



The BEACON

Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News

March, 2013

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

It's Happening at Grace
Lutheran!

From the Pastor's Desk



When Christianity was new, still resonating with its Jewish roots, the year revolved around a Passover now renewed by Resurrection. The history of God's saving ways, the ancient story of the release and rescue from Egypt was infused with this new chapter of God's intervention in Jesus, the long promised Messiah.

Lent became the time of preparation for the greatest holy day of all – Easter. New believers were prepared in the weeks preceding the celebration of the resurrection to enter into the community of faith. Lent was a time, therefore, of awakening and emerging. In the Northern Hemisphere, the seasons of creation have under-girded this deep imagery.

Lent has become a time to face the truth of our humanity, our utter inability to be God, and our inability to believe that God is. Our human limitations get us into all kinds of trouble, seizing up our relationships with ourselves, with each other, and with the earth itself. In our desperate attempts to measure up to what we imagine we ought to be or in our fatalistic abandonment of the gifts God has given us, we deny our limitations and/or the miracle we are. Unable to hold these two polarities in tension, we wreak havoc in our relationships and on the earth.

It is for this we need salvation by the one who is without limits and who also loves us beyond measure. Ash Wednesday begins Lent by forcing our eyes open to our failings. Whose interest do we really serve? Do we loose the bonds of injustice? Do we undo the thongs of the yoke? Do we let the oppressed go free? Do we share our bread with the hungry? Do we bring homes to the homeless? Do we cover the naked? If not, we serve our own interests, not God's. Because we do not, our churches are bare, our vestments are black on this day. If we are to begin the journey toward life and be able to welcome the Messiah, we must begin in this place, clear about how far God must come to meet us. Our forebears remembered Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It was the one day the Hebrew High Priest could enter the temple's Holy of Holies, bearing in his body the repentance of the nation. It was the day to stand before God, vulnerable and stripped of pretense. It is how we begin Lent, the season of awakening.

The coming Sundays will walk us along the path to Easter. First, we must remember our story, the history of our salvation. We can confess with our forbearers that we come from the same wandering Aramean who first heard God's call. The story traces God's faithfulness. We are reminded that the righteous flourish and will not be shamed. We are called to keep our eyes and ears turned toward God, not the many temptations around us.

In our entire journey of Lent, may we be given grace to see ourselves as those needing renewal and direction in life. May we be honest enough to search for redemption in the story of our salvation in Christ. And may God bring to our congregation the strength to face not just Lent, but our journey of discovery His will for us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Here is a summary from the monthly council meeting held in February. We publish excerpts from the minutes each month to keep everyone informed.

News

- Ron Golden agreed to be council representative for the Parish Education committee.
- The Stewardship committee is being revived. Beth Kollosch offered to be the chairperson for this committee, and is looking for committee members.
- Due to the resignation of our church secretary, the Human Resource Committee (HR), has been charged to meet and discuss how to implement the Administrative Assistant position.
- A church member has offered to purchase a new software program designed to provide the information required by ELCA called 'Church Windows.' HR will consider this in their discussions as well.

GET TO KNOW THE COUNCIL OFFICERS

This month, we introduce the second of the three new council officers.

Beth Kollosch, Council Vice President

Beth joined the church council because she believes that Grace has some great opportunities as we continue to grow and serve as a congregation. She wanted to have an active part in the church as we search for a new pastor. Beth will be heading up the newly revived stewardship committee.

Beth enjoys gardening, sewing, and reading in her free time. She works at Topflight Corporation, which manufactures adhesive labels for cosmetics, medical, and electronic customers. She is an account coordinator for the medical accounts.

Beth has been a member of Grace for 29 years. She and her husband, Brian, have three daughters: Hope, 36; Laura, 31; and Heather, 23; and a five-year-old grandson, Quintin.

EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 23, we will have our annual Easter Bunny Breakfast in the social room at Grace Lutheran Church. There are two seatings: 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., followed by an egg hunt and a visit by the Easter Bunny. A hot breakfast will be served first and then children will be allowed to hunt for their eggs. There will also be time for you to take pictures of your child with the Easter Bunny. Prices for the breakfast are \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 for a family of four. Registration will begin on March 12 by calling the church office at 244-5987, Tuesday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Payment can be made the morning of the breakfast. Seating is limited, so call early!



WINTER PICNIC



LET'S PARTY!

