



The BEACON

Shines with Grace Lutheran Church News

May, 2014

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

It's Happening at Grace
Lutheran!

From the Pastor's Desk

THE EASTER HANGOVER

The candy is gone, the baskets are put away, you've finally picked up every, last strand of green, stringy grass that somehow has been strewn about every corner of your house, and with a huge sigh and collapse in a chair, you think, "Easter is over." There's such a lead up to Easter, making sure the house is clean, that your flowers are blooming, that all the food is bought and the candy organized, you spend the weeks before the big day, running around making sure you have everything done, and then in one fell swoop, the day is over, and you're left feeling, well, maybe a little deflated. It tends to happen with every holiday, I think, because we spend so much time getting everything ready, expending so much energy for everything to be perfect, that when it's over, it feels a little like a let down. There's the inevitable, "well, now what do we do?" moment when there isn't anything left to plan for, and everything is over.

The problem we all sometimes have is that we often forget that holidays, like Christmas and Easter, aren't just singular days, they are in fact their own seasons. For the next fifty days, we as the church will immerse ourselves in the Easter season, and hear stories of what Jesus did amongst the disciples in the post-resurrection time. It's a time filled with stories of Jesus moving in and amongst the disciples, inspiring them and encouraging them for the time that is quickly coming when they will have to lead the church, when they will be the shepherds, not the sheep. The disciples don't go through a period of "empty tomb hangover," for they realize that it's soon going to be time to get to work, getting out there and spreading the word that Jesus was raised from the dead. They realized that what happened on Easter morning, was simply the beginning of a long journey of spreading the gospel and continuing the work Christ had started.

This too, is our message for the inevitable Easter hangover. The message, the gospel, the good news that Christ is risen, doesn't dissipate simply because the day itself is over. Easter morning is what compels us out into the world to shout from the rooftops the message we have heard. Easter isn't just one day, it's everyday, because everyday we live into the promises that Christ is risen, and we have a job to do in spreading the gospel and showing the love of Christ to all that we meet. The Easter message is one that echoes throughout the year and throughout the ages, it's not something to be heard and then ignored. It's meant to be heard and then shared. We are called to



be disciples, and just like the disciples who started this path thousands of years ago, we recognize that Easter is just the beginning, the beginning of everything—a journey of discipleship, leadership, and love. We have seen the risen Christ, and now we must hear his words anew, and let them call us out of our Easter doldrums and out into the world of Christ's beloved children, and show them the love and the joy of the resurrection.

Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina

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FAMILY SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL AGAIN GOES HOLLYWOOD

News

Church Council met on April 10, 2014.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Tina presented the names of this year's confirmands for approval.

Youth Group (TOGS) - The next Youth Gathering will be held in Detroit in 2015. The youth and Pastor Tina will be attending a meeting on May 3, 2014 with representatives from ELCA Youth Gathering.

Human Resources - The committee is working on two new policy statements.

IT - Our computer operating system is Windows XP. The committee is working on upgrading, but may need to upgrade some hardware to accomplish the change.

Music & Worship - The committee is working on scheduling summer concerts.

Parish Education - A Memorial Day program is planned. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 11 - 14.

Property - Committee will get estimates for repairs to stained glass windows that have cracks and broken glass. The emergency lights and exit signs will be tested and replaced as needed. The installation of sound boards in the social room (to curb the noise) was approved. Discussion was held on the placement of the John Bucher memorial bench in the front garden.

Mission & Discipleship - The member updates are almost complete and are being entered into the computer system.

Old Business - Council approved the purchase of two AED's, one for the main floor and one for the lower level. One of the AEDs will be purchased by an anonymous donor.

New Business - Council will attend a conference with the Dean on May 8, 2014 in place of the May meeting. Should anything need immediate attention, they will meet briefly at the end of the conference.

Family Summer Sunday School was such a roaring success last year that we will again be acting out Bible stories on the lawn. Of course, we will be using completely new stories so you don't have to worry about seeing the same thing again. We will begin on July 6 at 9:45a.m. in the social room for our first meeting and then continue every Sunday morning until the 31st of August. You will receive further information at a later date about the actual schedule and whether your child will need supplies for the production. Hope to see you all there!



MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

On Sunday, May 25 we will all gather in the sanctuary at 9:45am for our annual Memorial Day Program. This year's program will include using sign language to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, readings and songs by our youth. Flags commemorating the fallen soldiers from Red Lion will be handed out to attendees and then we will process to the lawn where the flags will be placed in a cross as the list of names is read. If you have not attended this service before, it is a very moving time of recognition for the service and lives that have been given to ensure the freedom we so truly enjoy. Mark your calendar now!



