

News from Grace

June Volume 1, Issue 2

Newsletter for June 2011

Pastor's Monthly Message

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, artists created countless works focusing on the Christ story. As we look back at these works, we are staggered by the breadth and depth of the early church's commitment to artistic expression.

One large grouping of works focuses on Jesus and Mary in the center of a painting or fresco, with individuals gathered around them who depict saints, biblical characters, or donors. Some freestanding paintings are in triptych form with outer panels folding to cover the central image. Other paintings were intended for use above altars or were converted to stained glass. I have many memories of some of these beautiful altars in the German churches in Bavaria, where I lived for several years while serving in the Army. The paintings express a wide variety of emotions. Some images include characters that are engaging in quiet prayer and devotion, eyes cast down with bodies still and silent. In many of these instances, the setting is that of a church or monastic cloister. In the latter part of the fifteenth, the characters move from a more staid and meditative placement to being engaged in laughter and emotion, in activity and expression. Musicians and teachers, poets and clergy are often included in these later depictions. Settings for the art works range from homes and sitting rooms to classrooms and halls. Though each work is different, they usually share a common title, "sacra conversazione" – the sacred conversation.

During the season following Pentecost, the church looks back at the fasting of Lent and the feasting of Easter by recounting the important conversations that occur as the church emerges and evolves into a community. As it moves from a loose band of followers to a recognized gathering of Christians, biblical conversations between Jesus and those he meets deepen the ensuing transformation. The church needs to retell these stories for its life to be sustained. The image of a sacred conversation grounds God and the human story in which revelation grows out of relationship.



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Whenever two or three are gathered, the liturgy becomes the setting for this sacred conversation to occur among the faithful. Whenever the liturgy happens, a conversation about things sacred takes place. Summer liturgy encourages sacred conversations.

Sometimes the conversation, like the paintings, is vigorous and engaging. The biblical narratives may be emotion-filled dialogues with a disciple or a challenger, a seeker or a nay-saying doubter. Sometimes the conversation seems more one-sided, as in a proclamation, a saying or a parable. Sometimes silence and withdrawal mark the sacred time. Yet even quiet and reflection become critical and essential so that in the inner silence, dialogue can happen.

A posture of prayer, a gesture of grace, a home for heart and spirit – these are the unspoken language of the sacred conversation. Subtle and striking, these signs are important too, for they mask yet another level of encounter. Touching the mind, the heart and the body by the power of the Holy Spirit, God reaches humanity in unassuming and personal ways. This is what liturgy provides, a way for that which is wholly “Other” to meet us.

It is our hope that you will also soon be facing another holy conversation. Soon, it is to be hoped, the Call Committee will be chosen to begin the process for consideration of a Call to Grace. Your eventual vote to extend a Call will begin, not end, a process of holy conversation about your future. Together you will become the congregation of the future at Grace, led by the Holy Spirit to embrace that future together on a great, new journey of faithful response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These Sundays after Pentecost will include many of the same questions that faced the first Christians as they sought to move forward in faithful service in Christ’s name. It is a chance again to reconsider direction, energy, mission and purpose as a congregation. I hope that there will be an enthusiastic movement toward this holy moment of renewal. May God continue to bless this congregation in the months ahead.

Process for the Call of a Pastor

As Grace Lutheran Church enters into this time of transition it will follow a well established procedure for the Call of a new Pastor. Pastor Cluley has accepted the appointment as Interim Pastor and will serve in this capacity until a regularly Called Pastor accepts leadership of Grace. Pastor Cluley cannot be considered for this regular Call.

The next step in the process is that the Nominating Committee will recruit 6 people to serve on a Call Committee. These names will be presented to the whole congregation at a special meeting and two weeks later the congregation will elect the Call Committee.

Once the Call Committee is elected they will meet with the Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Cliff Eshbach, and Pastor Cluley to be guided in the initial tasks before them. Pastor Cluley will advise the Call Committee and the Church Council in the initial stages of gathering information

for a Congregational Profile while avoiding any influence in decisions made by the Call Committee. This Congregational Profile, provided by the Synod Staff, is ultimately used to guide the selection of candidates for the Call. In these documents, which will take some time to complete, the Call Committee and the Church Council describe the leadership issues and qualities needed for the Call of the next Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. This involves not just gathering information, but also prayerful consideration of where the Holy Spirit is leading this flock.

