

THE GRACE REPORTER

NOVEMBER 2009

MONTHLY PARISH NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

JOINT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday – November 1 at 2:00pm
at Grace Lutheran Church

All are invited to attend this meeting to discuss the possibilities of working together in the Eugene/Springfield/Pleasant Hill area to spread God's word.

This meeting comes out of a meeting held on July 12th between Messiah and Grace.

At the end of the meeting all agreed that our brothers and sisters at Hope and Pleasant Hill should be in on our conversation. It was stated that we should continue to look for joint fellowship and outreach opportunities.

EVERYONE is encouraged to attend as we work together for His Kingdom!



THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Worship Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, November 26 – 10:00am

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- * November 11th for Veterans' Day Holiday
- * November 25th – Thanksgiving Day
- * November 26th – day after Thanksgiving



ADVENT FEST

Sunday - November 29th

2:00-5:00pm in the Parish Hall

Join us for Crafts, Fun, Food and More! We invite you to host a craft table. Start thinking of crafts that can be made that will be fun for the whole family! If you would like to provide a soup or dessert or host a craft table, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Kirk Gunson (688-1069).

This is for ALL ages so please join us for this fun event!

Our Grace Family Knows the Power of Prayer



REMEMBER IN PRAYER.....

- + Jovita Hunt, Kathleen Thomsen, Roland Luxford, Ralph Boring, Myrtle Larson, Dee Wheeler, Naomi Baker, Judy Rust, Shawn Christensen (nephew of Tritt's), Lori Gordon (daughter-in-law of Marilyn and Ralph Gordon)
- + Shut-ins: Jeannine Brauner, Mary Krumdieck, Frances Bradshaw, Ann Porisch, Margie Murphree, Mary Good
- + Our sympathy to the family of Fred Schatz who passed away on October 9th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

* 8:45am Adult Bible Class with Pastor Phil in Room #5 on 1,2 Peter and 1,2,3 John.

* 9:00am DVD Class "What's So Amazing about Grace?" led by Bob Jones in the parish hall.

TUESDAY

* 6:00PM – Stronghold Dinner/Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

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

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

ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 2009

WORSHIP SERVICES

Date	Service	Attendance
		<u>10:00</u>
10/4	Sunday	174
10/11	Sunday	157
10/18	Sunday	166

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Kids of Grace, Youth, Adult Bible Class

Date	Youth	Adults	Staff	Offering
10/4	17	30	7	\$16.00
10/11	11	24	6	\$ 9.00
10/18	15	27	7	\$39.00

Sunday School mission offerings will go toward support of 1) our Compassion child, Hendrik and 2) an offering to be determined.

BITS AND PIECES.....

Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

I want to thank the congregation for the wonderful birthday/retirement party that was given in my honor on October 17. The food was delicious. The attendance was terrific. The program was very touching. The flowers provided by Dolores Dixon were and still are beautiful. John Stoecker did a great job as master of ceremonies. I'm also very thankful for the handsome and comfortable Stickley Prairie Settle chair from Edman Furniture Store (a gift from the congregation). It occupies a prominent place in our living room. The cards and other gifts are much appreciated too. I feel blessed to have been a pastor for 36 years with 15 of those years at Grace. I will still be the pastor of Grace through December 31 of this year.

This is the month of Thanksgiving. I know it has been a rough year for many families financially. God's Word offers us a true challenge, to give thanks in all things. God will not forsake us. He will provide for our needs. Recently I spoke with a young man who announced that he is more at peace living simply than when his income was much higher. He stated that he and his family are happier, having a solid relationship with God and getting along with fewer "things". I urge you to give thanks for what God is doing in your lives this year. I believe that God is helping us in this "down" economy to recognize what is really important. God is our fortress in whom we trust.

In Christ,
Pastor Phil

"Simply Giving" is moving to "Joyful Response"

Members of Grace - For a number of years our church has been participating in a program called Simply Giving, which allows members to have automatic payments made directly to Grace Church. Because of the economic conditions this "Simply Giving" program will not longer be free for our church. However, a very similar program sponsored through LCEF ("Lutheran Church Extension Fund") is now available to us at no cost. This program is called "Joyful Response". Before the end of the year I will be asking all those participating in "Simply Giving" to fill out the new enrollment forms for "Joyful Response". I would also encourage all other members that are not currently using the program to please consider this form of gifting to our church. It is set up as an automatic transfer from your checking or savings account and is put directly into Grace Church's Stewardship account with LCEF. One of the main advantages for this is you will no longer have to write a check that can be lost, stolen or misplaced. Your donation will go to the church on a consistent basis whether you are at church or away. It saves administrative time and effort because all gifts are consistent and will always go to the designated fund. Payments can be cancelled or suspended with as little as 3 days notice to our church's Financial Secretary (Randy Ronne). Please contact Randy Ronne, Church Financial Secretary, at 343-0327 for more program / enrollment information.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the December "Reporter" is **Sunday, November 15th!**
Please submit your articles to the church office.

