

Message of Grace

Large Print Version

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Come Build With Us

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11



I have been blessed to serve as Pastor here at Grace for roughly two months now. Since then I have been able to meet many of you. During this time one thing has been abundantly clear: God's spirit is alive and at work at Grace Lutheran Church. I have been thrilled to meet so many energized and committed people wanting to serve God's mission.

Within the midst of this passion there is a great deal of curiosity. Questions of where is God leading this church? What does God have in store for us? Questions like these remind me of the words of Jeremiah. The verses listed above came during a time of transition. At a point when God's people were both hopeful and uncertain about building something new. They were looking towards the future, but in many ways were uncertain about what to expect. But God speaks boldly to them that He has plans for them and that these plans are in their best interest. God wants to give them a future filled with hope!

God seeks to give us the same thing. God wants to give us lives filled with hope. This hope does not always mean that things will always be

easy, but it will be guided by God's will. As we focus on the future for Grace we can focus on God's will.

If you have been near or far from Grace these last few months we would like to invite you to come build with us. There are many ways God is working through this congregation but we need your help. A great way to get involved is to come to **Rally Day at Grace September 18th**. This is an opportunity to reconnect with people you maybe have not seen in some time. There will also be ways to sign up and participate with the various ministries of the church. We hope to see as many of you as possible as we seek to continue to grow in God's love.

In Christ,

Pastor Andy

News from Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Further discussion pertaining to funds that WELCA will be dispersing for various needed repairs will be on the agenda for our September meeting.

Funds in the amount of \$2,500.00 (one fourth of the driveway repair cost) has been given to the Property Committee for repairs/patching, sealing, etc. of our roadway.

The drive-through traffic between Broadway and Rt. 173 through our church property remains a serious problem for maintaining our roadway. WELCA is strongly in favor of stopping this through traffic as soon as possible.

WELCA is involved with committees in our church. We all depend on each other for support of our projects. The ladies of the church are continuing with their sewing of quilts, crocheting, knitting, etc. The ministry service at NIMC Hospital is calling upon our women to make various items for their newborn, infant, and pediatric departments. Another item which will be discussed will be beanie type hats and head bandanas used by chemo patients.

There are many places of need in our community and the need is growing for help.

Our next meeting, which will start our fall and winter schedule, will be held on Monday, September 12th at 4:00p.m. (no meeting on Labor Day) Hostesses will be Rita Popenhagen and Sandy Messick. Please remember to bring your own snack - sandwich, soup, salad or fruit. Coffee and dessert will be served by our hostesses. We would love to have more ladies/women of the church come and join us with their thoughts and ideas. Our meetings adjourn by 6:00-6:30pm. If you need a ride, please do not hesitate to call Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 and a ride to and from church will be arranged.

WELCA Contact: Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516

Grace Lutheran Financial Report – July 2011

Grace Lutheran Church Income vs Expenses	<u>Income</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>Expenses</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>Income</u> <u>July</u>	<u>Expenses</u> <u>July</u>
Budget	\$147,915	\$147,915	\$21,131	\$21,131
Actual	\$132,240	\$133,512	\$22,710	\$24,911
Over/Under Budget	(\$15,675)	(\$14,403)	\$1,579	\$3,780
	Balance 7/31/11: [\$2,571] (negative balance)			

Trusting for your prayerful support and faithfulness.

Grace Has a Facebook Page??



Log in to your Facebook account and search for [Grace Lutheran Church- ELCA, Richmond, IL.](#)

Why not check it out and become a fan? Let us know what you think should go on the Grace

Lutheran Facebook page. Email Chris Bjorklund at dreamstar_00@msn.com with your ideas.

Haiti News

The next Haiti trip will be from Oct 14th through Oct 22nd. This trip will have returning Grace Lutheran veterans such as Heather Harren, George Zimmermann, Jon Petersen and other medical people from the area heading to Haiti for a week of medical clinics. We plan to set up medical clinics in Plen Matin, Charlot and do home visits in the area. Special attention will be paid to the children in the areas. As always, **we are in need of several items for this trip.** Bring your donations to church, clearly marked for 'Haiti Mission' and place them in Luther Hall. Let me know so I can take inventory and store them until we pack for the trip.

