

GRACELINES

School News

INSIDE GRACELINES

School News..... Page 1

Offerings & Attendance. Page 2

Service Reminder
Come to fellowship picnic
Confirmation orientation

Music Notes Page 3

Deaconess's Nuckolls Letter ..
..... Page 4

News from the DCE..... Page 5

LWML..... Page 6

Sage and Sand
Prayer Quilts
Mite Sunday

Sponsors Page 7

Church Staff Page 8

September 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

John 14:6a **"I am the way and the truth and life."** This is our theme verse for the 52nd (2009-2010) school year here at Grace. Yesterday we opened the school year by all gathering around our flag pole on Newgrove. We said the pledges to the flags and Dr. Wooster prayed for our school and church and the mission field we have here. Mr. Burk then led us all to church with the processional cross. We sang **Lift High the Cross** as we came in to worship. Many parents and friends joined us for this opening. What a great way to start the school year!

There are so many helping hands making our facilities look nice. I want to thank some people but I am afraid I will miss others. Let me just say that the yards and flower beds look super, the grass has been edged all the way down to the last of the classrooms, both lower grade bathrooms look tremendous, and the fourth grade carpeting is outstanding! I know there are many more plans in the works also. My sincere gratitude to each and every one of you who has made these things happen.

Last night (Aug. 19) a family came into join us for Wednesday Family Ministry Night. We aren't starting for a few weeks but I was exciting about them coming and my being able to get to know the family some. This is a family with a mom and dad, daughter, son-in-law and 3 grandsons. I'm happy to know there is interest in the Wednesday night program. Jim Roberts has worked exceptionally hard to make all this happen. Looks like we will have that cross-generational concept in place, Jim!

I seldom send on articles sent to me by e-mail. I'm sure we all see plenty of them. This was sent to me recently and I decided to end my article this month with it. I thought it has a message for all of us about what we are doing here at Grace.

Putting our Country Back Together

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today."

After a few minutes, his daughter returned and handed the father the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where he belonged, then our country just came together."

Serving the Master Teacher,
Wanda Vandrey, Principal

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Grace Lutheran Church

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Offering		Attendance	
Ending Sunday 7/26	8,727	Saturday 7/25	25
Ending Sunday 8/2	9,764	Sunday 7/26	175
Ending Sunday 8/9	8,060	Saturday 8/1	15
Ending Sunday 8/16	7,902	Sunday 8/2	159
Building Fund (BTBC)		Saturday 8/8	7
		Sunday 8/9	152
		Saturday 8/15	25
		Sunday 8/16	193
		2008	233
		2009	182
Total as of 8/23	796,193		

Service Reminder

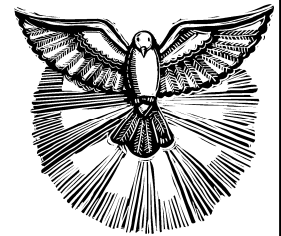
There is ONLY ONE Service on Sunday, September 13th at 10:00 a.m. and Bible Study from 9:00-9:45 this morning.

Come to the Fellowship Picnic!

On Sunday, September 13th after our ONE service @ 10am celebrating Education Sunday and Rally Day, we will be having a fun filled picnic for ALL! Church and school families are invited to participate in this "old fashioned" fun! The meat and drinks will be provided - please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. We are planning many games and activities for the children and the adults! Any questions please call Tricia and Scott Colcord #373-0161.

Confirmation Orientation

Wednesday, September 9th from 5:30 – 7:30 at our Deaconess June Nuckolls' house.
 Her address is 4805 W. M-14 in Quartz Hill.
ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO BE CONFIRMATION NEED TO ATTEND THIS ORIENTATION!



Please come join us for Education Sunday/Rally Day, September 13th

Office hours to change for our Deaconess June. Her office hours are now Monday and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 am and will change to Tuesdays from 9:00 am -3:00 pm. She will always be available through her cell phone.

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

MUSIC NOTES

Did you notice the first line of the second verse above? God made us without any help on our part. Does that seem obvious? On the one hand it should be. On the other hand, it seems we are awful good at telling God how things ought to be running. If we stop and look at ourselves, that shouldn't really be a surprise either. We human beings are very self-centered. We like to be the boss and decide how things ought to go.

That tendency is at the root of an awful lot of our difficulties. If we just weren't so stubborn, or so sure that we know what's best for ourselves and everyone else! Of course, that changes when we get ourselves into a mess that is all our own doing and we can't get out of it. Then we either look around for someone else to blame or we do the ultimate – we blame it on God!

Of course the bottom line is that it is our sinfulness that causes the stubborn self-centeredness in the first place. Add that to the sinful human nature of those around us and it is safe to say that we either cause our own problems or we are the victims of the sinfulness of other people. It all comes down to sin. The corruption of sin causes illness and disease; it even causes the problems we have in society at large.

Oh, if Adam and Eve had only resisted Satan's temptation in the garden!

But while Adam and Eve, and even we ourselves, caused our mess, we cannot do anything about it. Have you tried to solve the problem of sin? Have you tried to go for even a few hours without an inappropriate thought, a temper flare up; or have you tried driving to work without speeding, or without getting angry at the other drivers? We definitely cannot solve the problem of sin – no matter how good our intentions are!

