

THE GRACE REPORTER

MARCH 2010

MONTHLY PARISH NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

710 E. 17th Ave. – Eugene, OR 97401 Phone #: (541) 342-4844 Email: glc@glchurch.org



Lent Worship Services

Wednesday Evenings

March 3, 10, 17, and 24

Supper – 5:45pm

Worship Service – 7:00pm

Lent Worship Services at Messiah Lutheran Church

Soup Lunch – 12:30pm

Worship Service – 1:15pm

For those who would prefer to attend a service during the day, Messiah will offer a soup lunch and Lent worship service on **Wednesdays – March 3, 10, 17 & 24.**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER.....

+ Jovita Hunt, Kathleen Thomsen, Ralph & Alice Boring, Myrtle Larson, Judy Rust, Lester Libke, Luther Beecroft, Al Prigge, LaVern Henshen, Margie Murphree, Len Freitag, Johnny Fuller (grandson of Mike & Arline Link), Ken Leom (father of Kari Hovet), Wilburn Rice (nephew of Jean Harsch), Drew Haines (cousin of Jamie King), Kris King (sister of Clarke Smith)
+ Shut-ins: Jeannine Brauner, Walter & Mary Krumdieck, Frances Bradshaw, Ann Porisch, Margie Murphree, Mary Good, Dorothy Beikman, Evelyn Moore, Anita Colcord, Jack York

+ Pray for Cascade Medical Team who are in Guatemala until March 3rd.

+ **Our Sympathy** to the family of Roland Luxford who passed away on Thursday, February 18th at his home. Please keep the family in your prayers.

+ **Our Sympathy** to the family of Lester Libke who passed away on Friday, February 19th at his home. Please keep the family in your prayers.

+ **Our sympathy** to the family of Marie Metcalf who passed away on February 4th. She was 92 years old, a member of Grace, and lived in Portland.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Saturday – February 27th at 4:00pm.



This class is for all 4th to 6th graders who are interested. A parent or grandparent is asked to attend the class with each child. The classes will be held on Saturdays at 4:00pm on February 27, March 6, 13 and 20 (if needed). Meet in Room #5.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE

Sunday School -- 9:00am

Adult Bible Class – 8:45am

Worship -- 10:00am

Coffee Fellowship after Worship Service

* Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month.

* Contemporary worship is the 2nd Sunday of each month.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE

SUNDAY

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - Begins at 8:45am

* **8:45am** - Pastor Joel Nickel leads a Bible study, "Emphasis on Ephesus" in room #5.

* **9:00am** - Dan Gauche leads a video class in the Parish Hall at 9:00am on Philip Yancy's book "The Jesus I Never Knew"

WEDNESDAY

* **6:30am** Breakfast and Bible Study in Rm. #5 at 6:30am

* **10:00am** – Women's Bible Study in Rm. #5

THURSDAY

* **6:00PM** – Stronghold Dinner/Bible Study

For those parents that need a "children's room" during worship service... There is a room with toys and a crib to the right as you walk out into the church lobby. By keeping the light low in that room and raising the blinds, you can hear and observe the worship service.

ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Service	Attendance
2/7	Sunday-10am	161
2/14	Sunday-10am	162
2/21	Sunday-10am	165

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Kids of Grace, Youth, Adult Bible Class

Date	Youth	Adults	Staff	Offering
2/7	20	33	7	\$23.00
2/14	10	29	7	\$ 9.50
2/21	13	31	7	\$ 6.00

Sunday School mission offerings will go toward support of: 1) our Compassion child, Hendrik and 2) Terry & Janet Borchard, Lutheran Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea.

FIVE CENTS WORTH

We are on another Lenten journey, traveling in the scriptures with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem, from the place of his teaching ministry to the place of his redeeming ministry, from the accolades of the crowds to the death-wish chants of the mob. We travel vicariously with him, sensing our Lord's courage, struggle, and patient obedience.