Health and Hygiene:

- Vitamins (no gummy vitamins) – children's/prenatal/iron/adult
- Pain relievers such as Ibuprofen, Tylenol, aspirin 81 mg, children's chewable Tylenol- age 6 to 12
- Digestive aids such as DiGel, Tums, Roloids, Pepto-Bismol, Maalox
- Anti fungal creams such as Monistat, Neosporin, etc.
- Toothbrushes/ tooth paste / fluoride
- Cough syrup, eye wash, hydrogen peroxide
- Children's Pepcid AC
- 4 x 4 gauze, medical tape, dressing materials, Q tips
- Otoscopes

Other Supplies:

- Flashlights (with extra batteries)
- Batteries (D) (AA) (AAA)
- Plastic or metal plates - washable (for the children to eat from – we need about 500) Ziploc storage bags (gallon and quart size)

- School supplies – colored pencils, paper, erasers, pencil sharpeners, protractors, etc.
- School bags
- Soccer balls
- Collapsible water bottle
- Igloo water cooler (5 or 10 gallon)

As always, we appreciate your donations, your prayers and all that you do to help expand our Haiti ministry and our children's feeding program. For those that were able to help with our August pig roast, we thank you also. The funds collected at the Pig Roast will go toward the purchase of a new vehicle which is used for the delivery of the food and medicines to the villages in our children's feeding program as well as our transportation when visiting Haiti.

Jon Petersen

People of Praise Choir Has Openings for All Voices

The People of Praise choir is always looking for more voices to join us. We have a great time singing old favorites and learning new songs with the help of our accompanist, Mary Starzynski. If you have a heart for the Lord and love to sing, why don't you join us? We'll have a quick practice on September 7th and sing on Sunday September 11th but our 'official' first practice is Wednesday September 21st, at 7:00 in the sanctuary. Being able to read music is an asset but not necessary. Call Mary Starzynski at 815-675-6749 before you come the first time to be sure the plans haven't changed. Sing to the Lord a new song!

Your Congregation Council 2011-2012



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Dave Borst, Youth
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815-385-6113

The REST of Your Congregation Council

We said we'd catch Dave Borst and Andy Mayer next time so as promised (see the previous page) – here they are, along with the new Treasurer elected by the Council, Jon Petersen!

Please keep them in your prayers and consider participating in the activities they plan and offer your help when you can. Did your parents use the old adage, "Many hands make light work"? It's TRUE! Where is God calling YOU to serve?



Jon Petersen, Treasurer
jon@mchenrymassage.com
815-790-5934

Council Meeting Notes August 2, 2011

Pastor's Report: Pastor Andy stated he has been visiting the homebound and in-hospital church members. He asks that we make him aware of anyone in need of visits, as this is an important part of his calling. Pastor Andy also stated that he has been assigned a mentor, Pastor Gary Erickson, from DeKalb. They will be meeting monthly for his first year at Grace.

Jon Petersen was elected as the Congregation Treasurer.

It was agreed to **move to two worship services** to better accommodate Sunday School and offer members a choice of worship times. *[See below for details.]*

All of the committee team members will meet on the same night to facilitate fellowship and group planning of activities involving more than one team. *[The team leaders polled their members and settled on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm with the first meeting to be Sep 6th.]*

Council meetings are moving to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, so the next meeting will be held September 13th at 7:00 pm.

New Worship Schedule Begins September 25th

To better support our Sunday School program and offer everyone in the congregation a choice of service time, we will move to two services as of September 25th. The Worship & Music Team collaborated with the Sunday School planners and came up with worship times of 8:00 and 10:15, with Sunday School being held from 9:15 to 10. Please mark your calendars.

Heads-up – New Picture Directory Coming Soon!

We're hoping to schedule photos of all of our members this fall for a new directory and website! You can even bring family members for group photos, Christmas cards etc. Keep watch for more information in the September issue. Email Chris Bjorklund at dreamstar_00@msn.com if you can donate some time to host sign-ups and the photo shoots.

