

Grace Lutheran Church



NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 1-2

January
February

2013

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From the Pastor

Well, we've almost made it. Another year is about to be written into the history books. It has been an interesting year, to say the least. It has been a year filled with joy and sorrow, a year of horrible, unspeakable tragedy and jubilant ecstasy. It has been the best of years; it has been the worst of years. Some would like to be able to relive the year, while for others it cannot be gone quickly enough. There are some statistics, however, which are uniform no matter how you feel about 2012. There were a total of 52 weeks, 366 days and 8,784 hours - sufficient time to accomplish many tasks.

Time, like our money, requires good management. We set priorities for the expenditure of our time just as we budget and prioritize the spending of our money. Yet, at the end of any given period of time, we mourn the lack of time to finish a specific task, just as we grieve our shortage of money. The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for everything under the sun."

We knew that, didn't we? But we still found ourselves "out of time" during parts of

2012.

Many thoughts run through our minds as we come to the end of this year. Perhaps the first and most pressing thought is the idea that this year has sped by so rapidly. "Why, it seems as if it were only a few weeks ago that we were in a similar position, looking at the last hours of 2011." How time flies in our society. Talk with anyone over the age of 50; they will tell you that time went by much slower "in the good old days."

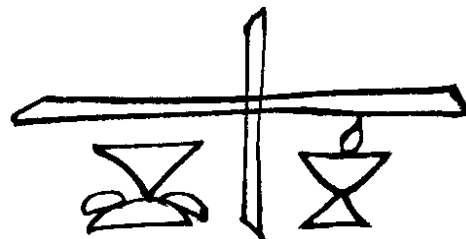
Truth of the matter is, when God created the day, He gave it a total of 24 hours. That has not changed over the millennia. What has changed, however, is how much we try to stuff into one 24-hour period. Somewhere along the line man decided he had to cram all of the "Times" of Ecclesiastes 3 into the smallest integer of time he could. The day seemed a likely and convenient period of time to use. Subsequently, time took on new attributes: the attributes of a world-class sprinter - speed and singleness of focus.

Solomon's thesis in Ecclesiastes 3 simply calls us back to the reality that no matter how much we attempt to rush it there is a time for everything. Many people rush through life at such a hectic pace that they do not have the opportunity to enjoy the time God has given them for their benefit and enjoyment. Some people go through life at such a fast pace that they think the only attribute a rose has is its thorns. If you are like that, I pray that God will grant you the grace to slow down in 2013, so that you can smell and enjoy the wonderful fragrance of the rose.

Take time this New Year - take time to enjoy God's creation; take time to enjoy the blessings He richly showers on you; take time to study His Word and grow in it; take time to worship and praise the God who made you, redeemed you and sanctifies you; take time to return to God a portion of the bounty He showers upon you.

Shalom!

Pastor David Bernard





Paul Says...

I often use a rubber ducky to test the bath water for sharks before getting in. You never know.



The Gospel Alphabet

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. [Romans 3:23]
Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! [John 1:29b]
Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [Matthew 11:28]
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. [James 4:8a]
Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. [Matthew 18:14]
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. [Ephesians 2:8]
God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [John 3:16]
Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. [John 6:37b, KJV]
I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. [John 14:6b]
Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." [John 6:29]
Knock, and it will be opened to you. [Matthew 7:7c]
Look to me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! [Isaiah 45:22a]
My grace is sufficient for you. [2 Corinthians 12:9b]
Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. [2 Corinthians 6:2b]
Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. [Psalm 119:18]
Pace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. [John 14:27]
Qicken me according to Thy Word. [Psalm 119:154b, KJV]
Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. [Psalm 37:7a]
See, and you will find. [Matthew 7:7b]
The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. [1 John 1:7b]
Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. [Luke 2:11, KJV]
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. [John 6:47, KJV]
What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? [Mark 8:36]
EXcept a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. [John 3:3b, KJV]
You are not your own ... For you were bought at a price. [1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a]
Zealous for good works. [Titus 2:14c]

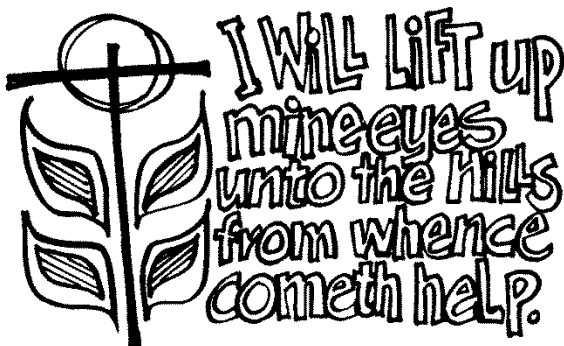
President's Message

As some of you know, I spent several days in the hospital at the end of November. Somehow, I came down with a severe infection and had to be treated with intravenous antibiotics to clear it up. I spent two days tethered to an IV bag that had just enough slack in the tubing for me to go from the bed to the bathroom and back, which I did about every hour on the hour. I now have a firsthand perspective on how a dog feels when they are tied up outdoors.