Is your family always complaining there is nothing to do during the winter that doesn't cost a small fortune? Come to the winter picnic! Grace Lutheran will be hosting the winter picnic on Saturday, March 2 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish for the meal. There will be dancing, games, karaoke, and activities for all ages to enjoy. Our church family is a lot of fun, but we need you to make it more fun. Pastor Bill will be there to get his groove on, so you don't want to miss it!

CALL UPDATE



There is no new news regarding the call as of this writing. Going forward, we will put a new 'Call Update' article only when there is something to report. We pray that it will be soon.




**HAPPENINGS IN
OUR CHURCH
FAMILY
National Honor Society
Inductee**

Mason Phillips-Cary was inducted to the National Honor Society in February at Red Lion. The National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NHS and NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character (and citizenship for NJHS). These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since their beginnings in 1921 and 1929. Congratulations Mason!

Personnel Update

Connie Heiss has been a central figure in the workings of the church for many years. She resigned her position in February.

Connie has been a longtime member of the church. She started working in the office during Pastor Seitz's tenure as the assistant secretary, and then became the full-time secretary. Please join us in thanking her for her many years of service and everything she did to help the church run smoothly.



Pastoral Acts

February 17- Ofelia Kay and Emiline Kay were baptized. Their parents are Jennifer and Todd Osterhaus.

WELCOME CENTER FURNITURE PROJECT

The upholstered furniture in the Welcome Center needs refurbished. We need \$1450 for the sofa and \$625 for each chair. As in the past, our congregation has generously donated for many projects. If this is something that any group or individual would like to support, please place a specially marked envelope with the label, 'welcome center furniture fund,' in the offering plate or stop by the treasurer's office. If you have any questions regarding this project, see Keith McCleary or Janet Murphy.



HAPPY EASTER

Easter Celebration Schedule

Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services will be at the Regular times

All services will be held at Grace Lutheran except for the Easter Vigil, which will be at join St. Andrew's Episcopal church in York.

EASTER SERVICES EXPLAINED

Grace Lutheran is planning a complete Easter celebration this year. We start things with our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. It is a traditional service which focuses on the institution of the Lord's Supper and includes communion.

On Good Friday we have a service at 7:00 p.m. which uses the Stations of the Cross from the Catholic tradition, but is modified to be suitable for Lutheran churches.

On Saturday we will join St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in York (Wicky Barnes' congregation) for an

Easter Vigil service. The service is to start at 7:00 p.m. with a fire outside which is brought into the sanctuary to bring light into the darkness of Good Friday and prepare for the light of Easter. This service includes many readings and is in the form of a prayer vigil. Included is the blessing of the Baptismal font for the year and the Paschal Candle.

On Easter we have our regular worship times and services. We hope you can join us for this wonderful season of Jesus's resurrection.



MUSICAL NOTES

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



Blessings,
Jeffrey

THE SINGING BOYS COME THIS MONTH

Have you gotten your tickets for the Singing Boys of Pennsylvania (SBP) yet? Grace Lutheran is pleased to offer this opportunity for an exceptional concert. Please join us on Sunday, March 3 at 3:00 p.m. for a memorable performance of artistry. Tickets at the door will be \$12.50. Please see our Organist-Choirmaster, Jeffrey Cogan for tickets, call 717-386-9647 or email him at NotesofGrace4u@yahoo.com.

attend public, parochial, and private schools. Membership in the SBP is about 40 boys. SBP is a music school, providing high quality music instruction for students. It is an accelerated learning program in music that exceeds anything offered in public or private schools.

The mission of the Singing Boys of Pennsylvania (SBP) is to provide high quality music training and experiences for youngsters 8-14. The boys learn about music by singing and performing all kinds of choral music, especially classical music, music written in this century by important composers, and folk music of the United States and other nations. The SBP also strive to provide opportunities to perform for the widest possible audiences locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in recitals/concerts, recordings, and television; and to provide opportunities for travel, cultural exchanges, and experiences that promote human and intellectual diversity through music. Their students





Food Pantry Ministry

PREDICTABLE BUT SOMETIMES SURPRISING

The routine for Grace's food pantry is almost chiseled in stone. We always distribute food at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter and at the beginning and end of the school year. We constantly ask people to help to pack boxes (March 2 at 8:30a.m.), to help set up the sanctuary (March 17 at 12:30 p.m.), to help distribute food (March 18 at 9:00 a.m.), or to give monetary donations to help purchase food for our clients.

