. We have worked together regularly in worship and prayer and service to our Lord. I am impressed with what I have observed of your ability to deal effectively with ambiguity and anxiety (both very normal parts of the human experience from my point of view). I also am impressed with your ability to sustain the meeting of diverse need in your two different worship services (both sharing the same foundational structure and purpose: Word and Sacrament ministry). I have deep appreciation for the way in which you reach into the world to meet human need, some of which expression is met in the excellent work of the Food Pantry, and some of which occurs in more personal, quiet, low key ways in which human lives and minds and hearts are touched by you all. I have also enjoyed the range of age and difference in the people of Grace – your confirmation class has been a delight, and those among you who serve as leaders have been a delight; and there are many of you who are leaders. Yet I have no sense among your leaders that they seek to be lords over all, but rather that they serve as servant leaders, which is the position and disposition to which our Lord calls us. Lastly to all the people of Grace, – you individually and communally have been such a good experience. I so loved once again having the opportunity to be involved in two liturgies a Sunday!! Thank you for what you have shared with me, and for the hospitality you have extended to me.

As I write this last article from me to you for The Beacon I am in dialogue with synod about the possibility of a second interim ministry. Barbara is well and I have well recovered from the very small stroke experience I had at the end of January. I look forward to my future, one of new expression and possibility, in the church and in the world, and I am confident you will continue being the blessing you are to the world around you.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ed

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to help with Sunday school. This is a very important part of faith building. If we do not teach our young people, they will not continue in their Christian faith. We are not asking a

lot, we need help with the 4-6 grade class room. It is a very small commitment to keep the faith going. All materials are provided and it is only once a month. If you are interested, contact Doris Golden for more information.



## CHURCH COUNCIL News

The month of April was a very busy one for Council. We rescheduled our meeting to April 10 so that our meeting did not interfere with Holy Week services. There were several updates from different committees around the church that you may also find important to know about.

The Property Committee has issued notices to vehicles that are left parked in our parking lot on Sunday mornings that they may be towed if not moved from the lot before Sunday morning.

The Parish Education committee will be meeting again on May 8. If you are a Sunday School teacher please get in touch with your class leader and decide what curriculum your classroom would like to use before that meeting. Some classes are interested in changing their programs and that information needs to be decided so that supplies can be ordered. As always teachers are always welcome at the Parish Education meeting.

Finance Committee requested a \$200 withdrawal from the Kathy Clapper Trust to be moved to the operating fund to fulfill the summer camp scholarship requested. This was approved by Council and Will Bennett followed through with the request.

Committee budgeting process should be beginning so that Finance and Council will have sufficient information for the budget process. Council is working on a more streamlined form for budgets that connects to the information in the Power Church program. This allows us to more accurately track our budget, income and expenses.

Clarification of a donation practice is needed. If a member of the congregation would like to donate directly to a specific student at Seminary that donation can NOT be accepted through the church. This practice would make it appear to the member that the donation is tax deductible and it is not. If you wish to donate to a specific student please contact the office for the account information and you may send it directly to the Seminary in the students name. This is not a tax deductible donation. If you wish to make a donation to the church towards Seminary in general but not for a specific person that may be processed. If you have any questions about this information please contact Sharon Hont or Will Bennett for clarification.

**Community Events bulletin board is located on the Parish office window by the copy machine. Check it out for more information about what is going on in the community.**

## STRANGERS IN KENYA

A Friday night class party ends with a prayer circle...



After 90 minutes of 13-year-old laughter and adrenaline, the Rift Valley Academy staff sponsors--consisting of Heather, myself, and the Nelsons--gather up the students for prayer requests before dismissal. Hands go up around the circle, and you don't know exactly what to expect out of the mouths of these pre-pubescent balls of energy.

One boy says, "Pray for my Muslim friend in North Africa who has been missing for the last few days." A girl asks, "Can we pray for the compound where my family lives? There has been gunfire going on this week, and I'm worried about my little brothers and sisters." Another boy reminds us, "Please pray for the persecution that Christians are facing on the Islands where my family works. Pray that they won't abandon the faith even if they are beaten and harassed."

Not what you'd expect from a group of rambunctious early teenagers, right? These are the kind of dynamic students that we work with day in and day out here at Rift Valley Academy. On the one hand, they are every bit the normal and expected types of kids you find all around the world. On the other, they are challenged with circumstances that make them more mature and nuanced and faith-filled than others their age.

We are blessed to be part of their development in the classroom and on weekends for class parties and other class events. Thanks for supporting our work with these kids...and supporting the work their parents are doing all over the continent!

