



# THE NEWS FROM GRACE

September, 2012

## From the Pastor's Desk

Whenever the Christian community is fractured over a disagreement or difference of opinion, we are thrust into the ageless question of sin, evil and the Christian faith. How can it be that good people can be driven by laudable motives to argue and disagree intensely with each other? Where does the emotion of an issue overcome the willingness to discuss and consider the other's viewpoint? I would like to share some reflections of William H. Willimon in his book *Sighing for Eden* (Abington Press, 1985, pages 120-122). He has these words to say in a chapter on Cain and Able:

"Cain is humanity under a curse, those against whom the whole creation has a grudge. Even in nature, we are homeless and at war. Cain is sent into exile for the murder of his brother, Abel, condemned to wander east of Eden in the lonely, shadowy 'land of Nod' (which means wandering). The 'fall' in Eden has continuing social consequences; it is not restricted to some private and personal offense against God but rather leads to offense against the whole human race and results in a long tragedy which is human history.

Well might the story end, and we would judge it to be at least an accurate story, though not a particularly pretty one. It is a story of our ancient resentment, hate, violence, death, fear and alienation. We have heard it all before and alas, we shall surely hear it again.

The curse is therefore quite believable, understandable. We get our just deserts in the land of Nod. But, when the judge speaks, the word, surprisingly, is a word of mercy which contradicts Cain's fear. The Lord will work vengeance on anyone who touches Cain. The Lord still has plans, even for the murderer Cain. The Lord puts his mark on Cain, a mark not of punishment but – surprise – a mark of blessing...

The same God who loved little brother Abel, wonder of wonders, finds a place in his great heart even for big brother Cain. This God shall preserve Cain, make something out of him, a Chosen People. The one who deserves death is given a sentence of life. In spite of the blood on his hands, Cain finds that he does not have to be a good little boy with clean hands to be chosen by God.

And so Saint Paul could say to that dirty-handed crowd at First Church Rome:

'But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is not distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are all justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.' (Romans 3:21-25, English Standard Version)

The Bible is not a story of saints and their great commitment and courage to serve God. The Bible is mostly a story about God's great commitment and courage to serve sinners like us. No evil that we or our great-great-grandparents commit is beyond God's power to redeem. Time and again when he has come to love us, we have hung his beloved ones on some cross, only to have him turn that cross into a sign of blessing.

Time and again in our story, even out here in the land of Nod where we wander, out here east of Eden, with the blood of little brothers and sisters still sticky on our hands and the whole creation set against us, the One has come to bless us, to mark us, to choose us so that his grace might make something out of us, even us, in spite of us."

The best of intentions can and often do go wrong. And when they do, our civility and patience often flee from us quickly. We are all human and all heirs of brother Cain. By God's continuing blessing may we receive the power to turn from our anger and disagreement to kneel together in awe and wonder at his redeeming grace in our lives.

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# COUNCIL NEWS



Our Church Council is working hard trying to move the church forward. The big issue is of course the budget, and how to balance our finances in this tough economic environment. Currently, the council is looking at the repair costs for the bells. They are now in need of upkeep, which could be costly, since nothing has been done since their purchase over a decade ago. Since our new music director plays and directs bells, they will be incorporated into the music ministry a lot more in the future.

The Council is also reviewing the proposal to purchase the New Red Hymnals. This upgrade is needed because the Red Hymnals have been in print for several years and combine both the Green and Blue hymnals we currently use. They also added 'old favorite' hymns that are not in the other books. Since our services are based on the Red Hymnal, there is a lot of thumbing through the Green and Blue books to find the correct lessons and hymns for the day. Sometimes we have to improvise to put together the service. The total cost of the Red Hymnals is approximately \$2000. To offset this cost, the Council is proposing to have a memorial/honor purchase for members. Those who would like to donate the cost of one or more hymnals can memorialize or honor a loved one by having his or her name placed in the front of the book. Let us know what you think about this idea by placing a note in the newsletter mailbox or speaking with a council member. A living legacy on this level will help the church and give a special gift or create a lasting memory for those

## THE ST. NICHOLAS PARTY NEEDS YOU!

Every year at Christmas, we have a holiday party for kids in need. Paul Kuhn prepares a list of needy children, and our church gives a Christmas present to every child at the party. This year's party is on December 4 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and will have cookies, cocoa carols and a clown. Heather Manahan has volunteered to coordinate the party, and Larissa and Tyler Schell have agreed to head up the shopping for gifts that the children will be "buying" for their families, so they too, can feel the warmth of giving. We are still in need of people to help at the party. This is a great time to really see what it is like to spread joy at Christmas time. It is also a time to help others less fortunate. Too often, we get caught up in the commercialism of Christmas and forget the real message behind the celebration.