People want a kingly messiah who will use his power to oppose the Roman occupying army, but Jesus is a suffering-servant messiah. His discipline of prayer and self-giving love in the face of rejection, suffering, betrayal and death is commended to us as an appropriate Christian life style: if we lose our life for Christ's sake we will find it.

So over the years Christian piety has taken on the task of "giving up something for Lent." Some don't eat meat on Friday. Some give up minor "vices" like chocolate, Starbucks lattes, movies, chewing gum, strong drink (even what in St. Louis they call the "Lutheran beverage), or pampering the body with facials, pedicures, and massages. The money thus saved should be given to the poor.

But instead of giving up something, how about taking on something for Lent, something that might cost us time and effort and connect with ministry toward and with others? Take on a task of helping at LIFE School, at a food bank or homeless shelter, pounding a few nails with Habitat for Humanity, running errands or providing transportation for people with limited mobility. Take on visiting a sick neighbor, encouraging a lonely person, or what a bumper sticker suggested (some time ago): senseless acts of beauty and random acts of kindness. And do it anonymously—don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing—so that there is a mystery about a good deed and an unidentified doer, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor Joel

If you have an Emergency... please let the Church Office know at 342-4844 on Monday through Friday. On the weekends, Saturday/Sunday, please call Bert Wheeler at 747-1442. Peggy or Bert will get in touch with Pastor Nickel to inform him of any emergency that arise. As a reminder, Pastor Nickel will be available in Eugene from Saturday evening through Sunday afternoon. **His office hours are:**

- 10:00am to Noon on Tuesdays

- 9:00am to Noon on Wednesdays

Other times – by appointment on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND ANOINTING

On the fourth Sunday of each month we will hold a semi-private service of prayer and anointing for those who have health concerns. This will be held following the close of the worship service. Those who would like anointing of oil and prayers for the sick should come to the front pews. Pastor Nickel will join you after greeting people at the door following worship.

GRACE YOUTH NEWS

Watch for any Youth news in the Weekly "blue notes" in the Sunday bulletin. Easter is Sunday, April 4th. The youth will be serving the Easter Breakfast from 7:30 – 9:30am. Watch for more details.

STRONGHOLD – CAMPUS MINISTRY

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS and Grace members providing dinner for Stronghold: **STRONGHOLD (Campus Ministry) HAS MOVED TO THURSDAY EVENINGS at 6:00 pm during winter term!!!** Everyone college-age is invited to join the group for dinner and Bible study this Thursday evening. The group is currently studying the Parables of Jesus. Jeff Bolinger leads the group. Questions: contact Jeff Bolinger: bolinger@uoregon.edu or Paula Walker (Campus Ministry Comm.) at paula@lanepds.org or gwalker512@comcast.net

Grace members and friends: A sign-up sheet for providing dinner on Thursday nights for the Stronghold group is on the table in the narthex next to the church mailboxes. Thank you for your willingness to participate!



EASTER LILIES AND BLOOMING PLANTS



If you would like to give an Easter lily or other blooming plant to decorate the church on Easter morning, please have them at the church on Saturday, April 3rd! You can pick up your plant from the church after Easter (please put your name on the plant). Also, please remember to bring cut flowers to decorate the cross on Easter morning. You can bring your flowers with you for the cross when you come on Easter morning.

SPRING CLEANING WORK PARTY

Saturday – March 27th at 9:00am



We will be cleaning inside and doing yard work. Lunch will be served (smoked pulled pork sandwiches with the pork being roasted on-site). Everyone is welcome to come and help. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for tasks that need to be done. See you on March 27th!



BITS AND PIECES.....

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the April "Reporter" is **Wednesday, March 17th**. Please submit your articles to the church office.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION will be held on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 4:00pm**. Confirmation will meet on March 14th and 28th.

CALL COMMITTEE will now meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00pm. The meetings for March are on March 1st and 15th.