--Ryan



**Ryan had a chance to lead a Sunday School class of 7th graders in our living room last month. The topic was "The Bible is Messier Than You Think."**

## SUMMER PICNIC SCHEDULED



Council has approved the date and location for our summer picnic. The picnic was a huge success last year and we are going to do a similar event this year.

On Sunday, June 25 we will again meet at Wishaven Swim Club, 2989 E Prospect Rd, York, PA 17402. The plan is to have one combined service at the church at 10:00 a.m. and then proceed over to the pool for festivities and fellowship. We will do advance signup for the picnic and the fee will be \$5/person age 3 and over with the church covering the remaining fee. We will also have a list of items to bring or a covered dish. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and paper products will be provided. Sign up will be from June 3-17. Absolutely no late sign ups will be accepted so if you decide after the 17th to attend, you will need to pay \$7.50 per person to attend when you arrive at the pool.

## THE POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

The U.S. Postal Service is planning a food drive on Saturday, May 13. They will be accepting donated food items as they make their rounds. The Postal employees will then drop off the collected food at our food bank "when their vehicles are stuffed." Be generous on May 13.

We will also need assistance to unload all that food. We will be unloading from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and will need volunteers to help out. If you can commit to an hour or two during this time, it would be greatly appreciated.

## OLDER ADULTS NEEDED

Are you over 50 and thinking about how you can do more to make an impact in the community? You are welcome to attend a free, innovative workshop designed to help you find new and meaningful opportunities to volunteer your time and talents.

This workshop is on May 10 and 17 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. each day. The workshop will be held at Temple Beth Israel, 2090 Hollywood Drive, York PA. Learn how our generation can be more effective in giving. There will be multiple formats in which to explore volunteering and how to get the most out of volunteering your skills. To enroll or for more information, email: [yrokadamsfranklin@rsvpcapreg.org](mailto:yrokadamsfranklin@rsvpcapreg.org) or call 443-619-3842.



## THANK YOU LETTER FROM WICKY

Dear friends in Christ,

I want to write to formally thank the people of Grace Lutheran Church for financially supporting my academic years at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Since January of 2015, your generous gifts of up to \$3,000 per semester have helped fund my tuition, housing, books, meal plan, Anti-Racism/Sexual Abuse Workshops, as well as weekly visits to the grocery store. When the seminary transitioned to free tuition for full-time, residential, MDiv. students, the scholarship funds from Grace Lutheran were able to serve as the main support to purchase textbooks, housing, my on-campus meal plan, as well as breakfast and dinner supplies.

*Thank You.*



Needless to say, I am at a loss of words for the support (financially, prayerfully, and in many other ways) that Grace has shown me over the last ten years we have spent doing ministry together. I have made some very close friends as a result of my involvement with Grace and I say thanks be to God for that as well.

The coming year will be filled with new ministry experiences for me. On March 11, it was announced that I will be called to serve as Vicar at Christ Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown, PA. This begins on June 25 and is counted as my year-long internship through the seminary. I am very excited to lead worship and engage in parish life under the direction of their pastor, The Rev. A. J. Domines. This call will result in my resignation as Director of Music from Zion Lutheran Church in Glen Rock, PA, effective June 18.

Before my internship begins, on May 31, I will leave the USA for the first time (aside from a family vacation to Canada)! My girlfriend, The Rev. Seminarian Kristen Wall, and I will be embarking on a two-week journey to Hungary and Slovakia to study the churches' responses to immigration. This trip will fulfill the multi-cultural requirement for the seminary. Students are required to take a multicultural course but have many different opportunities to engage the task (hiking the Appalachian Trail, going to Greece, going to Germany, serving in a Pennsylvania state prison, or a trip of their own choosing).

Since Kristen lived in Hungary for a year, she has many connections with pastors, seminaries, and parishes so that we can stay in their homes and really get a taste for what life is like in Eastern Europe. Over the course of two weeks of engagement with the Hungarian and Slovak Lutheran churches, we will worship with local congregations, interview pastors about their work, visit congregational outreach programs, and have many conversations with seminarians and church members. We each get one 'fun' day on this trip so mine is split between two. We will begin in Munich and take the train to Stuttgart to visit the Mercedes-Benz factory in the afternoon (since the Vatican was too far away, she convinced me to go to Germany instead). Then, later in the trip, I will be able to see my stepbrother who has been living in Eastern Europe and completing his studies for the last five years.

This trip should be both fun and extremely eye opening for both of us. Kristen has already made me aware of the extreme poverty found among certain communities in Hungary as well as the oppressive political structure that continues to crush the poor and needy. I am blessed to take part in this opportunity as formation for the ministry.

Again, THANK YOU! Thank you for all your prayers, love, and support over these last years. I am very humbled that you saw fit to invest money from the church budget in me to support my education and the future of the church. I will continue to fill you all in about my progress along the way and I ask that while you will no longer be supporting me financially, you continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers over these next five months of transition and year of internship.