These things never happen at a good time. The holidays were coming, work was extremely busy and I had a million other things on my plate, including my upcoming tenure as president of Grace Lutheran Church. The last thing I need was a stay in the hospital, or so I thought.....

There isn't much to do in the hospital besides lay in and uncomfortable bed and stare at the walls. You can only watch so much of Dr. Phil or Rachael Ray or Judge Judy on TV. However, the one thing you do get to do is have a lot of time to think, and I did quite a bit of that while I was there.

I'm a firm believer that most things happen for a reason and God usually has a hand in their outcome. I think God was trying to tell me something with my little hospital stay. I was so busy worrying about the trials and tribulations of everyday life that I lost some perspective on what is truly important. God gave me a timeout, a breather, from the everyday drudgery that I was in so that I could reflect on things and put things in perspective.



Among many other things, I thought a lot about the church, my upcoming presidency and the work that lies ahead of us. I reflected on how Grace Lutheran Church came to be, why we exist and what our purpose was. I came to realize that somewhere along the way, I had put these important things aside, I had lost my vision and I was a lesser person for it. Christ somehow took a back seat to the everyday minutia I was dealing with.

With the coming of the new year, I would urge everyone to take a timeout, a step back or a breather. Reflect on the many blessings that Christ has bestowed upon you. Put Christ back in your life and worship Him. Put Him first in your life. That is what I plan on doing. I hope you will join me.

*Yours in Christ,
Steve Devan*

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

With Christmas behind us, please take note of the service schedule for the upcoming season.

Transfiguration Sunday is February 10, 2013. Ash Wednesday will be the first of the mid-week services, on February 13. All mid-week services will begin at 7:00 pm with a soup supper preceding at 6:00 pm.

Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday on March 17. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services begin at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Service starts bright and early at 6:30 am in Sylvan Beach on March 24, followed by morning worship at 10:00 am.

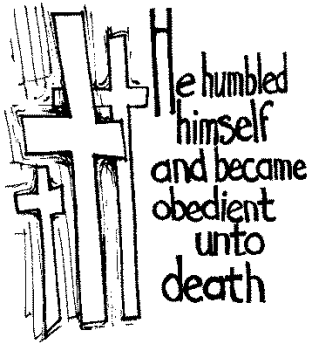
And as always, you'll be able to find all of these special services in the calendar at the back of the newsletter.

A Time of Change

I think that three or four times a year, we really need to sit back, look things over and decide how we can make some changes to our lives that will benefit not only us, but others as well.

The Baptism of Christ seems like a great time to do just that. What can we do as children of God to show Him who gave His only Son, Jesus, as a substitute for our sin that we truly do love Him?

When we are Baptized, we put off the old self and don the new. No longer is the sin of Adam and Eve pulling us down. Even though we will always have the sinful nature that being human entails, we are so special to God that we must recognize that even though we feel unworthy, because He gave Jesus, we must accept that God loves us more than any human could.



We can begin anew by showing others what Jesus means to us, can't we? How the inner joy we experience comes only because we know how much Jesus loves us. It is reasonable to believe that because we are so loved, we can then love others.

Being a child of God is hard work at times. Sometimes it means making sacrifices of time, talent and treasure.

We all want nice things, don't we? Most of us have been truly blessed in the ways that count. We have a nice home, good food, heat in winter, AC in summer, clean water to drink and a family who loves us. We must never forget that above all, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords has provided all this for us.

This brings me to the stewardship story. When you give, do you give to pay the mortgage or do you give because you love God? Remember He doesn't need us to give, but we need to. We need to give and give and give. If we give for this reason, we won't have to worry about bills; that will come.

My New Year's resolution this year is to give up a lunch out at least once a week to increase my giving. Even though Paul and I are on a "fixed income" I still manage to shop and eat lunch out quite often. I think God would approve of this because I will be doing it to show Him my love..how about joining me?

