

News from Grace

February 2010 Volume 14, Issue 8



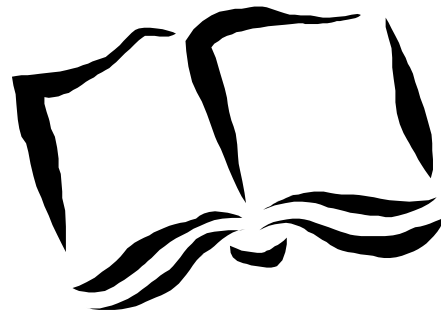
No Snow

The weather channel this morning assured me that there would be no snow storm this weekend and I assume that our congregational meeting looking at the organ repairs will come off without a hitch.

I believe that about half the time during my call as your pastor, a January congregational meeting was called off or delayed because of snow. But we expect that to happen. We plan for it, even in our constitution, when we say “in case of inclement weather” It is January, after all!

What we hardly ever get used to is that God is much more unpredictable than the Nor’easters that move from South to North in the winter. Quite the contrary: we think that God should be the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. But God loves surprises, changing things, upending best-laid plans and keeping us on the move. It’s his most predictable attribute. He can’t stand keeping things the same. On Tuesday I heard a religious speaker talk to us pastors about conflict in churches. He said that there is a long gradient from no conflict at all to intractable conflict with steps in between. On both ends of the spectrum God has left the community, the speaker said. If no one ever tackles anything, if no change ever causes us to wonder and discuss how to deal with it then God is no longer present in the building.

What changes will God send our way this year? How will the Holy Spirit blow through our community to transform us, up-end our plans and make us wonder what to do next? One thing I am sure about is that if God is with us, it’ll come like a January snow.



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It's almost Lent

and Ash Wednesday will be upon us on February 17. For some of you the observances of the day are time-honored traditions where you find yourself in a worship space at some point during that day. You will receive a smudge of ashes on your forehead as an outward sign of your inward search for God.

Unlike doing it by way of New Year's resolutions some of you will decide to change something in your daily life between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Giving up candy and chocolate are common disciplines; but also, in this day and age forsaking your computer for a while.

Lent is a good season to do all those things: to pray, to sacrifice, to deny, to wonder with God who you are. Listen carefully during the season and see what God has to say to you.

Ash Wednesday schedule

Grace will host a soup supper from 5:30-6:30pm. The service will begin in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm.

Ministerium Worship Schedule

This year, there are no "mid-week" services. Rather they will happen on Sunday Nights. Worship is at 6:30pm with a dessert reception following the service.

Sunday February 21	St. Paul's UM Church
Sunday February 28	Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday March 7	Winterstown UM Church
Sunday March 14	Bethany UM Church
Sunday March 21	St. John's UCC Church

Did you see the Annual Report?

January has come and gone before we knew it. The church office did what it always does in January. The annual report was put together so that all of us could see how we fared in 2009. If you read it you know it was pretty good all things considered.

- The work on the steeple is progressing, although it is by no means done. Neither is fundraising to cover the costs.
- We also discovered, as people in "old buildings" always do, that there is never an end to the maintenance our stuff takes. 2010 may be the "year of the organ" at Grace Lutheran since repairs are needed there as well.
- But we also know that, no matter what, stuff is secondary. Without blinking or losing momentum we continued our missional projects – supporting Konde, expanding the food pantry ministry and being hospitable to the stranger.

If there is anything we need to carry with us into the New Year it is that we need to keep Jesus' call before us always so that we know what comes first in all things.

Thank You

to all who gave of their resources so that the suffering of the Haitian people can be alleviated. Almost \$1900 was sent from us to one of the best relief organizations in the United States - Lutheran World Relief/Disaster Relief. In Jesus' Name, Thank You.

Before Lent begins . . .

. . . we need to celebrate Carnival and Shrove Tuesday. Let's not restrict ourselves to eating "Fasnachts" but also laugh a little. Here a couple of Christian Top Ten lists.

"The Top 10 Things People Think About While Singing a Hymn"

10. The pot roast.
9. What does pastor wear under robes?
8. Will the person behind me ever hit the right note?
7. 90 minutes till kickoff.
6. Did I turn off the curling iron?
5. The likelihood of the ceiling fan falling and hitting me on the head.
4. How many people have lost more hair than I have?
3. How would the hymn sound if Metallica played it?
2. Are there doughnuts at fellowship?
1. How many more verses?

Excerpted from chapter 8 of Holy Humor Page 130.

"Noah's Top 10"

10. Strange! We haven't seen another boat for weeks.
9. If only I'd brought along more rhino litter!
8. How many times around this place make a mile?
7. I never want to sleep in a waterbed again.
6. I wonder what my friends are doing right now.

5. An outboard motor would have made this more exciting!
4. Fish for supper – again?
3. Does anyone have more Dramamine?
2. What? You don't have film to photograph the rainbow?
1. I should have killed those darn mosquitoes when I had the chance!

Pastor Paul w. Kummer, Grace Lutheran Church, Destin, Florida. Excerpted from Chapter 1 of More Holy Humor. Page 5.