Pastoral Acts

There were no pastoral acts this month.

WE WALKED TO JERUSALEM

We made it! We walked 2206.75 miles, which means we have arrived in Jerusalem. We had a lot of last minutes logging in the book, because we logged in 5837 miles from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. This means that the T.O.G.S. will be choosing a hair color for Pastor Tina-OH NO!



Graduates!

Do not forget to get your framed photo and graduation information to Ellen, Janet or Pat. All photos will be returned when the display is taken down. Photos do not have to be an official graduation portrait, and the graduate does not need to be a member of the church.

Deadline is May 11

STRANGERS IN KENYA: A TERM TO REMEMBER!

Hello again!

I was thinking back this past weekend on the term that we've recently completed (term 2 of 3 for the year) and looking ahead to the new term which starts on Thursday, and I realized something that I hope you haven't--we haven't updated our support team in a LONG, long time. So I've organized this update--which I'll work hard at keeping short!!!--around three Bible verses to reflect what God's been impressing on us.

Phil. 2:13 "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

We've felt God working through us in all of the "normal" ways...which are really quite remarkable when God's hand is in them. Discipling students, developing curriculum, leading departments, decorating for events and conferences (see Heather's ACSI stage decorations above), organizing community events (see Heather teaching about the Resurrection Eggs last Sunday), training and nurturing our own growing kids, coaching basketball (see Ryan's varsity team above), and of course teaching over 100 missionary kids here at Rift Valley Academy--these are the thing we've been blessed to do during term 2. And these are thing that YOU pray for God's spirit to help us do and you give towards helping us accomplish.

Which brings me to another Philippians verse... Phil. 4:11-13 "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Enough. Enough is a word of God's perfect provision. Financially, we received 101% support last year. It might sound like "more than enough" but the Lord knew Ryan needed to help out with a sick dad in Pennsylvania, and Heather needed to attend a best friend's wedding in California. 100% which we knew we'd need in 2013...plus 1% which we never could've planned for. God supplies.

Job. 1:21b. "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

I personally have enjoyed mentoring and working with dozens of young athletes on the basketball court through the years, but one trial that the Lord took me through was losing three straight varsity guys championship games. Even though our team this year was clearly the most talented in our league (nobody really got within 10 of us during the regular season), we all dealt with fear and doubt as the season wore on. The season ended well though--both on the court in our performance and off the court in our relationships--and we finally got the "monkey off our backs." We learned to praise God no matter what...and even though sports might seem silly and frivolous in comparison to serious life issues, the whole team grew to know our Father and His heart so much more richly through the things he "gave and took away" the past four years.

Like we said, it's been a while. Please email back with any prayer requests or family changes you've gone through. We think of you frequently...even if our writing is more sporadic.

God bless,
Ryan for Heather, Micah, Asher, and Claire

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Community Yard Sale is scheduled for June 20 and 21. We will be selling spaces on the lawn at a cost of \$10 for one day and \$15 for two days. Reservations may be given to Anna Mae in the office if you are interested in having a space. In addition, we make and sell food on both days and volunteers are always needed to help in that area. Jack prepares his awesome hamburgs in sauce and Tom Taute grills the fantastic hot dogs so you don't have to worry about cooking... just smiling and serving. Last year's profits from the yard sale purchased three new fiberglass ladders for the church since the old (ancient) wooden ones were no longer safe. You can talk with Jack if you are interested in helping anytime during the sale days.



Planning to Host an Event at the Church?

If you are interested in reserving the church for a private event, the request form needs to be in at least 60 days before the day of your party. All requests need to go through the Property Committee and they only meet once a month. Filing a request 60 days prior means that your request can be processed on time.

Thank you for your understanding.





Just For Fun

WHY GOD MADE MOMS

Answers given by second grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

Easter Performance from the Kids Choir





Food Pantry Ministry

Even though Grace Lutheran Food Pantry has received its second \$5000 from Thrivent, the need for volunteers to give of their

time remains. We will be packing boxes on May 17 and 31 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the food pantry area downstairs. Our Easter distribution, done in the cold and rain, found us short-handed for volunteers. The men in the alley/under the portico worked diligently for hours with no relief workers to give them time for a break or even a cup of coffee. If you are able, please consider helping with the June distribution which will be held on Monday, June 9. We also continue to need volunteers to help with the sanctuary set-up on Sunday, June 8. Believe it or not, your gift of time is often much more valuable than the gift of money!