Red Hats celebrated their 12 month Birthday party on January 23rd. A special thank you and a bouquet of roses go to each of our 12 hostesses. Each hostess provided a table for the month she chose. The tables were cleverly decorated. It was a great celebration with lots of fun fellowship and laughter. A special thank you, also goes to all of the ladies that helped with clean up. Many hands make the work light. Our next Red Hat event will be The Mother's Day Tea – Saturday, May 1st. Mark you calendar!

A note from Dee Wheeler regarding her niece, Megan... Several people have been asking for an update on her condition. Last year at this time we were asking for prayers for our niece, Megan. You may remember that she was a 12 year old that was gravely ill at Doernbecher Hospital in Portland. Her illness affected her bone marrow and she was unable to produce blood. Megan was in the hospital over 6 months and received numerous blood transfusions and procedures. Since that time she has been receiving out patient treatment at Doernbecher and RiverBend. For many weeks it seemed that a cure was hopeless. February 2, 2010 we receive an email from my sister following Megan's bone marrow biopsy and she reported Megan's hemoglobin was 9.5, white count 3.9 and platelets were a roaring 58. The magic number is 75 (normal is 150) – then Megan will be able to play soccer again. While she still has a way to go we are rejoicing at all of the small steps on her road to recovery. My sister says, "Thank you all for your prayers, support, and love. This journey has been so difficult and we cannot imagine how we could have survived without all of your prayers. Our love and deepest gratitude to all of you." Pamela, Galand and Megan and Bert and Dee Wheeler thank you for your prayers.

REMINDER:

Daylight Savings Time **begins Sunday, March 14th**. Remember to turn your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR!**



A JOINT MEETING FOR GRACE, MESSIAH & HOPE CHURCHES

Sunday, March 21st at 2:00pm

This will be the third meeting for the intra-Lutheran churches. Come with your ideas and what you want to see happening with the three churches. Everyone is invited to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just a reminder that Pastor's Class begins at 8:45am. All other classes begin at 9:00am.

The Sunday School children will sing Palm Sunday. The Board of Education is planning special events for Easter Sunday. If you would like to donate candy or stickers for the children, there will be a receptacle in the narthex the end of March.

COMPASSION SUNDAY IS APRIL 18TH. This is a one day event that reminds us of the needs of the world's most desperate children. God can use us to reach out and make a difference. For just \$38.00 a month you and your family can sponsor a child. If you have young children it would be a wonderful opportunity for them. You can correspond with this child and receive regular letters from them bringing you up-to-date with what is happening in their life.

The Board of Education asks that you prayerfully consider coming along side a child that needs your help desperately. You can make a difference by changing the world one child at a time. Children's packets will be available April 18th.

LWML Emerald Valley Zone Spring Rally

Saturday, March 13th

at Hope Lutheran Church

1369 B Street in Springfield, OR

Registration: 9:30am – 10:00am

"Oh The Places They Did Go"

Matthew 28:19

In Gathering Offering for Haiti – through LCMS World Relief.

Lunch will be served.

Come with us to the Island of Hawaii.

Come Casual, Come Colorful or Come in Hawaiian Attire. "Aloha"

Hospice of Sacred Heart is looking for caring men and women who are interested in providing practical help and emotional assistance to patients and families dealing with a terminal illness, both in the home setting and in care facilities. An informational meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 16th from 1:00-3:00pm** at the Home Health office, 1121 Fairfield Ave., Eugene. Classes for patient care volunteers will be held during the fourth and fifth weeks of April and the first week of May. To register for the March 16th meeting with no obligation or for more information, please call Victoria Spear at 541-242-8755 or email at vspear@peacehealth.org.

The Oregon District of the Lutheran Laymen's League is happy to announce they will be presenting \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying candidates who are planning on a full-time ministry in LCMS churches or schools. **They must enroll in an LCMS university or seminary.** For more information, see announcement on bulletin board in the narthex.