THANK YOU FROM LWML... to all who purchased school supplies or donated money for the supplies, and to all Thrivent members of Grace who helped assemble the school bags. 454 school supply bags are being sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran Hour Ministries and Lutheran Women's Missionary League invite all women to complete the "LCMS Women's Survey" at www.lhm.org/research/women today. Your help is greatly appreciated! You may be thinking, "I know why LWML would be working on this project, they are always seeking ways to serve God and the Church. But, why would LHM (also know as the International Lutheran Layman's League) be concerned with women's ministry?" Lutheran Hour Ministries is a powerful media organization that uses its radio, video, and internet resources to reach people in today's culture in creative and relevant ways. This is evidenced by the success of their latest endeavor, the Men's NetWork, which provides high quality DVD Bible studies and other tools to congregations and men for free at www.lhmmen.com. With the Spirit's guidance, and working together, LHM and LWML have the potential to be a great service to congregations in the area of women's ministry, provided the need for such service exists. If you have any questions, please contact Faith Spelbring, Manager of United States Ministries Program Research & Development for LHM at faith.spelbring@lhm.org or 1-800-944-3450, ext. 4209. Thank you for your help as we continue to explore new avenues to sharing the Gospel!

WANTED

FLIP FLOPS (all sizes – new or used) and CHILDREN'S TENNIS SHOES

If the flip flops or shoes are used, please wash in machine with soap and warm water. Tie pairs with bright ribbons. These supplies will be given to the Cascade Medical Team to take to Guatemala in February 2010. There will be a box to drop them off by the Parish Nurse table in the narthex. Watch for sales, check out garage sales, and maybe even clean out your closets. Any questions, contact Jean Harsch or Jody Johnson.

FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY BOARD

The church "Food Pantry", in the labeled cupboard (in the nursery), is available for members of the congregation who have a current need – help yourself.

The Social Ministry Board is again planning to collect donations for Christmas Food Boxes and winter items needed for the Eugene Mission. Watch for more details coming soon. Thank you for your support in these projects.

STRONGHOLD – CAMPUS MINISTRY

Our college age group is up and running with Jeff Bolinger as the leader. Jeff is a senior architecture major from Idaho. The group is studying the Parables of Jesus this term. The group is small (5), but growing. Whether you are a student of UO, NWU, LCC, Pacific, or now in the working world at your tender age, join us for dinner and Bible study on **Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm**. Meet at the church for a home-cooked dinner and Bible Study. Take a break from your studies, get away from the dorm or apartment, meet some new friends, enjoy a home-cooked meal, and get into God's Word with other college age people! Questions: contact Jeff Bolinger: bolinger@uoregon.edu or Paula Walker (Campus Ministry Committee) at paula@lanepds.org or gwalker512@comcast.net

Many thanks to all the wonderful Grace people who have signed up to provide dinner for Stronghold on Tuesday evenings. There are still some dinners that we need people to sign up to provide. Check the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Dinner hosts do not need to provide plates, utensils, etc. There are paper/plastic products in the pantry you can use (or the china plates and "real" silverware, if you want to take the time to do the dishes).

GRACE YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH FUNDRAISER... The Youth of Grace are selling beautiful calendars for \$6.00/each. The calendars are available for purchase on Sunday mornings after church. Please support our youth by purchasing a 2010 calendar!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM... The program will be on **Sunday, December 20th** during the regular **10:00am worship service**, followed by a reception. The program is entitled "Sing a Song of Christmas", which features traditional Christmas carols and several new, great Christmas songs the children will sing. All the Sunday school kids (preschool-high school) will need to join us for opening beginning November 8 to work on our new songs.



Daylight Savings Time ENDS Sunday, November 1
Remember to turn your clocks BACK 1 Hour
before you go to bed on Saturday night!

LIFE! LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Phone: 342-5433

Email: office@lifeschool.us

Website: www.lifeschool.us

LIFE! Lutheran School 2009/2010 enrollment is continuing! Packets are available at the school office. Take time to view the website at www.lifeschool.us. Anyone interested in receiving information about enrolling at LIFE! Lutheran School should contact the school office at 342-5433.



ATTENTION ALL DUCK FANS!!!! The 2009 Duck football season is well on its way. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board by the school office. If you are interested in working in the booth or want more information contact Todd Baker at 541-913-0015 or sanipacman@comcast.net



LIFE! SCHOOL WREATH FUNDRAISER

LIFE! School's annual wreath sale is underway again. Order a fresh, locally made wreath for yourself or a gift. They are handcrafted from Douglas fir, juniper, pine cones and a red bow. We are offering the usual traditional as well as several specialty wreaths: Oregon Duck, OSU Beaver, Red Hat, Winter Splendor, Cinnamon/Spice; and an Advent wreath. Order forms are available at LIFE! School and on the table in the narthex.