“Top Ten Reasons You Should Tithe”

10. Your church started a new stewardship drive – every time you give, your chances of winning increase!
9. The choir has started wearing their bathrobes during the service.
8. The last few Sundays' the Treasurer has gotten up half way through the service and turned the heat off.
7. The Preacher has worn the same suit every Sunday for the past three years.
6. The Deacons are starting to drool and growl as they collect the offering!
5. The offering plates have been sold and replaced with ice cream buckets.
4. The Treasurer has started wearing sackcloth and ashes!
3. You tried to call the Church Office last week but found that the phone's been disconnected.
2. Parking meters had to be installed in the church parking lot.
1. As a Christian you understand the privilege it is to have a partnership in the Gospel!

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To All Former Lectors

Thank you, Thank you! For the past 22 years I've had the pleasure to call you to serve and you graciously accepted. Beginning March 2010, you will be hearing from Dee Kerr who willingly accepted the call to serve by continuing to contact you for this ministry.

May God continue to bless you as you have blessed Grace Lutheran.

With sincere appreciation and love,
Sandy Stauffer

It's that time again!

The Shrewsbury Auxiliary Membership Drive. The theme this year is **“Caring Through Sharing.”**

Starting in February look for our members distributing your yearly membership card which helps support the commitment for the items needed for the home. The enclosed flier explains what we can do to help these ministries.

Thank you,
Grace Helpers

Because We Care!

(reprinted from Red Lion Area Paw Prints School News)

Personnel and students within our school community have contributed monetary gifts and thousands of non-perishable food items to the Grace Lutheran Church Food Bank for holiday meals, and meals for those in need at other times throughout the year.

Members of the junior high school staff contributed \$720 to the church food bank, operated by Grace Lutheran Church member, Jack Warntz, whose wife Ellen, is former school district hygienist. The funds came from a “Dress Down” project in which faculty and others at the junior high school each gave a \$10 contribution which they do once a month in order to donate the \$720 to the local church food bank.

Mr. Warntz said the school district's response was very good and very timely, in that some 210 families comprising between 700 and 800 individuals, the largest ever at the church, benefited from the Thanksgiving food program.

The food bank reaches families in need within the boundaries of the Red Lion Area School District. In addition to the junior high school “Dress Down” project, the senior high students and staff gave \$555 in cash as well as hundreds of non-perishables.

Other district schools which provided food stuff were the Mazie Gable, Pleasant View and Larry J. Macaluso Elementary Schools. Foods were also contributed by the senior high school FFA.

In addition to providing food for special holidays, the Grace Lutheran Church food bank helps families in need through the year, Mr. Warntz said.

This year's donations which came from the generosity of Red Lion Area students and staff "helped immensely and came at a good time," he said, adding that families receiving the aid will likely top the 1,000 mark this year.

Those Who Serve and Celebrate

Greeters

Barbara & Glenn Hartman
Andrea Sprenkle

Altar Guild

Acolytes

07-
14-
17 -
21 -
28 -
03/07 -

Crucifers

07 -
14 -
17 -
21 -
28 -

Nursery

07 - Tammy & Kurt Golden
14 - Marian Warner & Paige Fishel
21 - Heidi & Mark Einsig
28 - Deb & Michelle Orwig & Alec Crawford

Lectors

07 - Dawn Coeyman
14 - Sara Stauffer
21 - Wendy Mummert
28 - Bob Fishel

Junior Church

07 - TBA
14 - Cora Sue Herbst
21 - TBA
28 - TBA

Offering Ushers

Jeffrey Arnold
John Fishel
Kurt Golden
Joe Stauffer
Jud Stauffer
Ken Turner

Assistant Ministers

07 - Alex Witt
14 - Sara Stauffer
17 - Sara Stauffer
21 - Randy Witt
28 - Gerald Heiss

Children's Dialogue

07 - TBA
14 - Cora Sue Herbst
21 - Cora Sue Herbst
28 - TBA

Birthdays

01 - Tyler Schell
03 - Maggie Stauffer
04 - Beth Kollosch
05 - Kelsey Shaffer
06 - Bonnie Seitz
07 - Vickie Grove
07 - Clark Jacobs
08 - Rachel Barker

08 - Abby Kuhn
08 - Morgan Lloyd
09 - Jeremy Heiss
10 - Pat Gohn
10 - Charlie Murphy
12 - Andrew Anderson
12 - Nicholas Ghiradella
13 - Richard Zerance
14 - Cohen Manahan
14 - Madison Shaffer
14 - Barbara Slavinski
15 - Judy Alwood
15 - Madison Webster
16 - Alana Haag
17 - Ferne Arnold
17 - Olivia Kicas
18 - Marie Martin
19 - Connie Norman
20 - Amanda Murphy
21 - Barbara Hartman
23 - Dr. James D. Isett
23 - Kris Young
24 - Donald Anderson
24 - Mary C. Kyle
25 - Wesley Mummert
26 - J. Patsy Mummert
27 - Benjamin Kuhn
28 - Mark Arnold

Anniversaries

06 - Peggy & Leif Ericson
15 - Susan & Kevin Golden
15 - Malissa & Wes Smith
18 - Sandra & John Fishel
25 - Barbara & Tom Taute
29 - Brenda & Randy Witt

