

GRACE GAZETTE

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



Grace's Core Values -

“Being Open to New Ideas”

Everyone has their morning routine. You get up – you do this – followed by that – always the same way, in the same order. And that morning routine is a good thing. It's comforting. You don't have to think – you just get ready for the day. But very few of us would want the whole day to be like our morning routine, that is, the same – over and over and over.

In the movie, “Groundhog Day”, Bill Murray gets stuck in reliving the same day – over and over and over. People say the same things to him. The radio plays the same music. The food is always the same.

As much as we like our routines, none of us would want everything in our life to be exactly the same each day.

So, it's great to know it's not that way at Grace! Sure, there are certain routines – but there is always an openness to new ideas. This is one of our Core Values.

These new ideas come from many places – new members – people with creative minds – or from a new experience we've had somewhere else. When one of these new ideas comes along, we give it a try!

Sometimes it's great – sometimes not. But we are willing to try new things.

Of course, in order to be open to new ideas, we also have to be open to stop doing some things we have been doing before – without guilt! And we have to recognize that everything doesn't always have to be done the same way.

In the Church – where the basis of our salvation is that God has done a new thing in Christ – and where the Bible promises that God works to make us new - it only makes sense for us to be open to new things!

Several new things are happening right now – plans for a projection system in worship – a new outreach ministry led by Church in Society – a summer event for Junior high youth - even this newsletter is being received by many through e-mail as a new way to save dollars.

So, be ready for new ideas. Let them keep your faith fresh and, perhaps, even lead you in new ways. For God continues to work to make you new, as well.

Pastor Kent

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Special points of interest:

- Senior Recognition Sunday, June 7th at 9:00 a.m.
- Synod Assembly—June 5-6 in Green Bay
- Vacation Bible School—August 11-13



By jove, it's jolly good to have new members all the way from England!

David Farmbrough, his wife, Stacy Harper and their son Joseph are excited over their move to Wisconsin Rapids. The move to Rapids put Stacy in the same town with her father, John Harper and her sister too. Stacy was born in Wausau and raised in northern Wisconsin. She met David through a friend while on holiday in England. They married in 2001. They have been living in Brentford, England, two blocks out of London, for the past eight years. Stacy enjoys crafting and card making along with having a stack of books, waiting to be read. She's joined the board of Church-in-Society, and can't wait to begin helping others. The family enjoys being in the outdoors and exploring their new surroundings. They've been discovering Rapids by attending a variety of community events, offered at the library or high school. David is looking forward to making a career change along with the move, he's interested in working in the media field. Some of his interests include music (so he's joined the choir), writing, acting, and especially spending lots of time with Joseph learning and playing together. Joseph, is seven years old and he attends Woodside school. You may have seen him recently, dancing up a storm with the Tiny Toes group.



TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP

Imagine worship where everyone's looking up and singing out - - where no-one has to juggle worship books and bulletins - - or has to wonder what comes next because it's right there in front of us all. This is part of what technology can add to our worship experience. (Along with creativity in the sermon and making announcements, plus saving money!)

Retractable screens, computer programs, a lap top, and two projectors are needed to get started. We already own the screens - while the rest of what is needed will cost around \$4,100. Through the Dinner Theater, \$1,900 has been raised. Another \$600 has already come in through donations.

If you want to give to the Technology Fund, use one of the envelopes on the back table at Church. Make your check out to Grace - and note if it is in honor of a person or event - or in memory of someone. And thank you for your generosity.

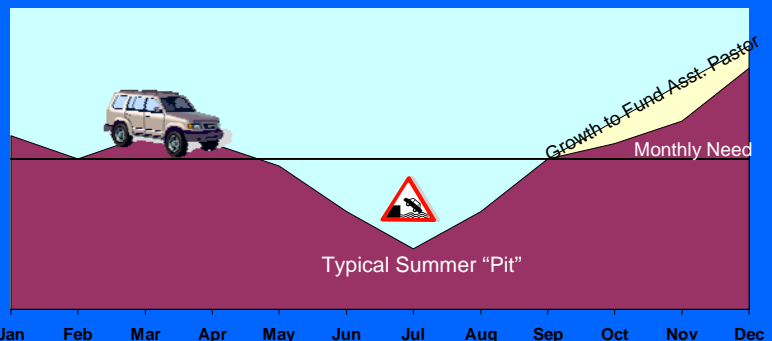
Join the Pit Crew!