Once the Congregational Profile is approved by the Church Council and the Synod Staff, the Bishop's Office recruits candidates for interview by the Call Committee. Under the guidelines currently in effect, the Call Committee receives one candidate at a time. They must interview a candidate for Call and a decision, positive or negative, by either side must be reached. If the interview process is positive, the Call Committee usually then visits a congregation worship service to hear the candidate preach. To move further in the process, the Call Committee must make a unanimous recommendation for Call to the Church Council. The Church Council must make a strong recommendation to the Congregation, which ultimately will meet and vote on a Call to some pastor.

All of this takes time and discernment of the will of God on both the part of the members of Grace Church and the candidate for Call. This should not be a rushed process or artificially pressured into conclusion. It is often done in God's good time, not our own, and we must allow the Holy Spirit time to work. The goal is to have a Spirit led process which leads to new pastoral leadership and new purposeful direction for the congregation. For obvious reasons the utmost discretion and attention to confidentiality is demanded of the Call Committee and Church Council as this process moves forward. Having said this, the Call Committee will attempt to keep the Congregation informed of the stages of its progress in this important work of the future for Grace Lutheran Church.

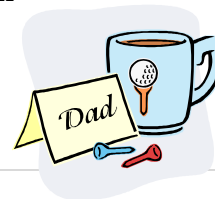
Summer Music Ice Cream



What could be better than a lawn concert with an ice cream cone tempting your taste buds? We have all of that on July 17 when the Red Lion/Felton Band will play on our lawn from 1-3pm. Hurry up with your lunch so that you can be there and join in the fun.

Happy Father's Day

God's blessing to all the men in the world who make a safe place for children, let the little ones ride on their shoulders and help their sons and daughters grow strong and self-sufficient. May God give you all you need to become a little bit like Him.



Annual Synod Assembly...

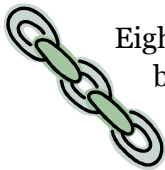
...will be held at Messiah College on June 2 through June 4. From our congregation Pastor Cluley and two voting members, Cora-Sue Herbst and Randy Witt, will attend.

A Note from the Organist/Choirmaster

May 22, 2011 was the last Sunday that the chancel choir performs during the worship service for the 2010-2011 year. Thank you to all of the faithful members of our choir for their time and effort. I personally wish to thank each of them for their support and care during my recovery period from surgery. Please take time during the summer months to say 'thank you' to one of our choir members! Since the choir will no longer be singing anthems, I now need volunteers to sing a solo/duet or play their instrument during the summer services. Dates are available from July 3 – September 4. Please contact me with any dates that work for you! (717)-870-4505. ~Wicky L. Barnes, III



Chain of Membership—2011



Eight people have joined Grace Lutheran Church since Pentecost of 2010. There will be no students confirmed in 2011. We have a total of 2914 members since July 1894 when sixteen original members formed Grace Lutheran Church.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Here's an event you don't want to miss!!! The "Pushing the Envelope Picnic" will be held at the York Township Pavilion and Park Saturday, September 17 from 1:00PM until 4:00PM. Fellowship, food, and fun for everyone! See you there. Look for more details about this exciting upcoming event in our newsletters and bulletins. The Stewardship Committee



Adult Summer Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class in the sanctuary will continue its teaching schedule during the summer. It will meet at the regular 9:45AM time.

Children's Summer Sunday School

Our Summer Sunday School schedule has been completed and we are looking forward to an exciting time with our children and their families. This year the programs all have a craft project that exemplifies a Bible verse or concept. Therefore, all children of any age and their parents will be able to participate in some way in the activity. All supplies will be provided but perhaps a painting shirt might be appropriate for some of the lessons. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at Sunday School beginning with our first program on July 3rd at 9:45am in the Social Room. Also included is the schedule for our programs:

July 3rd: Wonderful Wild Flower Garden (John 15:9)
July 10th: Deck the Halls (Psalm 100:4)
July 17th: VC Pipe Sculpture (Romans 1:19)
July 24: Creation Celebration (Ecclesiastes 3:17)
July 31: Hands to Serve (Colossians 3:24)
August 7th: Share with Others Sculpture (Romans 12:13)

August 14th: Special Presentation about our "new" organ
August 21st: Wise Men Spice Tea (Matthew 2:2)
August 28th: Colossal Cuddle-Me Quilt (Psalm 36:5)
September 4th: Joyous Window Wow (John 15:11)

The best part of our summer program is that most of the things we create will be used in our church as decorations, displays, gifts or even on the altar, providing a constant reminder of our efforts. See you soon!!!