The same volunteers willingly donate their time to help with the food pantry needs. Our client list is pretty much the same for every distribution with a few new persons added each month. The same young mothers will dig through piles of kid's clothes looking for that special item that will thrill their child. The same grandmas look at the numerous toys, books and stuffed animals looking for a present to take home to a little grandchild. The same big men hurriedly move to the men's section hoping to find a new shirt or large jeans that might help them dress for a job interview.

Even though the routine rarely varies, sometimes, SOMETIMES, we get a big surprise! Last week, a young man came into the church office with an amazing story. Several years ago he was down on his luck and needed food. Grace Lutheran Food Pantry helped him. Over the years, he remembered the kindness he received at our church and when things improved in his life, he wanted to show his gratitude. He quietly handed Pastor Bill a check for \$1000.00 to be given to the food pantry. It seems that being predictable, being dependable, and being generous just might bring some surprising results! Thanks be to God.

CHRISTIAN CLASSIFIEDS



The American Cancer Society's (ACS) will hold its 2013 Daffodil Days campaign for the York and Hanover areas from Monday, March 18 through Sunday, March 24.

Flowers will be available to purchase in bunches, in a vase, as potted mini daffodils, or as a special 'bear and a bunch' set. For more information on where to purchase items, call 846-2564 or visit the website: www.cancer.org.

DO YOU HAVE A CLASSIFIED AD YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN? IT IS FREE TO ALL. IF YOU NEED SOMETHING OR A SERVICE OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SOMETHING OR VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS, ADVERTISE!

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 Jennifer 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.

DO YOU SHOP AT GROCERY STORES?

We know it sounds sarcastic, but please think about purchasing gift cards to your favorite grocery store and help raise money for the church at the same time. Giant, Weis and Jerry's Great Valu gift cards are available in the treasurer's office. If you shop at one or more of these places regularly, consider buying them, as a portion of the proceeds directly supports the church. Using a gift card for your shopping is a great way to stick to a budget and help the church at the same time. They could also be a useful gift for others for special occasions.

To purchase cards, you may stop in the treasurer's office any Sunday and buy them or call Dee at 244-0083 and she will have them ready for pick up the following Sunday. If you would like a denomination other than \$50, they can be ordered as above and then picked up the following Sunday. Make checks payable to, 'Grace Lutheran Church.' This is one way you do not have to spend anything extra to benefit the church coffers.



A BEAUTIFUL STORY FOR EASTER...

A brand new pastor and his wife, who were newly assigned to their first ministry, were called to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn. They arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market-type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got the equipment to hang the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, E.B.G. were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just purchased the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again.

Things happen for a reason

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, as the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

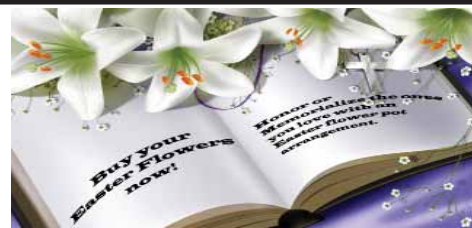
What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare. The pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war. He said he was amazed how there could be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid who says God does work in mysterious ways. The story was sent to The Beacon by Jesse Fishel. If you have something you would like to see as part of the newsletter, contact the editor using the submission guidelines published on page 6.



Easter Flower Pots are Available

Each pot is \$9 and can be
'in honor of' or 'in memory of.'
Choose from lilies, tulips or hyacinths.
Inserts are available in the bulletin or
contact the church office.

EVENT CALENDAR NOW ONLINE



The church event calendar is now online at www.gracelutheran.com. Simply click on the Calendar tab at the top of the homepage to view events. You may also browse postings by category, such as announcements or congregational meetings. To print, email, or save as a pdf file, follow the "print" prompt at the top of the page.

This new version of the calendar will greatly benefit the congregation, since it will be updated in real time as information becomes available. If a correction is needed, or an event is missing, any church member may contact the church office at 244-5987.

We will continue to publish the calendar each month in *The Beacon* to accommodate those who do not have accessibility to the Internet. You can also see the calendar on the welcome board outside the office, and ask for a paper copy from the office staff.

MONOLOGUES FOR LENT CONTINUE

Our special presentations for Lent began on Ash Wednesday and will continue until Easter. If you have been at church, you have seen a monologue in lieu of the sermon, but have you attended the Bible study in the basement during the Sunday School hour? It is well worth attending if you would like additional historical context and small group camaraderie.