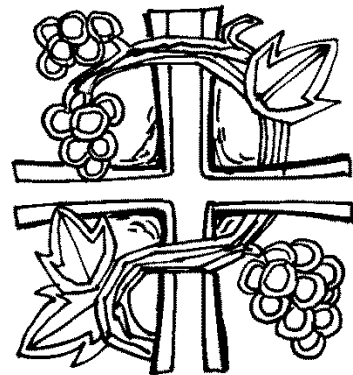
Submitted by Pat Clark



Voice of the Shepherd

If you have a desire to sing, come along and join us as we rehearse each Tuesday, 6:00 PM.

All you need is a commitment of your time and talents. Please speak with the Choir Director, Karen Devan (761-4004) for more information. Holy Scripture tells us to rejoice with singing and to lift our voices to song.



God's Favorite

When you're a sports fan, you'll often find yourself praying that your team does well—even if you're not a person of faith.

Sometimes God doesn't answer. Hockey fans, it's not because He doesn't like your team. It's because He doesn't like your sport and ignores all your prayers, no matter which team you support.

As for other sports, which one does God love the most? I think it's quite clear that the answer is soccer. Here are the 7 reasons why:

- 1) The left and right side of the pitch (field) are called wings. Two wings in every game? It's positively angelic.
- 2) Historically, the best footballing (as in "the game you play with your foot") nation has been Brazil. You know what else Brazil has? A giant statue of Jesus. If you want your sport (and your team) to be blessed, statues speak louder than words.
- 3) When you're attacking the opponent's goal, a pass into the box is called a cross. And I think we all know how important a cross is.
- 4) Soccer is often known as the global game, as the popularity of the sport has reached Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the Earth. There's even a tournament every four years called the World Cup. Baseball, on the other hand, only has a World Series by virtue of one Canadian team playing in the Major Leagues.
- 5) One of the most famous songs in sport is "You'll Never Walk Alone," sung by fans of Liverpool, England, before every game. You know who'll never let you walk alone? Jesus. The song's the sporting equivalent of "Footprints In The Sand."
- 6) Something you may not know is that God made the Earth in a soccer ball's image. After all, it's not like our planet is shaped like a football (although it would have made North Pole to South Pole expeditions much faster).
- 7) There are 11 players on a soccer team. Jesus had 11 people on his team. Judas doesn't count as he got himself a red card.

So these are the 7 reasons God loves soccer the best, with 7 clearly being the number of completion. I'm sure some of you will disagree though, so next month let's hear your reasons why God loves a different sport more than soccer.

Thanks to Jon Acuff, "Stuff Christians Like"

Submitted by Glen Bahr



Birthdays, Baptismal Birthdays & Anniversaries

If you are new to our family at Grace and have not given your information to our newsletter editor, Aaron Bahr, please take one of the pink forms on the corkboard in the foyer, fill it out and hand it to him. You can find him in the organ/choir area after worship.



January 2013

WET YOUR WHISTLE! Last call for volunteers. Take advantage of the \$65 discount on your registration for serving two 4-hour shifts. Deadline is January 15 to submit your Call for Workers form. There is an urgent need for hundreds of workers. In the meantime, let's toast the 84 volunteers who filled in all the positions on the Host Committee. We fervently pray for our leaders, volunteers and all who are involved in planning to make this event a great success, all to His honor and glory.

All the information you will need is in the winter edition of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. **If you are a worker, you must WAIT until you get your worker assignment and discount coupon before you register.** Check your district website for the latest updates and *The Water Cooler*, the newsletter of the Host Districts.

"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them" (Isaiah 41: 17).

February 2013

BE BUBBLY! Pop open those mailboxes and find out your assignment. Celebrate and pray for your team leader and those assigned to your department. Wait for your coupon issued by the Personnel Resources Coordinator to attach to the convention registration form. In the meantime, encourage friends and family to enjoy the planned events, and to venture out and explore the sights in Pittsburgh, PA.

Have you considered signing up for the Convention Choir? It will be directed by Dr. Jean Boehler. Be a contributing voice to the 250 voice choir. We all will be blessed.

Share the winter edition of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* as it contains all the information about the convention.

If you are a worker, you must WAIT until you get

your worker assignment and discount coupon before you register. Latest updates are on your district website as well as *The Water Cooler*, the newsletter of the Host Districts.

"They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light" (Psalm: 36: 8-9).

Submitted by Karen Devan



Prayers

Please remember those in need and keep them in your prayers...