STAND UP – BE COUNTED!

Three Reasons Your Participation in the 2010 Census Matters

- 1) Every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.
- 2) Census data affect your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 3) Census data guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals, and schools.

IT'S IN OUR HANDS!

Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires. With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. **The U.S. Census Bureau is issuing a call to action for every resident of our nation: "BE COUNTED IN 2010."**

The Lutheran Hour Broadcast

Sunday Mornings – 8:00am ---- on KKNX – 840 AM

Rev. Ken Klaus delivers the messages.

March 7 – "Does God Love You?" (Luke 13: 4-5) Does God love you? It's easy to think so, when times are good. But what about when problems pile up, difficulties descend, and miseries multiply?

March 14 - "The Sinner's Friend" (Luke 15: 1-2) Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus proved Himself the Friend of sinners. He reached out to those who needed Him most.

March 21 – "A Big Loser" (Philippians 3:8) Coming soon!

March 28 – TBA

The Lutheran Hour can also be heard on the internet or downloaded onto an MP3 player at <http://www.lutheranhour.org/> If you would like to listen to The Lutheran Hour message and need assistance with the above options, please call Barb Ronne at 343-0327.

LIFE! LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Phone: 342-5433

Email: office@lifeschool.us

Website: www.lifeschool.us

LIFE! Lutheran School 2010 enrollment continues! Packets are available at the school office. Take time to view the website at www.lifeschool.us. If you know of anyone who is interested in receiving information about enrolling at LIFE! Lutheran School, please contact the school office at 342-5433.

LEST Results - We are very proud of our students for their participation at the Lutheran Elementary School Tournament. Below are the results of their hard work and efforts.

- * Champion of Character – Devon Kirkpatrick
- * Math: Joshua Tanke, 7th grade placed 2nd
Alex Collver, 8th grade placed 2nd
- * Chess: Alex Collver, 8th grade placed 2nd
- * Swimming: Elisha Yang, 7th grade placed 2nd in the 100 meter
1st in the 25 m butterfly (this was also a record breaker)
1st in the 50 m butterfly

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!!



**ELVIS
IS ENTERING THE BUILDING!!!**

Friday – April 9th

**The Gospel Elvis, David Lomond is coming to
LIFE! Lutheran School!**

- Can "Elvis" do gospel? Yes! Come and See.
- Is he good? Yes! Award winning and crowd pleasing.
- Is he Christian? Yes, and a pastor to boot!
- What's it cost? Only \$10 a seat.

**This concert will be gospel music and Christian humor and testimony.
This is a great opportunity to invite a friend for entertainment and The Gospel!**

A REPORT FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

Thank you to all those who completed the self-study survey questions! The call committee received forty three responses, and read each one carefully. Some comments with specific ideas were forwarded to other groups within the church for their consideration (for example, property board for facility-related ideas).

After reading all comments, we identified major themes expressed. This summary, along with some basic statistical information, will now be sent to the LCMS Northwest District office. The District President will use this information to identify pastoral candidates he believes will be the best potential matches. The summary of points is included below. Please note that the summary is “bare bones,” and doesn’t convey some of the more complex thoughts. That doesn’t mean that we are ignoring any comments! We will continue to read the full comments as we prepare questions for candidate interviews, and as we make our recommendations to the congregation. (If you would like a copy of all responses, please ask me [Lynne Coates] and I will get it to you.)

If you know a pastor who might be a good “fit” for Grace, please consider his qualifications in light of the factors listed below, pray for God’s guidance, and then, if you wish, nominate him. Nominations will be sent to the District President for his review. Nomination forms are available in the church office, on the counter in the narthex, or from call committee members. The deadline for submitting nominations is **Sunday, March 14, 2010**.

Summary of major points from responses to self-study survey.

Goals toward which the congregation should be working in future years.