Contact: Chris Bjorklund, dreamstar_00@msn.com, 815-675-2765

People of Praise Choir Has Openings for All Voices

The People of Praise choir is always looking for more voices to join us. We have a great time singing old favorites and learning new songs with the help of our accompanist, Mary Starzynski. If you have a heart for the Lord and love to sing, why don't you join us? We'll have a quick practice on September 7th and sing on Sunday September 11th but our 'official' first practice is Wednesday September 21st, at 7:00 in the sanctuary. Being able to read music is an asset but not necessary. Call Mary Starzynski at 815-675-6749 before you come the first time to be sure the plans haven't changed. Sing to the Lord a new song!

their leaders in your prayers as they participate in their mission trip to **the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota July 30 to August 6.**

Contact: Carol Jean Steadman, kate@stans.com or 815-338-0490

Christian Education Opportunities for All

Sunday School



The Learning Ministry team is excited to announce an all new and improved Sunday School program! **Sunday School begins on September 25th from 9:15am-10:00am and is open to all children ages 3 through 5th grade.** This year's program will feature a rotational style of learning where children will be grouped according to ages and will rotate to different lesson-based activities. This style of learning has been highly successful in the past and we are thrilled to be able to offer it again. Some of the possible rotations will include Bible stories, dramatic play, arts & crafts, science, music, and even cooking! We also plan to have a Christmas program and various service projects throughout the year. This is a free program and sign-up will begin at Rally Day on September 18th.

Help Wanted

We are in need of adults, teens, and tweens who want to help share God's love with the children.

We need approximately **12 volunteers each Sunday** to make the program a success for them.

Volunteer opportunities include greeting the children and helping them rotate to each station, running a station, and assisting with childcare. If you can't commit weekly, please consider helping us once or twice a month. No experience is necessary and all material will be provided. **We will offer childcare for volunteers with children under the age of 3.**



Contacts: Jean Schenk (wschenk@netscape.com) or Carmen Hosken (cahosken71@yahoo.com)

Confirmation

The Alpha confirmation program will begin September 28th at 5:30pm. This program is offered to 6th, 7th and 8th graders with a cost of \$25 per child (scholarships are available). Alpha classes begin with a family-style dinner and then groups are separated by grades for small-group learning. Our lessons focus on both the Old & New Testaments and Luther's Small Catechism. This is a three-year program, but children are welcome to join at any time! We also participate in fun service projects throughout the year. **Our September 28th class will be a Family Informational Night for parents and children to learn more about the program. Sign-up will begin at Rally Day on Sept 18th.**

Contacts: Nancy Wagner (wuwagsfamily@yahoo.com) or Carmen Hosken (cahosken71@yahoo.com)

Adult Education



CHANGE OF PLANS! Pastor Andy will be leading an **adult education class** between worship services. We will meet in Luther Hall. Sign up on Rally Day, September 18th. **Classes begin September 25th at 9:15.**

Contact: Chris Bjorklund, dreamstar_00@msn.com, 815-675-2765

Andy Tyrrell Installed as Pastor of Grace

August 21st was a very busy day, as we had a second worship service at 3:00 to officially install our new pastor. Several pastors took part in the ceremonies, including Pastor John Cunningham who led worship and delivered the sermon and Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann who performed the rite of installation. Over 100 members of the congregation and family members attended and welcomed Pastor Andy.

After the service, a wonderful spread was laid out by WELCA. In the last newsletter we said 'a light supper would be served'. Light? It was a feast and everyone enjoyed it very much. Thank you to all who worked so hard to prepare, set up and clean up.

Rally Day and Volunteer Fair Festivities Sept 18th

Rally Day

You've heard the word 'Rally' used to describe a political meeting to show support for a candidate or as a morale booster, is in 'Pep Rally', before the big game, or a way to gather troops before battle. But just what IS **Rally Day** in the church? It's a time to 'rally' the children for Sunday School! A team of dedicated folks have been planning a great program for this year and now all they need are A) children and B) volunteers! On Sunday September 18th, they'll be looking for BOTH. (Of course they will accept volunteers right now – see the article on page 5 for more information.) After service that day we'll be holding the Outreach Café in Fellowship Hall but you will also be able to see the Sunday School materials, meet the leaders and some of the teachers as well as sign your children up for a class. Classes are planned for age 3 up through 5th grade. Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades are encouraged to participate in ALPHA Confirmation classes which are held on Wednesdays. See page 5 for more information. You may also enroll your students for ALPHA on Rally Day. While your children are in Sunday School, why not attend our Adult Bible Study? Guess what? You can sign up for that too! Sunday classes will begin September 25th from 9:15 to 10:00 between services, allowing you the option of attending church either before or after Sunday School.

Volunteer Fair

In conjunction with the Outreach Café and Rally Day we will hold our first **Volunteer Fair**. All of the ministry teams of the congregation will have displays of the kinds of activities and responsibilities they have as well as opportunities you to serve. Whether you can commit to a team leadership role or just have a few hours a month to volunteer, we have something for you! Please consider where you might like to help and where you feel God is leading you to serve.



for

Opportunities to Serve

Join us on September 18th and see just some of the dozens of ministries and activities going on at Grace Lutheran. You might be very surprised. And if you find one that strikes a chord with you, please consider volunteering your services for one or more activities.