Remember those who serve in the military, our family of Grace, Richard, Bill, Shirley, Amollia G., Lorraine Christie, Janice Devan Durant, Sharon Knapp, Pauline Smith, Grover Hedgecock, James T. White, Christine Treece, Craig & Susan Hedgecock, Lorraine Sobieraj, Jackie Grimes, Andy Pavelock, Bob & Jenn Hedgecock, Michael Miller, Mandie Egelston, Ann Eldred, Dan Smith & Tony Farrara, Robin Piersall, Hayley Miller, Jill Froelick-Jones, Tim Haley, Alaya Johnson, Jean Case, Tyson Fowler, Dick Hopsicker, an 18-year-old boy suffering from myocarditis, Ed Snyder, Glade Cook Jr., Matthew Brooks, Annie Whitney and Duane Treece, Billy, Baby Savannah, Elaine & Eddie Levandowski, Cody Metott, Carmilla Spartano, Marge, Joe & Alice Spear, Josh Sobieraj, Judy Dappen, Ryan Oldorff, Susan McLaughlin, Evelyn Benjamin & Charlie Kirk, Pastor and Ruth Bernard, Andrew Marris, Glenda Pitts, the family of Jerry Bates, and the families in Newtown, CT, and West Webster, NY.

Kidz Korner

First of all, let me say that I am so very proud of all the Sunday school children for the great job you did with the Sunday school Christmas service on Sunday, December 23rd. Truly, it was a message of great joy and jubilation in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You were awesome!

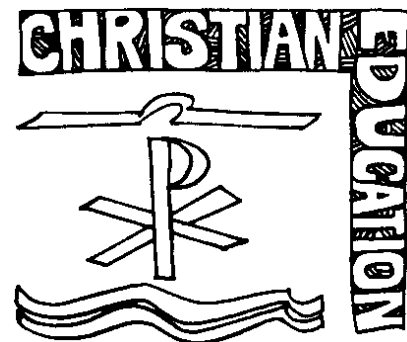
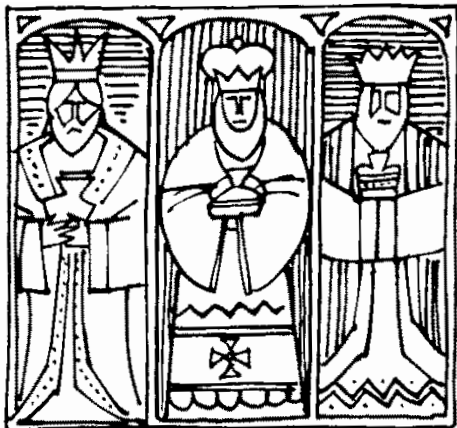
I also thank all the teachers and staff that worked so hard to make the service so jubilant: Teri Devan, Kathy Pavelock, Lorraine Warren, Tammy Moran, Kelly Gilbert and Kate Huddle, our teachers, for all their help with the learning of parts and lyrics of the songs; for arranging the costumes, setting up props and assuring that children were in the right order for speaking; for Karen Devan and Aaron Bahr for using their musical skills to prepare the songs, provide the sound and instrumentation and accompaniment; for Beth Scholl for all her creative work preparing the props and decorations; for Dana Smith and the altar guild for the beautifying of the nave with candles, poinsettias, and evergreen sprigs; for Pastor for his presence and support; and for Pat Clark and Adam Moran for slicing and serving the birthday cake in the fellowship hall after the