- Evangelism/reaching out to the unchurched (including Life School families), campus community and young families.
- Increase member numbers.
- More Christian education, both children and adult
- More children and youth activities/programs
- Increasing the involvement of existing members in the work/life of the church

Areas of congregational strength (things the congregation does well).

- Friendliness of congregation; fellowship activities that build sense of community; caring for each other
- Worship (mix of styles, both traditional and contemporary; open to creative ideas while still in Lutheran framework)
- Music program
- Activities (youth, Christmas programs, etc.)
- Stewardship (financial stability)

New things the congregation should be doing which it is not doing now.

- More evangelism/reaching out, with resulting growth in new members
- Reach out to inactive members
- Attracting younger families
- Building relationships and more involvement/participation among members
- More youth (programs to attract, involvement)

Call Committee Report (Cont’d)

What the congregation is now doing that could or should be done better. Or, areas in which the congregation needs the most growth.

- Family ministries
- Christian education (Bible study, Sunday School)
- Evangelism (not just the job of a committee)
- Build more community among, and involvement within, the congregation
- A more effective church structure

What the congregation needs more than anything else right now, to be most effective.

- Pastoral leadership
- Outreach/evangelism
- God’s direction and help (prayer, study of God’s Word, relying on Holy Spirit)
- Better communication within the church about what’s happening
- Unity of spirit—a sense of continuity and members working together

The purpose for which the congregation exists

There were many different ways of expressing purpose, but all seemed to fit within our current mission statement: “Making Followers of Jesus by God’s Grace. Proclaiming Christ’s love through: Worship, Sacraments, Teaching, Outreach, Caring.”

The most important personal qualities for a pastor to have

- The most frequently mentioned could be summarized as a loving shepherd: compassion, gentle spirit, good listener, a caring heart for all members.
- Also very important was effective preaching of the Gospel: good speaker, able to communicate clearly. Both content and delivery are important.
- Grounded in the Word of God.

The most necessary elements for maintaining good relationships between pastor and people

- Good communication based on respect, forgiveness.
- Sense of humor.
- Christian humility; servant-attitude.
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us.
- Focusing on our common purpose as a church.

Is the congregation sensitive to the pastor’s need for “private time?” (For prayer, study, family, recreation.)

Most responses were “yes,” a few were “no.” In addition to sensitivity from the congregation, the pastor needs to set boundaries and help the congregation honor them.

Congregational ranking of pastoral functions, traits and abilities

Responses rated the items on a scale of 10 (most important) to 1 (least important). We averaged all the numbers and came up with the following list, starting with the most important:

More than 9 (in order): People skills, preaching delivery

Between 8 and 9 (in order): Preaching content, patience, leadership, tact, worship, initiative, cooperation, counseling, teaching ability, young adult ministry, family ministry.

Between 7 and 8 (in order): assimilation of new members, lay leadership development, children's ministry, older adult ministry, visitation (sick, shut-in, outreach and home), innovation, creative, openness to continuing education, personal witnessing, administration.

Between 6 and 7 (in order): ministry to inactive members, community involvement, personal grooming, singles ministry, conference participation, computer literacy.



CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN MARCH



2	Olivia Hunt Spangler	18	Jan Stoecker
	Dick Jenkins		Lisa Lacey
5	Larry Calkin	19	Len Chase
7	Brenda Miller		Ben Thompson
8	Philip Hahn	20	Eric Shoemaker
9	Heidi Genthner	21	John Parsons
			Harrison Wiesert
11	Byron Baule	23	LaVern Henshen
	Mick Koester		Todd Montgomery
14	Eleanor Langhoff	24	Kirk Libke
15	Jeff Frank	25	Sandy Smith
	BJ Baule	26	Karen Johnson
16	Don Dove	29	Russell Krueger
17	Alysha Loftin		Emma Koester
		30	Stephanie Eberlein

CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN MARCH

13	Eric and Tracey Henshen
15	Roy and Holly Genthner
20	Randy and Barb Ronne

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 is published monthly by
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