Christian Education: Sunday School, ALPHA Confirmation, Adult Bible Study, Christmas program

Outreach: Prayer Ministry, Small Groups, New Member Support, PADS ministry to the homeless, Habitat for Humanity, Christmas Giving Tree, Easter Breakfast, Walks, Runs and other fund-raisers, assistance to local food pantries



Photo Directory: Help members sign up for pictures after church or assist on photo-shoot days in October

Stewardship: stewardship education, time and talent as well as treasure, offering counters, financial matters of the congregation, managing personal finances

Properties: maintenance and improvement of our building and grounds



Fellowship: coffee hour, special meals and celebrations, promoting friendships in the congregation through group outings and family-friendly activities

Communication: newsletter, newspaper coverage, website, promotion of other team activities, overhead projection of announcements and services

Worship and Music: worship planning, special music, special services (Lent, Good Friday, etc.)

Youth: activities and education for youth, inside and outside the church, reach out to youth in the community

People of Praise choir: What else, sing with the choir! Or perhaps you have experience directing?

WELCA: Women of the ELCA (read the article on page 2 for some of their activities)

Adopt-a-Garden: Pick an area of the church grounds to tend and make beautiful for all to enjoy

These are just a few of the activities of these ministries. You'll see many more at the Volunteer Fair displays. Please plan to join us. **Don't forget that the Outreach Café** will also be serving great breakfast fare at very reasonable prices. Proceeds benefit PADS, food pantries, Habitat for Humanity and the Haiti mission! Thrivent will also match a portion so we'll have even more to share.

From the Outreach Team



The **Outreach Cafe** will be serving on the **18th from 10:00 to 11:30 in conjunction with our Rally Day activities**. Please join us and check out all of the opportunities for ministry you could



be

involved in. You could head up a team like Small Groups or Shepherd Dinners, or you could volunteer to sit for one hour during Photo Directory sign-ups. Or anything in between! There's something for everyone, if not on the Outreach team then one of the other teams. Where is God calling YOU to serve?

The **P.A.D.S. Summer Program** is winding down. Thanks to all who contributed to the effort. The new season will begin in October, so see Curt Bjorklund, or call 815-529-7746 to furnish food or other supplies or to volunteer at St. Joseph's Catholic Church the first Thursday of each month through April.

*Outreach Contact: Chris Bjorklund, 815-675-2765,
dreamstar_00@msn.com*

New Picture Directory Photos Taken in October!

We've scheduled three days at the end of October to get photos taken of all of our members for a new directory and website! You can even bring family members for separate group photos, to use as gifts, Christmas cards etc. You'll be seeing items in the bulletin, posters and in the announcements so watch for details. Sign-up will begin September 18th during the Rally Day activities and continue for the next three Sundays, as well as online. Talk with your family members and select a time that fits your schedules. Email Chris Bjorklund at dreamstar_00@msn.com if you can donate some time to host during sign-up on Sundays and the photo shoot days October 27, 28 and 29. Or see Chris or Jan Heynis on Rally Day/Volunteer Fair Sept 18th.

Youth Ministry Needs Your Help!



I'm the new director of the Youth Ministry, and I need your help! If you would like to participate either as a youth member, or as a volunteer, please contact me. Our first volunteer meeting will be at 6:30pm on Tuesday, September 6th at church. Hope to see you there!

Contact: Dave Borst, dborst30@sbcglobal.net or call 815-385-6113

New Hymnals Dedicated August 21st

Our beautiful new 'cranberry' hymnals were dedicated during the morning service on August 21st. Half of the new books were sponsored by members in honor of or in memory of friends and family. The other half was sponsored by an anonymous donor. **Thank you to all who made it possible, from those who donated to those who organized the drive, unpacked them, added dedication panels and placed them in the pews.** Now that most of the hymns we sing on Sunday will come from the new hymnals, page numbers will appear in the bulletin to allow the congregation to follow along on more unfamiliar tunes or even to harmonize if so inclined!