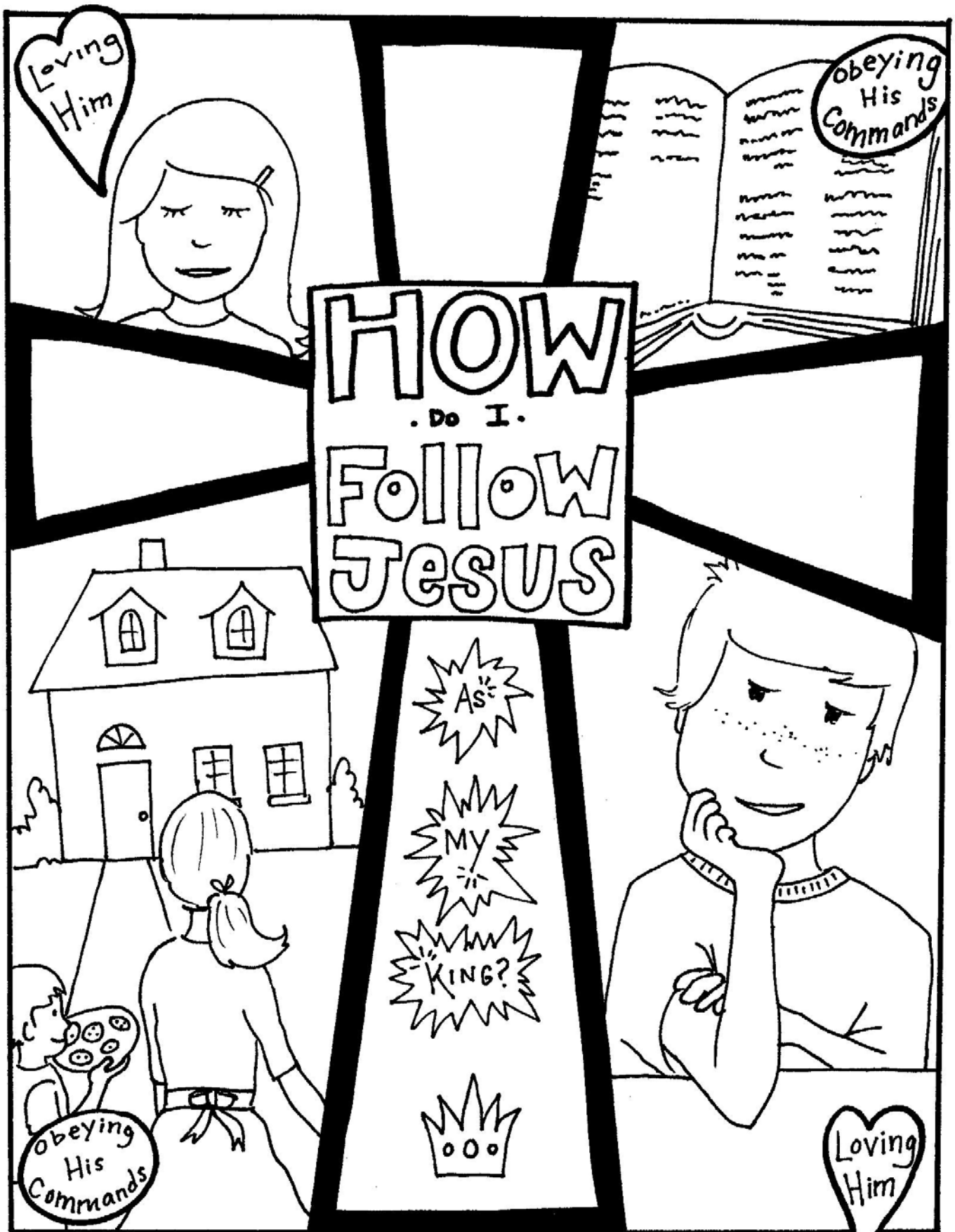
service. We hope our guests felt welcome and refreshed by what you saw and heard that morning in our midst. God has redeemed us, JUBILEE!

We will take one week of recess and begin Sunday school classes again after the New Year on January 6th, Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany is the time we take to reveal the glory of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. We read about His teachings and His miracles here on earth. We come to know Him and His purpose for coming to us on that Christmas night. Our services will focus on all those things until we come to the Lenten season, which then focuses on the Passion, Trial, and Death of Christ and for our gift of His Salvation. We then rejoice in His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I hope to see you here throughout these coming weeks to see the colors and hear the messages that will be brought to us during the Epiphany, Transfiguration, Lenten and Easter seasons of the church year. God has redeemed us, JUBILEE!

Mrs. Linda Bahr
Chairman of Christian Education





Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com

Birthdays

- 1/5** Joshua Harrington
Steven Minor
- 1/7** Linda Dishlaccoff
Andrea Dodge
- 1/9** Sandra O'Connor
Robert Smith
- 1/14** Kendall Seybert
- 1/15** Linda Bahr
Tom Jones IV
- 1/16** Terry Hartman
- 1/18** Lorraine Warren
- 1/21** Tonya Everitt
Anna Gilbert
- 1/22** Christopher Devan
- 1/23** Jean Case
- 1/26** Toree Gilbert
Paul House
- 1/28** Kathy Pavelock
- 1/30** Tammy Moran
Derek Thomas

Baptismal Birthdays

- 1/1** Phillip Neumiller
- 1/8** Dylan Narolis
Robert Smith
- 1/17** Emilee Gilbert
- 1/19** Lauren Warren
- 1/20** Joshua Harrington
Adam Moran
- 1/22** Mason Moran
- 1/23** Jean Case
Paul Clark Jr.
Kimberly Medley