SHIRTS NEEDED... The 3rd/4th/5th grades would like old men's shirts, button front, short sleeve, to use as paint shirts. If you have any that you will be getting rid of please send them our way. Bring the shirts to the school office.

The Lutheran Hour Broadcast

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

Rev. Ken Klaus delivers the messages.

November 1 – “Comforted Mourners” (Matthew 5:4) In this message for All Saints Day, Pastor Klaus speaks to those whose lives have been touched by the death of someone they loved. Christ is our risen Savior who comforts mourners.

November 8 – “A Hotter Hell” (Mark 12: 38-40) Justice demands that God gives sinners exactly what they deserve. Where does that leave us? Thankfully, God's justice is only half of the story.

November 15 – “Christ Is Coming” (Mark 13:13) War, disaster, and persecution are signs that the world is coming to an end, but no one knows exactly when.

November 22 – “Thankful for What You Don't Have” (Luke 17: 11-19) We can also thank God for the pains and illnesses we don't have, the disasters that were averted, the punishment for sin that Christ took upon Himself.

November 29 – “Behold, the Days are Coming!” (Luke 21: 25-36) On this First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new church year, our Lord Jesus who came once to redeem the world, comes to us in His Word and prepares us for when He will come again on the Last Day. Guest Speaker: Rev. Peter Cage of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

**Thrivent Financial to introduce new giving program
to benefit congregations.**

For 2010 and beyond, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is focusing even more intently on its membership and bringing value to more of its members. This renewed focus is leading Thrivent Financial to discontinue some programs and introduce new programs. One of the new programs, Thrivent Choice, will be launched in the spring of 2010. The program's goal is to increase the number of Thrivent Financial members involved in directing charitable funds to Lutheran organizations and congregations.

Thrivent Choice will have two main components:

- . Voting: All Thrivent Financial adult members will have an opportunity to vote on how to distribute Thrivent Financial charitable funds among a short list of national charities.
- . Choice Dollars: Eligible Thrivent Financial benefit members will be able to direct dollars to thousands of Lutheran nonprofit organizations, **including Lutheran congregations.** Members' eligibility for Choice Dollars will be based on their relationship with Thrivent Financial—through chapter leadership and product ownership.

In light of this new giving program, Thrivent Financial is ending the Care in Congregations® program and the GivingPlus® program this year. While Care in Congregations was successful in helping congregations, Thrivent Choice will focus on members' connections to their congregations by allowing eligible members to individually direct a certain amount of dollars from Thrivent Financial to their Lutheran Congregations or other Lutheran institutions.

The decision to end the GivingPlus program was based on the fact that fewer than 5% of Thrivent Financial members participated in GivingPlus each year, and the new Thrivent Choice program seeks to get more members involved in directing funds to Lutheran organizations they care about.

Updates and additionally information regarding Thrivent Choice will be shared closer to the spring 2010 launch. If you would like more information about Thrivent Choice in the meantime, you can visit www.thrivent.com/ThriventChoiceInfo to sign up for email updates.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER



1	Lucy Shoemaker	17	Ken Obremski
2	LeRoy Erdmann	19	Sarah Hovet
4	Elizabeth Prevedello	20	Rob Wiesert
6	Wendy Zarnke	22	Patty Burgess
8	Cheryl Gauche	23	Lloyd Davis
15	Beth Fredricks	24	Makenna Burgess
	Truman Baird	26	Hank Miller
	Rachel Lowensohn	28	Walt Krumdieck
	Stuart Ferguson	29	Max Harkins
		30	Tim Hovet



CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN NOVEMBER

6	Bert and Dee Wheeler	19	Philip and Elisabeth Hahn
	Eric and Lynn Shoemaker	20	Don and Annette Harkins
7	Max and Debi McCarty	24	Wayne and Delores Feddersen
18	Lloyd and Carole Davis	27	Ralph and Marilyn Gordon
	Mary Ann and Alan Curtis		George and Paula Walker

The Grace Reporter

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 (located at the corner of 18th & Hilyard)
 Church Office: (541) 342-4844
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 LIFE! School Office: (541) 342-5433
 Web Site: www.lifeschool.us

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Philip Schoenherr, Pastor
 Chris Curry, LIFE! School Principal
 Peggy Johnson, Secretary/Newsletter Editor
 Linda Gurney - Organist, Handbell
 & Music Director
 Olivia Hunt Spangler – Organist/Choir Dir.
Church Office Hours
 Weekdays 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30

