

GRACE GAZETTE



Grace is a Christian family—Welcoming people to live God's Word and strengthen their faith.

FOCUSED ON GRACE

Before one of our sons was born, we were still tossing around two different names for him. But when we got our first look at him, choosing between the two names became very easy. We both said, “He looks just like a Chris.” (Who knows what a Chris looks like – but it made sense to us at the time.) That name seemed to fit him, so that was the name he received.

Many times our names do fit our personalities. And so it is at Grace Lutheran Church. Grace is a name that fits because here, at Grace, we focus on God's grace. It's one of our Core Values. In fact, we might say it is THE Core Value which stands behind everything else we value. For God's grace drives our mission, motivates our ministry and directs our decisions.

God's grace tells us to be accepting of others and not judgmental as we hear Jesus talk about looking at our neighbor with pity rather than disgust. In fact, the Lutheran Catechism gives this meaning to the 8th Commandment – (You know - “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”)

“What does this mean? We are to respect and love God so that...we defend our neighbor, speak well of him and explain his actions in the kindest way.” Aha! Grace!

God's grace teaches us to reach out with the Good News that Jesus dies for the sins of the whole world, not just for those who think they're deserving. The shocking truth is that Jesus dies for those who deserve nothing – including you and me. Knowing that we are celebrated and welcomed even though we have been wasteful and rebellious – like the Prodigal Son – we reach out to others with God's grace, calling them to believe and follow.

God's grace welcomes us to the Lord's Supper – offering us the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. And since we are welcome to come to God at no cost and “just as we are,” we freely welcome others to God's table as well.

GOD'S GRACE STANDS AT THE CENTER OF OUR LIFE

TOGETHER. For God's grace is what calls us together and then sends us out to serve others in Jesus' name.

May you know that God's grace is for you. And may you follow Jesus by showing God's grace to others. After all, it is the main value we share as God's people.

~Pastor Kent

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Special points of interest:

- Vacation Bible School— August 11-13
- Sunday School begins Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m.
- Worship Times change Sunday, September 13th— 8:00 Traditional and 10:30 Contemporary



The second annual Stuff the Bus event sponsored by the United Way, will be August 13th at Lunch by the River. Grace will be collecting school supplies through August 9 to help "stuff the bus"! Please visit the Ministry Table for more information and to pick up a "list of items needed" that you can take shopping with you.

Geocaching— is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. Watch the September Newsletter for more information about geocaching at Grace.



The ELCA and Human Sexuality

For many years, the ELCA has studied the subject of human sexuality in the hopes that we can have a social statement which will express what we think about this area of life. Many papers have been presented along the way as ways to talk about all aspects of our sexuality – including the subject of gays and lesbians.

In the month of August, a major paper titled "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" will be presented at the ELCA's national convention. There will be a vote about accepting this paper as a statement for the whole Church.

We studied this document at Monday Coffeehouse this past spring and came away with a very favorable opinion. The document lays out the different ways people in the ELCA think about this subject – recognizing that there is not agreement. The paper calls for us to continue talking to each other about this subject while respecting each other's opinions. (This paper can be read on line at www.elca.org. – just follow the links.)

The paper calls us to trust God's grace while recognizing that we can be the body of Christ – one in Christ – even though we think differently about a variety of subjects. A quote – "*Lutherans are not reluctant to live confidently within the difficult, complex and ambiguous realities of daily life.*" In other words, none of us has all the answers, especially when the questions are difficult. But each of us is called to love others unconditionally and respect each other's thinking.

So, as the ELCA gathers to discuss and vote about this subject, keep the following things in mind:

- We are One – the body of Christ – even when we disagree. So, respect each other knowing that faithful people can come to different conclusions.
- We all come to God by grace and not our own deserving.
- If there are changes in Church policy, (which may or may not happen) know that we are still the same at Grace Lutheran Church.
- And if you have any thoughts or questions along the way, talk to Pastor Kent about them.



New to Grace are Amy Bishop and Jason Dorshorst. Jason is a computer design worker for Power Engineers in Plover. He is an avid hunter and enjoys other outdoor activities like, boating, fishing and snowmobiling. Amy just completed her first year of teaching at Amherst Middle School. She said it went great, and she enjoyed all the laughs and giggles her 7th & 8th grade special education students provided. When she's not preparing for another day of school, she gets into scrapbooking. Amy and Jason will be getting married in January, 2010!



Have you wondered about the new drummer in our Youth Band? It's Tyler Martin who recently joined Grace with his parents, Steve and Jenny. Along with his musical talents, this Woodside 6th grader loves playing basketball, skateboarding, launching rockets and has his black belt in karate. Jenny works as a print buyer for Renaissance Learning. She enjoys working with kids, sewing and puppetry. Steve likes to entertain people. He's involved in directing and acting through Wisconsin Rapids Community Theater. He has been part of a puppetry ministry with Jenny, plays the drums and says theater is his number one passion. Steve is also enthusiastic about his work as a leadership trainer for Sentry Insurance.



"Wisconsin Rapids Lifers", Dave and Lori Steinhilber joined Grace in May. Their son, Joe will be a junior at Lincoln this fall. He's involved in hockey, football and track. Lewis, is 21 and also joined Grace. He is attending MSTC. The guys like "puttering" around. Dave enjoys carpentry and he and the boys just finished restoring a 1968 AMC Javelin they can take to car shows. Dave is a mechanical supervisor at New Page. Lori is a network administrator at Renaissance Learning, making her good at computer setup, repair and networking; a gift many of us can appreciate. She enjoys cooking too.

The Church In Society Board is excited about a new Grace ministry focused on families of this community!

Sunday, August 2nd

We are looking for ideas from the congregation on how to implement and organize such a ministry. Please plan on attending a gathering after worship on August 2, where we will share and brainstorm ideas for this special ministry.

Grace Lutheran Church

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www.glcwr.org

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship	3 6:00 Support Group 6:00 Sports League at Woodside	4	5 9:00 T.O.P.S. 6:00 Cooking Club	6 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	7	8
9 9:00 Worship	10 6:00 Support Group	11 6:30 Church Council	12 9:00 T.O.P.S.	13 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	14	15 Wedding
		9:00-4:00 Vacation Bible School				
16 9:00 Worship	17 6:00 Support Group	18	19 9:00 T.O.P.S.	20 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	21	22 Wedding
23 9:00 Worship	24 6:00 Support Group	25	26 9:00 T.O.P.S.	27 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	28	29
30 9:00 Worship	31 6:00 Support Group					