Consider God's greatest gift and your chance to play a part. Contact Pastor Bill, Heather or the church office to sign up or for more information.



we love. Stay tuned for more details here in the newsletter.



Our church council has a really big job to balance the budget and get people involved and energized about our church. One way to do both is to encourage Stewardship. What is stewardship, you ask? It is our duty as Christians to serve, and the best place to start is within our church. For many years, Grace Lutheran has paid for many duties that could be easily done by members in the service of God. 'Many hands make light work,' and all that is needed is a little help by everyone. Our church is full of talented people whose talents are not being harnessed. The council is going to promote stewardship in many ways in the coming year. If you have ideas, contact the newsletter or a member of council.

In the upcoming issues of the newsletter, we will be profiling our council members as well as the roles and structure of the council. Perhaps you would like to get involved in the leadership of Grace Lutheran Church. It is a very exciting time to be a member of Grace!



## THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS A NEW NAME

This is the first issue of the new and exciting newsletter. However, we need your help to make it a great place to get news at Grace. The newsletter needs a facelift. We are looking for suggestions for a new name and logo for the masthead. Your suggestions are welcome. They can be tied to the name of the church or not. A good name will be catchy yet to the point. For the next few months, the editor will be designing a masthead with a logo as samples of what is possible. Check out the traditional logo on this issue. When we get a good logo, it is hoped that it will become the logo for all areas of the church to give Grace its very own "brand." All suggestions are welcome, and we hope to have many comments to make the decision on what will best represent Grace Lutheran Church. Artists out there are encouraged to submit drawings. Photographs are welcome. Anything is possible. Let's all get creative!



The food has been packed for this month, and we are ready to help those in need. Our September giveaway is happening on September 10 from 8:30 a.m. until the food is gone. We typically need the most help in the mornings. From 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. volunteers sort food items into boxes and assist with whoever comes in to get a box. We also stock gently used household items for our pantry patrons to take and use. Helping out in the pantry is a great way to help those in need and see the results of your labors.

In this economy there are many in need, and with tight state budgets our grant money from the Pennsylvania Food Purchase Program has been slashed 20 percent. We are going to need non-governmental assistance to keep our pantry going. Any non-perishable food items are needed, even baby supplies. You can also donate money or grocery gift cards. The pantry truck is not in good repair either, so all types of assistance are needed and appreciated.

Now that the school year is beginning, consider having your organization or club hold a food drive or donate time to the food pantry. There is nothing like the good feeling of helping those in need. If you would like more information, contact Jack Warntz at 818-0425.

## CALLING ALL 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS!

If your child will be entering seventh or eighth grade this fall and you're interested in them becoming a member of Grace Lutheran Church, the Confirmation Class will begin on September 9, 2012.

This is a two year program covering the components of Luther's Small Catechism, plus some special projects designed to prepare these young adults to be fully involved in the church community. We meet in the upstairs classroom near the belfry. Our class is responsible for ringing the church bell at 10:30 a.m. during the school year. They seem to really enjoy this task!

You may call the church office to add your student's name to the roster. If you have any questions about the class itself, the teachers will be happy to talk to you. The instructors are Wendy Mummert (246-2206) and Bob Miller (324-8483).



## COME TO THE VILLAGE FAIR

On Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. rain or shine, the Shrewsbury Lutheran Retirement Village will be holding its 33rd Annual Village Fair. There will be lots to do and eat. It will be fun for the entire family. The fun includes: music, clowns, cakewalks, antique autos, wagon rides, moonwalk, craft, blood pressure screening and shopping. Culinary delights include: baked goods, ham and bean soup, hot and cold sandwiches and lots of desserts. It is sponsored by the Auxiliary to Lutheran Social Services—Shrewsbury Chapter and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans—South York County Chapter.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SOON!

It's that time of year again to get back to learning about the Bible. Our Parish Education is ready to go with lots of options for all ages, from pre-K to 6th grade. Sunday School Promotion Day is scheduled for September 9. Come to sign up and meet your teacher. Then Sunday School officially kicks off on September 16. Sunday school is held every Sunday between services at 9:45 a.m. For more information regarding the children's Sunday School, ask Ellen Warntz, Cora Sue Herbst or Doris Golden.

We have parish education for all ages, even adults, during the 9:45 a.m. education hour. In the Sanctuary, there is a lecture-style class. The Good News Bible class is a discussion-based class, and the Shared Journey class is for couples. We welcome everyone to visit our education groups and try them out. Jim Bucher is the contact person for more information.

Have you ever wanted to help with the kids in Sunday school? We are looking for volunteers to help the younger members of our church learn about Jesus. No experience is necessary, and lesson plans are already prepared. Just a love of children is needed. This is a great opportunity for teens to help out and have fun at the same time. If you would like to help out, contact the Sunday School leaders listed above for more information.