Fortunately Jesus took care of all of that for us. He lived the perfect life we cannot. I cannot imagine the temptations He had with the people of His day. The Pharisees would have to have been frustrating! And yet He never got sinfully angry with them! So He lived the perfect life we should, **plus** He paid the price for all of our sins. And now, by His grace, by the faith He has given to us, God looks at us and sees perfect, righteous people. We are the righteous – not by virtue of our works – but by virtue of the works and sufferings of Jesus Christ.

For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. That's how Luther ended the explanation to the first article of the creed. That article talks about the physical stuff God gives. It talks about God's continuing care and protection for His creation. If we should thank and praise, serve and obey Him in gratitude for stuff, what about gratitude for forgiveness? How about gratitude for eternal life? For all God has done, for all He continues to do, how can we help but thank and praise, serve and obey Him? That's the least we can do!

As we start to look forward to the beginning of the fall season, we are looking for musicians who want to serve our gracious Lord with thanks and praise! Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 10 at 7 PM in the choir area of the chancel. Handbell choir will start either on the 10th or the 17th (watch for more information) at 6 PM in the music room off the parish hall. The Saturday night praise and worship group can use more musicians too. We especially need a keyboard player, another bass player, and singers. If you are interested in playing with this group, contact me in the church office. Currently we practice on Tuesday nights (6:30 PM) and on Saturday's at 6 PM before the service. We also have openings for brass players, instrumental soloists or ensembles, and the like. If you have an idea, give me a call or send me an e-mail! We'll get you connected!

May we all give God thanks and praise as we serve and obey Him!

In Christ's Service,
Larry D. Wooster

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace,

Changes seem to be in the air in the Fall. School starts, the weather changes, (wouldn't mind a little cool down), and the routine of life begins. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Heb. 13:8.

I have been told by many older folk, that I visit, that the days are the same for them. They say that with negative overtones because they have been limited by health and wealth. Our God is limitless and is the same. That phase brings comfort to Christians that need a foot out of the chaos of life and it is a comfort to the older generation because of the steadiness of God in spite of the physical incapacities and lack of money.

The sameness of God is here at church. I know that sameness also has negatives attached to it in the context of church, same old boring stuff. Some may think there are too many changes at church. We have no Pastor at the moment, a Deaconess (that's new), we are using the hymnal and the Bible for the service, all these are changes. We find these changes difficult and question the correctness of the change. We hate to change. We see that in our constant need to confess sins over and over again. We find comfort in the sameness. God asks us not to find comfort in that kind of sameness. That kind of sameness causes us to think our habitual sameness has made us right with God.

It is God's sameness that makes us right. It is His constant love through Jesus Christ that makes all forgiven. Changes are to be seen at church but these are surface changes. The fellowship created by God is present and constant at church. It is present in the Word heard and the Sacraments administered. That has not changed at Grace. It is given to you as you attend church and build up the work of God. You literally receive the Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." You receive the eternal sameness of your Father in heaven.

See you at church and someday in heaven.

In His Bondage,
Deaconess Nuckolls

News from the DCE

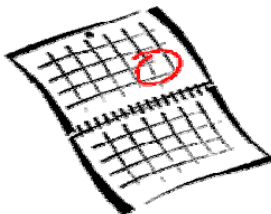
Family Ministry Wednesdays



As many of you may already be aware, this coming Fall (September 16th), we at Grace will be starting an Educational Ministry opportunity suited for the whole family. This evening will include Bible study groups for ALL AGES: pre-k – k, 1st – 3rd, 4th – 5th (tweens), 7th -8th (Confirmation), 9th – 12th (senior high youth), and 5 different adult Bible studies. The kids will learn about Jesus in their own way and at their level. The adults will also have an opportunity to learn and grow in their faith on their level. There are various topics to choose from: (1) Social Networking Ministry, (2) Faith Foundations, (3) Women of the Bible (a women only Bible study), (4) 10 steps to parenting in a Christian home, and (5) What makes us Lutheran? See the information provided to see a more detailed description of each class and what it will cover.

I would like to re-emphasize that Family Ministry Wednesdays are not just for people who have children living at home. This is an evening for ALL ages – ALL people. We are ALL a part of God's Family and this is a wonderful way to grow together in our Faith as Christians and as a Christian family.

Each Wednesday, we will start at 5:30pm with food (together in the parish hall), the around 6:15pm we will break off into our separate Bible study groups (in various rooms), and then around 7:15pm we will all gather for a time of Prayer and Praise (together in the sanctuary). All too often we tend to spend too much of our day or week apart from each other and as a congregation, we usually only spend Sundays together. These Wednesdays will give us a chance to come together as a family and as a church family to grow in our faith and in our Christian Journey.



Mark your calendars and set aside each Wednesday for **FAMILY MINISTRY WEDNESDAYS**.

We haven't chosen a verse to go along with Family Ministry Wednesdays yet, but I kind of like Joshua 24:15.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
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CHURCH STAFF

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Assistant Pastor/Church Planter	Todd Niebling
Music Director	Larry Wooster
Youth Director	Jim Roberts
Church Secretary	Teri Morgan

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE

Principal	Wanda Vandrey
School Secretary	Christine Calvert

CHURCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ken Szalai
Vice President	Scott Smith
Treasurer	Dennis Klein
Recording Secretary	Marge Barckholtz
Member at Large	Gary Vandrey
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