Wedding Anniversaries

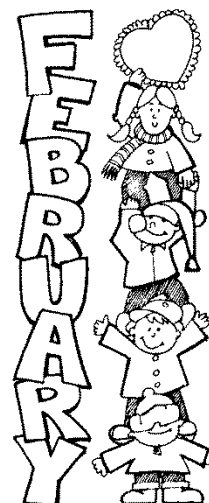
- 1/5** Fred & Dolly Fowler

Birthdays

- 2/1** Dontai Burton
Daniel Harrington
- 2/2** John Richmond
- 2/3** Jo Clemens
- 2/4** Jennifer Smith
- 2/6** James Clark
- 2/14** Noah Devan
Charles (Chuck) Flay
- 2/15** Ashley Croy
- 2/18** Bianca Brinck
Chad Brinck
- 2/23** Dana Narolis
- 2/26** Howard Jones
- 2/28** Bailee Underwood

Baptismal Birthdays

- 2/9** Mark Antl
Marie Romano
- 2/13** Melissa Varacalli
- 2/14** Pearl Romano
Kendall Seybert
- 2/18** Lorraine Warren
- 2/22** Daniel Harrington
- 2/28** Marie Romano
- 2/?** Tabitha Minor



Help Keep Our Records Accurate!

See anything incorrect or missing on this page? Is your name misspelled? Did we get a date wrong? Let us know! Please send a quick email to the editor, aaronbahr@gmail.com, or call Aaron at 271-5932 to make any corrections.

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 6:00P Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> Holy Communion 11:00A Fellowship, Deacon Bd meet.	7	8 6:00P Choir Practice 7:30P MM LWML	9	10	11	12
13 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	14	15 6:00P Choir Practice 7:30P Council Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> Holy Communion 11:00A Fellowship	21	22 6:00P Choir Practice	23	24	25	26
27 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	28	29 6:00P Choir Practice	30	31		

2013

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> <i>Holy Communion</i> 11:00A Fellowship, Deacon Bd meet.	4	5 6:00P Choir Practice	6	7	8	9
10 Transfiguration 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	11	12 6:00P Choir Practice 7:30P MM LWML	13 Ash Wednesday 6:00P Soup Supper 7:00P <u>Ash</u> <u>Wednesday Service</u>	14	15	16
17 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> <i>Holy Communion</i> 11:00A Fellowship <div>Voters Meeting</div>	18	19 6:00P Choir Practice	20 6:00P Soup Supper 7:00P <u>Midweek</u> <u>Lenten Service</u>	21 <div>Newsletter Article Submission Deadline</div>	22	23
24 8:45A SS/BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	25	26 6:00P Choir Practice	27 6:00P Soup Supper 7:00P <u>Midweek</u> <u>Lenten Service</u>	28		

2013

Come Join Hands With Us!

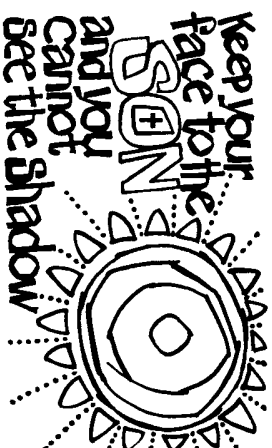
Grace Lutheran Church

3965 Carter Road
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-2128

Rev. David Bernard, Pastor
(585) 329-5575

Hours of Worship

Sunday 10:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM
Women's Bible Study Tuesdays 10:00 AM

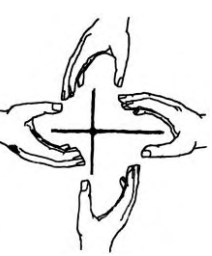


Grace Lutheran Church Officers:

David Snyder, <i>Elder</i>	829-5256
David Devan, <i>Deacon</i>	761-4004
Andrea Dodge, <i>Deacon</i>	336-4198
Glen Bahr, <i>Deacon</i>	339-1979
Dana Smith, <i>Altar Care Chairman</i>	697-9450
Linda Bahr, <i>Dir. of Christian Education</i>	339-1979
Steven Devan, <i>President</i>	734-1372
Kathy Pavelock, <i>Treasurer</i>	245-1590
Jeanne Griffin, <i>Financial Secretary</i>	633-1141
Patricia Clark, <i>Secretary</i>	762-5654
Dana Smith, <i>Property Care Chairman</i>	697-9450
Karen Devan, <i>Publicity (PR)</i>	761-4004

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