September 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOTE: We'll going to two services as of September 25 th !				1 11:15am Young at Heart	2	3
4 9:00 am Holy Communion Service	5 Labor Day	6 6:30pm Joint Team Meeting	7 7:00pm People of Praise rehearsal	8 4:30pm Immunization	9	10
11 9:00 am Holy Communion Service	12 4:00pm WELCA	13 7:00pm Council Meeting	14	15 Newsletter articles due	16	17 Set up Rally Day
18 9:00 am Holy Communion Service 10-11:30 am Outreach Café & Rally Day	19 Newsletter mailed	20	21 7:00pm People of Praise rehearsal	22	23	24
25 8:00 am Holy Communion Service 9:15 am Sunday School – 1 st session 10:15 am Holy Communion Service	26	27	28 7:00 pm People of Praise rehearsal	29	30	



Bits and Pieces from The Church Mouse

Hello Friends, *I am back from my vacation—I kept sunblock on my tail so it would not get sunburned! It is always good to go on vacation, but always nice to come back home to Grace. I really missed everyone. Hope everyone had a good couple of months.*

There are many changes going on at Grace since I have been back. There will be two services beginning on September 25, 2011: One of the services starts at 8:00 am and the other service starts at 10:15 am. Rally Day is on

September 18. You know me, I'll be there!

A band at Grace? *...Yes, you heard me right! Greg Thurow is putting a band together. If you would like to join and you can play an instrument or would like to sing, please contact Greg at 815-678-4616. I wonder if he would like me to sing...I can squeak pretty good.*

Young At Heart Seniors *are getting together on **Thursday, September 1** at 11:15 and Cheryle Walls will be cooking up the food. The menu is: Malibu chicken, sweet potatoes, green vegetables, salad, rolls and desserts. Yumm, sounds good to me. The hostesses will be Carol & Ken Runyard, Joan & Rick Rzonca and Pat Etzhorn. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 or Doris Rockenbach at 262-248-0577.*

There will be a team going to Haiti on October 15, 2011 for a medical mission. *If you would like more information or you would like to donate items, please contact Jon Petersen at 815-790-5934.*

Thanks to all who provide food for the homeless, for the food pantry and for PADS. Also, to those who save pull tabs and Sentry Store receipts that help fund our local food pantries.

Thanks to all in the military for their service and to their families at home. Remember them in your prayers.

See you next month!

Praise Reports: Don and Margaret Smith celebrated 60 years of marriage in July!

Many thanks to Dave Nelson and his son, Danny, for polishing the church bell and painting the church bell cross. They sparkled for Pastor Andy's first service at Grace!

Thanks to our members Jan Heynis and Doris Hinz who always put floral arrangements wherever needed in our church for special occasions, change in seasons and holidays. Our tables are always set with centerpieces marking the event being celebrated.

Also, Linda Ketelson who is in charge of our church property beautification program has done a remarkable job with her crew of members who tend to the various garden areas surrounding the church.

A lot of time and effort is put into keeping our church home a place of beauty.

Lastly, a veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America ' for any amount, up to and including their life. Pray for them!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2011				
Position	Sep 4 - 9:00	Sep 11 – 9:00	Sep 18 – 9:00	Note the new worship times beginning September 25th: 8:00am and 10:15am with Sunday School and Adult Bible Study from 9:15-10:00. Sign up for classes on September 18th Rally Day!
Lector	Pat Petersen	Elise Livingston	Mark Greenleaf	
Assistant	Tom Weaver	Clark Atwater	Dave Oelert	
Computer	Phil Giannini	Denise Lemke	Marty Heynis	
Acolytes	Dalton Wagner James LeJeune	Alexis Haley Alex Hosken	Anna Blaney Cody Harren	
Counters	Ron & Sue Chandler	Deb Oelert & Sandy Messick	Donnie & Colleen Vineyard	
Position	Sep 25 - 8:00	Sep 25 – 10:15	Altar Guild for September: Nancy Kepple Mary Koehn	
Lector	Tina Atwater	Dave Baker		
Assistant	Dave Popenhagen	Andy Mayer		
Computer	Tom Ott	Katie Arizzi		
Acolytes	Rachel Hayden Cody Harren	Allison Lindley Will Marshall		
Counters	Chris Bjorklund and Pat Petersen			

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 Services and Classes as of 9/25/11
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Sunday Worship: Regular
Services at 8 and 10:15 am
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:00 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am

Visit our Website:
www.gracelutheran1.org Click
 on Member Directory to look up
 member photos, phone
 numbers and addresses.
 Password: martin