Peace be with you,  
The Rev. Seminarian Wicky Barnes, III

## RACE AGAINST HUNGER IN YORK

Hundreds of individuals and families are expected to attend 16th Annual Fun Run & Walkathon to benefit hunger programs for JFS of York and the Northeast Neighborhood Food Bank. Enjoy live music, door prizes, face painting, games, and refreshments to fight hunger in York. The fun begins at Springettsbury Park on May 7. Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m., relaxed 5k begins at 9:30 a.m. and walk begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by refreshments and activities. This event is great for all ages. Proceeds support JFS of York's Project Manna and the Northeast Neighborhood Food Bank. Register online at [www.Hustle4HungerYork.org](http://www.Hustle4HungerYork.org). For more information, call 717-843-5011.



## T.O.G.S. NEWS

The time has come to commit your child to attending the Houston Youth Gathering. Please see Sharon Hont for the paperwork needed to get us registered and be aware that a \$150 deposit is required soon. We have been working very hard on fundraising and will be applying for scholarships to help defray registration soon.

We are also working on a summer outing to Guppy's Gulch water park for this July.

### Want to Receive The Beacon Electronically?

**It's Easy!**

**Just email your address to the publisher:**

**swimmerjenusa@yahoo.com.**

**We'll take care of the rest.**

## LUTHERAN CAMPING

Our two local Lutheran Camps, Nawakwa and Kirchenwald, have the following events for May:



- May 5- Outdoor Ministry Night at the Harrisburg Senators
- May 5-6- Men's Retreat at Kirchenwald
- May 6- Work Day at Nawakwa -NEW DATE
- May 7- Summer Camp Kick-Off Worship & Picnic at Kirchenwald
- May 20- The Growing Project at The Wittel Farm Planting Day

For more information, check out their website:  
<https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/>



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

May's flowers are sponsored by:

- 07 - Lief Ericson
- 14- Robert Fishel
- 21- Regina Thompson
- 28- Grace Lutheran

June's flowers are sponsored by:

- 04- Joe Jacobs
- 11- Richard Jacobs
- 18- Erma Grim
- 25- William Stein

## May Celebrations



- 02 – Kayde Dellinger-Herman
- 02 – David Dennish
- 02 – Joe Jacobs
- 05 – Jo-Ann Barefoot
- 05 – Ethen Shaffer
- 07 – Sara Shaffer
- 08 – Jared Bucher
- 09 – Eric Grim
- 11 – Edna Shekart
- 16 – Doris Golden
- 17 – Veronica Carter
- 17 – Judy Dellinger
- 19 – Lindel Rotz
- 20 – Robert Fishel
- 20 – Diane Thompson
- 21 – Anna Davis
- 22 – Alisha Mundis
- 24 – Linda Ricci
- 25 – Cathleen Coleman
- 26 – Timothy Rudolf
- 26 – Zachariah Turner

## Wedding Anniversaries



- 03 – Carol & Paul Vigna
- 04 – Brian & Beth Kollosch
- 06 – Robert E. & Hazel Hammers
- 10 – James & Sharon Bucher
- 11 – Jeffrey & Holly Barker
- 18 – Kevin & Kendra Shaffer
- 21 – Thalia Jones & Gregory Gromicko
- 22 – Andrea & Mark Stanley
- 24 – Robert W. & Wendy Miller
- 29 – Keith & Nancy McCleary



**The Beacon is brought to you by:**

- Chris Jacobs, Editor/Staff Writer**
- Jennifer Rudolf, Layout/Staff Writer**
- Ottillie Grim, Copy Proofreader**
- Richard Rhine, Proofreader**
- Dee Kerr, Proofreader**
- Geremar Rudolf, Webmaster**



# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 6:30 pm: Bell Practice 7:00 pm: Senior Choir Practice	7:00 pm: Graceful Women Tea		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	6:30 pm: Parish Ed Committee		6:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 6:30 pm: Bell Practice 7:00 pm: Senior Choir Practice 7:00 pm: Finance Committee	6:30 pm - : Church Council Meeting		9:00 - 11:00 am: Spring Cleanup 11:00 am - 5:00 pm: Postal Food Drive
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service			6:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 6:30 pm: Bell Practice 7:00 pm: Senior Choir Practice	6:30 pm-: Book Club		Private Party
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service			6:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 6:30 pm: Bell Practice 7:00 pm: Senior Choir Practice	6:30 pm: Mug Club		
28	29	30	31			
9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service			6:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 6:30 pm: Bell Practice 7:00 pm: Senior Choir Practice			