Yard Sale



REMINDER! The Steeple Committee will be holding a yard sale during the Community Yard Sales weekend of June 17-18. The Block Building will be open each **Tuesday** and **Thursday** from 9:30am to 11:30am giving you the opportunity to bring items you wish to contribute. If you have items to contribute and cannot come during the morning hours, please call Janet at 244-3413 or see Connie for key during office hours. We will have a craft table with collectibles and a bake sale. If you don't wish to contribute baked goods, maybe you can give us the price of a cake or pie to help make our fund raiser a success. NO clothing please. Thank you, The Steeple Committee.

PLEASE NOTE: We are discontinuing having church members sign the attendance sheets at every Sunday or festival worship service. If you are a visitor, please sign the sheet to let us know that you worshipped with us and give us your address, and email address, if you have one. If you wish a visit from the pastor, please sign the sheet with your name, address, telephone number and email address.

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL MEN ON FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 19, 2011

The Steeple Committee is sponsoring recognition of the special men in our lives. For a donation of \$1.00 for each man recognized, his name will be printed in a special folder on Father's Day.

Complete the form below and place in an envelope with your donation of \$1.00 per man to be recognized. Envelopes and a special box are located in the office. For questions see Cora Sue Herbst.

RECOGNITION OF A SPECIAL MAN ON FATHER'S DAY

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

In memory/honor of _____

By _____



Those Who Serve and Celebrate

Greeters

Erma and Eric Grim
Carolyn & Mike Noll

Altar Guild

Tom Smith

Acolytes

05 – TBA
12 - TBA
19 - TBA
26 - TBA

Crucifers

05 – TBA
12 – TBA
19 – TBA
26 – TBA

Nursery

05 – Tammy & Kurt Golden
12 – Wendy Miller & Paige Fishel
19 - Heidi & Mark Einsig
26 – Linda & Dave Dennish

Lectors

05 – Regina Thompson
12 – Doris Golden
19 – Alex witt
26 – Kathy Vivian

Junior Church

05 – Cora Sue Herbst
12 – Tammy & Kurt Golden
19 – Cora Sue Herbst
26 – TBA

Assistant Ministers

05 – Gerald Heiss
12 – Tom Smith
19 – Dick Rhine
26 – Eric Grim

Children's Dialogue

05 - Cora Sue Herbst or Wicky Barnes
12 - Kendra Shaffer
19 - Cora Sue Herbst
26 - Pastor Bill

Offering Ushers

Jeff Arnold
Jud Stauffer
Zach Turner

Birthdays

02 – Marley Becker
03 – Dr. Sam Laucks
03 – Chris Schell
04 – Dennis Walters
05 – Jeremy Pressel
06 – Joseph Laucks
07 – Daisy Johnston
08 – Cara Warntz
09 – Riley Bowles
10 – Donna Fishel
10 – Quay Yendall, Jr.
13 – Helen Laughman
14 – Malissa Smith
15 – Ben Wagner
16 – Jenna Dellinger-Eaton
16 – Freeland Shaffer
17 – Adrienne Carter
17 – Sandra Fishel
17 – Barbara Krout
19 – Amy Johnston
19– Jean Rhine
24 – Greg Hodson
25 – Dustin Bucher
25 – Charles Coeyman
27 – Cora Johnson
28 – Jackie Fales
30 - Leif Ericson
30 - Emily Neff

Anniversaries

05 – Larissa & Chris Schell
15 – Janet & Marley Becker
15 – Dawn & Charles Coeyman
21 - Doris & Jack Jones
23 - Cindy & George Sanders
24 –Jeanne & Rae Williams
28 - Ellyn & Steve Gross
29 – Judy & Allen Dellinger