WHAT'S IN THE DISPLAY CASE?

Thrivent Donation to Food Bank Fills Local Need

Hunger is an issue facing people all over the world, and that includes our own backyard. York County is fighting hunger not only in urban areas, but also suburbs and rural areas. Grace Lutheran Church is a distribution partner with both the York County Food Bank and Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.



50,650 people (11.7% of the county population) are "food insecure," according to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank's 2012 statistics. Within that population, 45% do not qualify for government assistance, and therefore rely on charitable response – from a food bank – only.

The York County Food Bank explains on their web site that a significant portion of food they receive comes from "food drives or fundraisers that are conducted by individuals, organizations, and corporations." These donations are vital in order to serve the population in need.

More individuals are utilizing the food bank, while donations are down. In light of today's economic conditions, the donation from Thrivent is especially appreciated.

Sources: www.centralpafoodbank.org and www.yorkfoodbank.org

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.

SPRING CLEANUP

We will be having our annual spring clean-up on Saturday, May 3 beginning at 9a.m. Dunkin' Donuts will be provided for the workers but you do need to bring your own gloves, clippers and rakes. The winter left many problems in our church yard so we will be challenged to clean up and repair all of the areas affected. In addition, the Bucher family has placed a beautiful marble bench in the yard in memory of John and that area will be re-designed and landscaped to make a beautiful resting place for people to enjoy. If you knew John, you might want to come to help with this heartfelt project. The kitchen also is in need of its semi-annual cleaning so hopefully those of you who do not want to work outdoors will come to help shine up the counters, cupboards and appliances. It is very important to keep our property clean and well-maintained not only from a safety perspective but as an appealing place that people will want to visit and hopefully stay!





T.O.G.S. NEWS

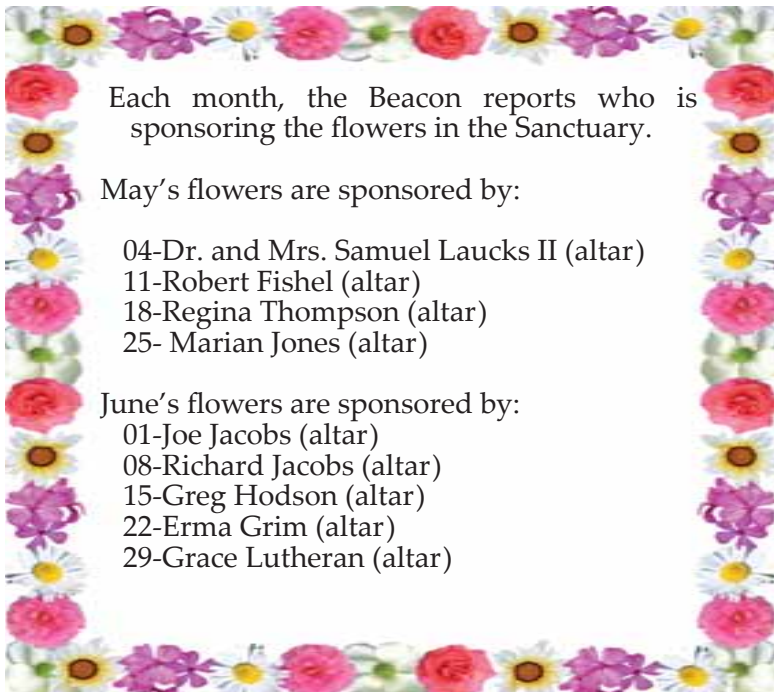
The TOGS are busy. Sunday, May 4 is the National Youth Gathering informational meeting. We will be meeting at the church at 5:15 p.m. to carpool to Mellingers Lutheran Church in Ephrata, to meet with their youth group and a representative from the Youth Gathering planning committee to hear about the event itself, as well as to ask any questions we might have. Parents are highly encouraged to attend this meeting. On Friday, May 16, we will be going Mini-Golfing at Heritage Hills at 6:30 p.m.

Here are some up-coming events for the Summer: The dates of these events will be determined as we get closer:

- York Revolution Game Day
- Visit and hosting dinner at Ronald McDonald House in Hershey

VBS IS COMING!

It's that time of year again. We are in the planning stages of Vacation Bible School (VBS). This means we are calling out to volunteers to help out. You do not need any special skills, just a love of children. There are many jobs available from teachers to group supervisors, and from crafters to food service. VBS week will be August 12 – 16 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. each night. Our theme this year is Gangway to Galilee and all lesson plans and equipment will be provided. Contact Kendra Shaffer or Megan Gideon for details on what you can do to make this the best year ever for the kids.