The good news: Every summer Grace members enjoy the summer, travel, vacation, and adventures ☺.

The bad news: Unfortunately absence often leads to a drop in summer giving ☹.

Please be part of the Grace pit crew and keep your Church out of the summer "pit" ☺.

Plus, with increased giving as well as more people on Simply Giving (automatic withdrawal) we may be able to finance an assistant pastor by this fall ☺.



Maintenance Suggestions:

- Sign up for Simply Giving
- Make out your summer offering envelopes now
- Write yourself reminders on your calendar

Church Directories – If you had your picture taken for the Church Directory, pick one up from the basket in the narthex.



Grace will host the Neighborhood Table on Thursday, June 18. And, of course, we all work together to make this a successful event. Needed are many dessert bars and cookies, cooks, servers and a clean up crew. Monetary donations are needed to pay for the food for the meal also. If you miss the chance to sign up at worship and you would like to help, please contact Connie at 325-3255 or connie@boku.net. Thank you for continuing to make this ministry to our community such a successful event.

~The Board of Church in Society

Ladies Informal Golf

— Any ladies interested in golf and fellowship this summer, please contact Mary Manley at marymanley@charter.net or 424-2948. The evening will likely change each week as well as our scores, but the fun and fellowship will be consistent! First night out is June 3rd. Let Mary know if you want to get the weekly email.



Vacation Bible School Sign-up

Date: August 11, 12 & 13
Time: 9:00 am-4:00pm
Ages: Any child entering 1st grade through 5th grade
What to bring: Sack lunch and a guest (you are receiving an extra Registration form to pass long to invite a neighbor, friend or relative to join you at VBS)
Cost: \$10 per child **return registrations by Sunday, July 26th** (checks made out to Grace Lutheran Church)

Name: _____

Age: _____ **Birthday:** _____ **Last grade completed:** _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Name: _____

Age: _____ **Birthday:** _____ **Last grade completed:** _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____ **Email:** _____

In case of emergency, contact #: _____

Mother: _____ **Father:** _____

Home church: _____

If your child brings someone who is not a Grace Lutheran member they will be placed in the same group together. Attach \$10 per child with registration.

Grace Lutheran Church

1531 Whitrock Avenue
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-4208

715.423.2330

Return Service Requested

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 Postage Paid
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We're on the Web!
www.glcwr.org

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:00 Coffee House 6:30 Support Group	2	3 9:00 T.O.P.S.	4 6:30 Men's Breakfast @ Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	5 Synod Assembly in Green Bay	6
7 9:00 Worship— Senior Recognition 10:00 Board of Evangelism	8 6:30 Support Group	9 6:30 Church Council	10 9:00 T.O.P.S.	11 6:30 Men's Breakfast @ Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	12	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:15 Pizza Brunch	15 6:00 Board of Church In Society 6:30 Support Group	16	17 9:00 T.O.P.S.	18 6:30 Men's Breakfast @ Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S. Neighborhood Table	19	20
C o n f i r m a t i o n C a m p a t P i n e L a k e						
21 9:00 Worship	22 6:30 Support Group	23	24 9:00 T.O.P.S.	25 6:30 Men's Breakfast @ Four Star 4:45 T.O.P.S.	26	27 Wedding
28 9:00 Worship 2:00-5:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved	29 6:30 Support Group 6:30 Board of Stewardship	30				



WHAT

WHO

WHY

HOW

WHEN

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WHAT

Is it time for us to call an Associate Pastor?

This is one of the main questions the leadership at Grace asked Pastor Joy from the Synod Office. The short answer she gave was, "You are ready now."

The longer answer, coming from studies the Church has done, is that healthy congregations who plan on doing significant ministry need to have one Pastor for every 100 people at worship.

At Grace, we average well over 250 people each Sunday – so you can do the math!

A second Pastor is called for many reasons. Here are just two of them...

1. To make sure that Pastoral care happens. When there are too many people, one Pastor cannot do an adequate job of caring for everyone.
2. To provide for growth in both numbers and discipleship. Just as we had a hard time growing when there was not enough space for everyone to worship, it is also hard to grow when there is not enough time for the Pastor to support the ministries the people are doing.