# MUSICAL NOTES

"When in our music God is Glorified..."



Greetings in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ! We are interested in your comments on how we are doing while we are trying new ways to keep you informed and involved as much as possible here at Grace. We would like to take this time to welcome you and your family to share in bold new ways at Grace Lutheran Church in 2012-2013! These coming weeks will begin our fall harvest time together and we are praying that God will call you to step up and get more involved with our worship and music ministries. What blessings are waiting for you! We hope that these opportunities for you to take part in our worship and music at Grace will make a difference for you and your family as we continue to seek God's will for our lives, our church, and our witness in our communities and in the world. Join us now as we begin anew this fall!

Blessing in Christ,  
Jeffrey J. Cogan, Organist/Choirmaster

## MUSIC MINISTRY FALL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

'Grace Sings!' our adult choir, began rehearsals on August 29th at 7:30pm. However, we are always looking for singers to lend their voices. Practice is held every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Choir will be commissioned this year during the liturgy on Sunday, September 9 at 10:45 a.m.

Of course, we cannot forget the Children's Choir, which is led by Kurt Golden and Mindy Steinkl. They are planning this year with many great pieces of music and would like to invite all young voices to join. Practice sessions will be held every Sunday after Sunday school this year, instead of Wednesday nights to make it easy on busy schedules.

'Ringers by Grace,' our bell choir, begins rehearsal on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to you using your gifts at Grace by joining us Wednesday evenings for rehearsals. Bells are a simple instrument to play and no prior musical experience is necessary. It is a good instrument for anyone ages 7 and up. You don't even need to know how to read music.

Also this fall, music classes for those wishing to sharpen their skills that they have, or to learn new ones, will be offered at 7:15 p.m. each Wednesday evening between rehearsals. The music ministry will also have a picnic on Sunday, September 23 at the Samuel Lewis State Park Hilltop Pavilion at 1:30 p.m. It will be a pot-bless picnic. Join us and receive a blessing!

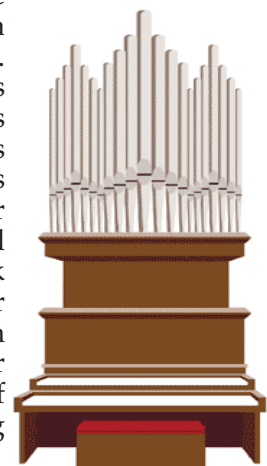


## WE WELCOME OUR NEW ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

There is a lot of good music happening at Grace, especially since we have found our new music director, Jeffrey Cogan. For those of you who do not know him, he comes to us with 30 years of experience. He is an Army retiree who has played in the U.S. Army Band and has played under Presidents Reagan, Bush Sr. and Clinton. He also served in 11 military chapels around the United States and Europe, plus three civilian parishes. Jeffrey is a teacher of piano, organ, woodwind instruments and voice. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists, Harrisburg Chapter. Jeffrey is dedicated to the ministry of music and will direct our bell choir, Ringers by Grace, as well.

## CONCERT SERIES CONCLUDES

Were you able to attend one of the free concerts this summer? If not, you missed some great music, and you have one more opportunity. On September 30 at 3:00 p.m., we are pleased to present Victor Fields at the organ. Mr. Fields is the Dean of the York chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He will be performing at no cost (a free will offering will be received). After the show, refreshments will be served. Mr. Fields has won numerous music awards including scholarships. He has also served as the conductor for the York Oratorio Society as well as Artistic Director of the York Symphony Orchestra Chamber Singers. Mr. Fields has given concerts and recitals all over the world and has 30 years of experience. Come enjoy seeing him play our organ!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *Spirit Cellar Breakfast Volunteers Wanted*

There is always a need for food donations for the Spirit Cellar breakfast table. It is simple to sign up, and you can show off your cooking skills or purchase snacks. To contribute, just sign up for a week on the news board by the kitchen window. Then on your week, you can arrange to drop off the food the Friday prior with the office, or just bring your goodies to the service by 8:30 a.m. Then sit back and watch those smiles! Contact Jack and Ellen Warntz for more information.

## *Children's Art Wanted*

We would like to decorate the newsletter with our home grown talent. If your child is a budding artist and would like to draw something for the newsletter, we will put it out there. You can submit original artwork or photographs. If you send us the original, we will get it back to you. Digital photos should be at least 300k in size. Please include the child's name and age with the art. Thank you.



## *Attention Graceful Women*

We are planning to attend dinner and a show at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater on our regular meeting night, October 4. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and the group rate is \$48. The play is "A Second Helping – the Church Basement Ladies Sequel." Call Otilie Grim at 428-0729 by August 31 to reserve your spot (spouses and friends are welcome).