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

May's flowers are sponsored by:

- 04-Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Laucks II (altar)
- 11-Robert Fishel (altar)
- 18-Regina Thompson (altar)
- 25- Marian Jones (altar)

June's flowers are sponsored by:

- 01-Joe Jacobs (altar)
- 08-Richard Jacobs (altar)
- 15-Greg Hodson (altar)
- 22-Erma Grim (altar)
- 29-Grace Lutheran (altar)

May Celebrations

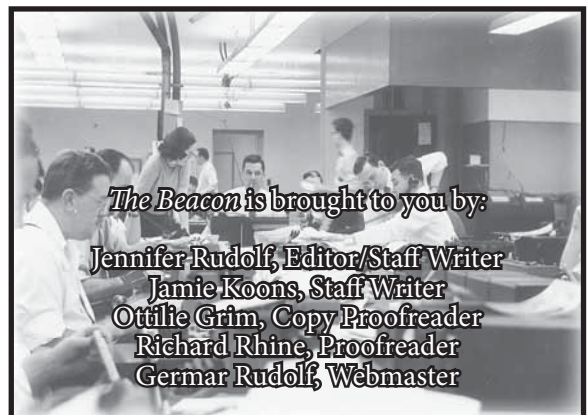


- 02-David Dennish
- 02-Joe Jacobs
- 05-Jo-Ann Barefoot
- 05-Ethen Shaffer
- 08-Nathan Biles
- 09-Eric Grim
- 11-Edna Shekart
- 16-Doris Golden
- 17-Veronica Carter
- 17-Judy Dellinger
- 19-Lindel Rotz
- 20-Robert Fishel
- 20-Diane Thompson
- 21-Anna Davis
- 22-Alisha Mundis
- 24-Linda Ricci
- 25-Cathleen Coleman
- 26-Zachariah Turner
- 28-Mildred Howard

Wedding Anniversaries



- 03-Carol and Paul Vigna
- 04-Beth and Brian Kolloch
- 06-Hazel and Robert Hammers
- 10-Sharon and James Bucher
- 10-Patricia and Billy May
- 11-Holly and Jeffrey Barker
- 18-Kendra and Kevin Shaffer
- 22-Andrea and Mark Stanley
- 24-Wendy and Robert Miller
- 27-Tina and Ben Melusky
- 29-Nancy and Keith McCleary
- 30-Janet and James Isett



The Beacon is brought to you by:

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

MAY 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service</p> <p>9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service</p>	<p>5 6:15 - 8:15 pm: Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Bible Study - Revelations</p>	<p>6 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Zumba Exercise Class</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice</p>	<p>7 6:30 - 7:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Finance Committee</p> <p>7:15 pm - 8:15 pm: Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>1 6:30 - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30 pm - : Parish Education Committee</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Graceful Women</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9:00 am - : Spring Clean Up Day</p>
<p>11 9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service</p> <p>9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service</p>	<p>12 6:15 - 8:15 pm: Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Bible Study - Revelations</p>	<p>13 6:30 - 5:54 pm: Worship & Music Committee</p> <p>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Zumba Exercise Class</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice</p>	<p>14 6:30 - 7:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice</p> <p>7:15 pm - 8:15 pm: Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>15 6:30 - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 pm - : IT Committee Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 8:30 am - : Food Bank Packing</p>
<p>18 9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service</p> <p>9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service</p> <p>1:30 - 8:30 pm: Girl Scout Special Event - Me & My Guy Dance</p>	<p>19 6:15 - 8:15 pm: Girl Scouts - Summer Vacation Begins</p> <p>7:00 - 8:30 pm: Bible Study - Revelations</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Property Committee</p>	<p>20 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Zumba Exercise Class</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice</p>	<p>21 6:30 - 7:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice</p> <p>7:15 pm - 8:15 pm: Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>22 6:30 - 7:45 pm: Girl Scouts - Summer Vacation Begins</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:00 - 9:45 am: Contemporary Service</p> <p>9:45 - 10:30 am: Memorial Day Sunday School Program</p> <p>9:45 - 10:45 am: Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 - 11:45 am: Traditional Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Zumba Exercise Class</p> <p>7:00 pm - : Ringers by Grace Practice</p>	<p>28 6:30 - 7:15 pm: Spirit Cellar Practice</p> <p>7:15 pm - 8:15 pm: Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>29 6:30 pm - : Mission & Discipleship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 8:30 am - : Food Bank Packing</p>