"Should we call an Associate Pastor now?"

Way back in 2003, we were asking that question. As we looked ahead at the growth of Grace, the people set **two goals**.

- The first goal was to make space for worship, which we have.
- The second goal was to call an Associate Pastor so growth could continue and ministry could happen.

Read further to learn more about the need for a second Pastor – the benefits of having a second Pastor – and the process for calling a Pastor.

What an exciting time to be part of Grace!

WHO

Can you imagine who our Associate Pastor might be?

When it's time to add an Associate Pastor, who will fill that spot? Will it be a man or a woman? Will it be a young Pastor fresh out of Seminary – or a seasoned Pastor with some years of experience in a

Congregation? Will they actually have a full head of hair?

Whoever it is, because of their presence, more ministry will be done – for they will. . .

- Bring different talents as they work with the Boards to create new ministries.

(Continued from page 5)

- Add new insights into living the Christian life.
- Allow Pastor Kent to have time to create new ministries
- Provide more Pastoral Care to a growing Congregation.
- Make it possible for continuity when Pastor Kent is gone. (That is, there will be Communion at every service, personal care for people, etc.)
- Allow for additions to Grace's life. For example, wouldn't it be great to have a Parenting Class on

Wednesday Nights, while your children are at Confirmation - - or another Adult Class on Sunday mornings?

No matter WHO becomes the second Pastor at Grace, each of us will receive more support for the ministries with which we are involved. And that's a good thing.

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WHY

The benefits of a second Pastor

One of the best words to describe the benefits of calling an Associate Pastor is "more". More ministry will be done. More Pastoral Care will be given. More ideas will inspire us. And more outreach can be accomplished by us all.

Grace is a growing congregation, and we want to continue that growth. An Associate Pastor will encourage that growth in many ways. Here are some examples:

- More growth can

happen as more time is invested in reaching out to our community with the Good News.

- More growth can happen for those who are here as well as for those who are not here as marriage classes, an on-line devotional, an on-line Bible study, parenting classes and Bible studies are offered.
- More small groups, each with a special emphasis, can be

offered in order to bond us more closely to one another.

- Meanwhile, more of us can get involved in a variety of ministries as a second Pastor inspires and leads us.

Why does Grace want and need a second Pastor? Because more good things will happen for us and for the community. And, therefore, more growth will take place.

HOW

The process of getting a second Pastor

When the time is right, we will begin the call process by working with the Bishop of our Synod, who will lead us all in a self study so we can better understand the needs of Grace. When the self study is completed, a Call Committee will be established. This group of Grace members will interview a number of Pastors in order to find one who is a good fit for us.

When the Call Committee finds a good match, they will come to the Congregation to recommend we call that person to be our Associate Pastor. The Congregation will then vote on this proposal.

After a Call is extended (sent) to this person, they usually have 30 days to decide whether or not they want to come here. They will be wondering if God

has called them to serve in this place.

If they turn down the Call, then the Call Committee will continue with interviews. If they accept the Call, we will welcome them to Grace soon afterwards. The whole process, from start to finish, will take anywhere from 3-6 months.

WHEN

You've read a lot about calling an Associate Pastor – how the process works, what the needs are and how we all will benefit. Now the big question is – “When can it happen?”

And we all know the answer already! It can happen as soon as there is enough money in the budget to support it happening.

This year, we've all stretched our giving because of the cost of having a new worship space. This has been a great benefit for all of us, and we have continued to grow as a Congregation. It has also been important that each one of us has done our best to be faithful in giving. (Thank you!)

Now, of course, as Grace grows, our income naturally grows as well – as more people make more offerings. But, in order to call a second Pastor, we will all need to grow in our giving once again.

How much will this cost? It depends on when this person starts – halfway into the year or at the beginning of a year. It also depends on how many years of experience this person has, since we follow the Synod guidelines for salaries.

So, WHEN will we call a second Pastor? It depends on how much we are willing and able to stretch ourselves in our giving. So, consider what this means and how you will respond. This fall's Stewardship goal

will be to increase giving enough to call a Pastor sometime in 2010. Which means we will each be challenged to grow in giving. In the meantime, keep asking questions and listening for more information. It's an exciting time to be part of Grace!

“It's an exciting time to be part of Grace!”