The series presents a monologue, performed from the point of view of significant Biblical characters. The monologues will be presented at each service and all are invited to attend the discussion group study in the basement. Each character is meant to give a new perspective on the journey to Lent. Here are the cast of characters to come:

March 3-'Thomas'
March 10-'Martha'
March 17-'Lazarus'

We hope you enjoy the presentation!



March Celebrations

Birthdays



02-Patricia Golden	17-Jennifer Osterhaus
02-Brian Shaffer	19-Primrose McCallum
03-Betty Eveler	20-Edward Hartman
03-Karen Hileman	21-Alyssa Francis
03-Andrea Holingworth	23-Richard Jacobs
03-Barbara Taute	23-Thomas Kerr
04-Joyce Arnold	24-Joshua Arnold
04-Lynn Herbst	25-Robert Haag
04-Joe Stauffer	26-Tristan Biles
05-Doris Jones	27-Kendra Shaffer
09-Suzanne Lauks	28-Sara Vigna
10-Geri Jacobs	29-James Fishel
10-Taylor Jones	29-Gretchen Grim
12-Kirt Peters	29-Simon Koons
14-Marie Fales	30-Thomas Kuhn
15-Amy Hartman	30-Luke Shaffer
15-Ken Turner	31-Marian Anderson
17-Celeste Barnhill	31-Dalton Fishel

Wedding Anniversaries



03-George and Betty Eveler
20-Kern and Cindy Pressel
23-Raymond and Kay Mansberger
23-Robert and Cindy Strobeck



Here are some photos from the Children's Choir's last performance



THE GRACEFUL WOMEN PRESENT...

Pastor Cluley to Present a Program on His Medical Mission

Due to inclement weather the Graceful Women's meeting on February 7 was cancelled. At our next meeting on Thursday, Mar 7 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Cluley will present a program on his recent medical mission to the Dominican Republic. This is an open meeting to anyone who wishes to attend. Come hear about Pastor Bill's travels.



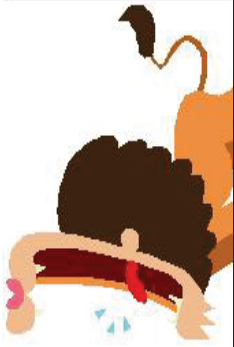
VBS IS GEARING UP FOR A SUMMER OF FUN!

Maigan Gideon, is starting to prepare for the best Vacation Bible School (VBS) ever. She just needs helpers to make it all happen. VBS will be the week of July 15 - 19 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. each night. We need teenagers or adults to assist with games, snack time, Bible stories and crafts.



Also needed are group assistants for the different ages: 3 and 4 year olds, kindergarten -1st grade, 2nd - 3rd grade, 4th - 6th grade, and 7th - 8th grade. There is no experience necessary and the entire curriculum comes already prepared. Our theme for this year is a medieval theme called 'Kingdom Chronicles.'

Please contact Maigan Gideon with any questions at 717-817-4133 or email: mouthymaigan@comcast.net. There are sign up forms on the information table during Spirit Cellar and around the church. Completed forms can be placed in the VBS mailbox outside the office.



March

In like a lion,
out like a lamb!



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Singing Boys of Pennsylvania	4 7:00 pm - : Parish Ed	5 7:00 pm - : Finance	6 6:00 pm -: Ringers by Grace 7:00 pm - : Lenten service @ St. Johns, Red Lion 8:00 pm-: Grace Sings- Adult Choir	7 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts 7:00 pm - : Graceful Women	8	9 11:00 am - : Grim Family funeral lunch 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Church Picnic
10 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	11	12	13 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm: Ringers by Grace 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm: Grace Sings - Adult Choir	14 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts 6:30 pm - : Church Council Meeting	15	16
17 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 - : set up Sanctuary	18 9:00 am - 2:00 pm: Food Distribution 7:00 pm - : Property	19	20 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm: Ringers by Grace 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice <u>7:30 pm - 9:00 pm: Grace Sings - Adult Choir</u>	21 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts	22	23 9:00 am - : Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt -- 1st seating 10:00 am - : Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt -- 2nd seating
24 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service	25	26	27 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm: Ringers by Grace 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm: Grace Sings - Adult Choir	28 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service	29 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Good Friday Service	30 7:00 pm - : Easter Vigil, at St. Andrew's, York
31 9:00 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Sunday School 10:45 am - 11:45 am: Traditional Service						