## *Healthy Living*

Pastor Bill suggested we include tips for healthy living in the newsletter. The newsletter is looking for a health professional to provide tips or write an article on health topics our members would enjoy. If you have suggestions or know someone who may want to help, contact the newsletter editor.

## *Adult Book Study*

An adult book study retreat on the book by John Grisham, *The Confession* will be held October 2-4 at the Zinn-Tozer Lodge in Nawakwa, PA. The registration fee is \$130, with lodging and meals provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit [www.lutherancamping.org](http://www.lutherancamping.org) to register by September 21.

## 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 victor... 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 can email Jennifer Rudolf at: [swimmerjenusa@yahoo.com](mailto: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 compliment 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.

# Those Who Serve and We Celebrate

## Greeters

Alec & Molly Crawford  
Lesa & Jeffrey Arnold

## Altar Guild

Tom Smith

## Acolytes

TBA

## Crucifiers

TBA

## Nursery

02-Dr. Sam Laucks & Zach Turner  
09-Linda & David Dennish  
16-Tammy & Kurt Golden  
23-Barb & Amy Hartman  
30-Wendy Miller & Paige Fishel

## Lectors

02-Regina Thompson  
09-Ottilie Grim  
16-Nancy Golden  
23-Cora Sue Herbst  
30-Dee Kerr

## Offering Ushers

John Fishel  
Wendy Mummert  
Ken Turner  
Bob Fishel

## Assistant Ministers

02-Tom Smith  
09-Eric Grim  
16-Tom Smith  
23-Gerald Heiss  
30-Dick Rhine



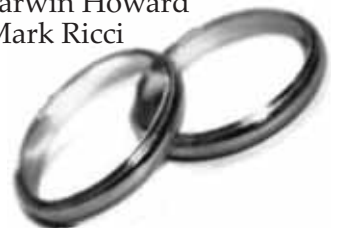
Thank you to all who cheerfully serve and make our services the best they can be. We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer. If you would like to help, please contact the office.

## Birthdays

01-Jeffrey Arnold  
01-Hunter Jones  
02-John Hartman  
02-Trevor Manahan  
04-Dee Bowles  
05-Diana Bailey  
05-Brett Hammers  
07-Jessie Fishel  
07-Susan Hammers  
08-Nancy Becker  
10-Kathleen Shaffer  
11-Peggy Ericson  
11-Andreas Hont  
11-Andrea Stanley  
12-Jennifer Lloyd  
12-Robin Walker  
14-Holly Barker  
14-Marion Wiemert  
15-Alec Crawford  
16-Sharon Philips-Cary  
17-Lillie Kiehner  
17-Jennifer Kuhn  
19-Bradley Mummert  
19-Carol Vigna  
20-Jason Krout  
23-Wade Vigna  
24-Michael Farrell  
24-Adam Golden  
24-Sami Peters  
25-Cindy Christenberry  
26-Morgan Gwinn  
26-Benamin Hanzlik  
27-Lee Arnold  
27-Dr. James Isett  
27-Ralph Urey  
28-Michael Atkins  
29-Sharon Bucher  
29-Particia May

## Anniversaries

04-Laura & John Hartman  
09-Nancy & Ronald Golden  
11-Geri & Richard Jacobs  
11-Jennifer & Germar Rudolf  
13-Dee & Carl Bowles  
18-Jessie & Robert Fishel  
28-Tammy & Kurt Golden  
28-Barbara & Glenn Hartman  
28-Edna & Darwin Howard  
29-Linda & Mark Ricci



# September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CS—Contemporary Service SS—Sunday School TS—Traditional Service						1
2 9:00am—CS 9:45am—SS 10:45am TS	3 LABOR DAY	4 7:00PM Parish Ed	5 6:30pm Ringers by Grace 7:30pm Grace Sings!	6 7:00pm Graceful Women	7 8:00pm AA	8
9 9:00am—CS/Supply Pastor Rev. Gerald Strek 9:45am—SS 10:45am TS/Supply Pastor Rev. Gerald Strek	10 Food Distribution	11	12 6:30pm Ringers by Grace 7:30pm Grace Sings!	13 6:30pm Church Council	14 8:00pm AA	15
16 9:00am CS/Supply Deaconess Joy Hovis 9:45am SS 10:45am TS/Deaconess Joy Hovis	17 7:00pm Property	18	19 6:30pm Ringers by Grace 7:30pm Grace Sings!	20	21 8:00pm AA	22
23 9:00am CS 9:45am SS 10:45am TS	24	25	26 6:30pm Ringers by Grace 7:30pm Grace Sings!	27	28 8:00pm AA	29
30 9:00am CS 9:45am SS 10:45am TS 3:00pm Concert/Victor Fields						