

# Grace Lutheran Church



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 7-8

July  
August **2013**

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### From the Deacon

It is hard to believe we are heading into our fourth month together. I said in the last newsletter and I'll say it again, thank you so much for making my wife and me feel so welcome here at Grace! I'm getting to know many of you and I feel that we are heading down a joyous path together.

In the last month we have started our food bank ministry. If the giving and energy continue, by September we will need a pickup truck to haul all the food to the food bank; a true blessing from God.

Many have approached me with other wonderful ministry ideas and I am excited to see those ideas come to light. However, to make sure that these ministries receive the needed dedication and long-term sustainability, I feel we need to move at a measured pace and celebrate in the maturation of each ministry as it comes. As our food ministry grows and runs smoothly every month, then we can explore and begin other ministries.

You hear me week in and week out reminding all of us that we are all humble servants of the Lord. As we live our lives, let us always strive to keep the Triune

God the center point in our lives and serve Him as He directs us.

Those who attended service on June 16 heard me read the welcoming statement printed in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church's bulletin in California. The statement reads:

*We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.*

*We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.*

*We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.*

*If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.*

*We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!*

Bravo to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church! That should be made into a poster and hung on church doors around the world. I love the thought that a few members got together and asked, "How can we invite everyone to come meet Jesus, in our church's own unique way?" And they started writing their list.

***But why is it so long? Because everyone needs Jesus.***

A relationship with Jesus creates an immeasurable, positive change in a person. This church wanted to make sure every individual who passed through their doors knew he/she was invited to meet him.

So with this statement fresh in your mind, remember to extend the same invitation to everyone in your life to come and meet Jesus. GOD BLESS

## When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

*A message every adult should read, because children are watching you, doing as you do, not as you say.*

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

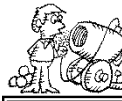
When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.'

*Submitted Anonymously*



## Paul Says...

*Admit it, at least one time in your life you've tried to balance the light switch between the "on" and "off" positions.*

### Grace Lutheran Church Website

We have just changed the Grace Lutheran Church website address due to a web hosting problem. The web site has an active events calendar and past issues of our newsletter can also be downloaded. Please visit us at:

<http://www.gracelutherancny.org/>



### Grace Lutheran Church is on Facebook

You can now find us (and "Like" us) on Facebook. The account is called:

***Grace Lutheran Canastota***

If you are having problems accessing it, try to search for "Grace Lutheran Canastota Facebook" using Google.

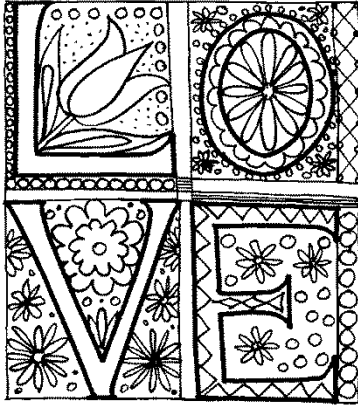
**facebook**

### Grace Lutheran Church E-mail Address

If you need to email something to the Church, we have a general email address. Pat Clark and Kathy Pavelock monitor the email periodically. The email address is:

[Gracelc.canastota.ny@gmail.com](mailto:Gracelc.canastota.ny@gmail.com)





## One Little Vowel

*...or, what difference does grammar make, anyway?*

Translator Lee Bramlett was confident that God had left His mark on the Hdi culture somewhere, but though he searched, he could not find it. What clue had He planted to let this people group in Cameroon know Who He was and how He wanted to relate to them?

Then one night in a dream, God prompted Lee to look again at the Hdi word for love. Lee and his wife, Tammi, had learned that verbs in Hdi consistently end in one of three vowels. For almost every verb, they could find forms ending in i, a, and u. But when it came to the word for love, they could only find i and a. Why no u?

So Lee asked the Hdi translation committee, which included the most influential leaders in the community, “Could you ‘dvi’ your wife?” “Yes,” they said. That would mean that the wife had been loved but the love was gone. “Could you ‘dva’ your wife?” “Yes,” they said. That kind of love depended on the wife’s actions. She would be loved as long as she remained faithful and cared for her husband well.

“Could you ‘dvu’ your wife?” Everyone laughed. “Of course not! If you said that, you would have to keep loving your wife no matter what she did, even if she never got you water, never made you meals. Even if she committed adultery, you would be compelled to just keep on loving her. No, we would never say ‘dvu.’ It just doesn’t exist.”

Lee sat quietly for a while, thinking about John 3:16, and then he asked, “Could God ‘dvu’ people?”

There was complete silence for three or four minutes; then tears started to trickle down the weathered faces of these elderly men. Finally they responded. “This would mean that God kept on loving us over and over, millennium after millennium, while all that time we rejected His great love. He is compelled to love us, even though we have sinned more than any people.”

God had encoded the story of His unconditional love right into their language. The Hdi reasoned, if God was like that, and not a mean and scary spirit, did they need the spirits of the ancestors to intercede for them? Did they need sorcery to relate to the spirits? Many decided the answer was no, and the number of Christ-followers quickly grew from a few hundred to several thousand.

*by Barb Heins*

## A Chosen People

*You are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession. 1 Peter 2:9*

Do you ever feel unnoticed? New clothes and styles may help for a while. But if you want permanent change, learn to see yourself as God sees you. “He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness, like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding, like a bride dressed in jewels” (Isa.61:10).

Does your self-esteem ever sag? When it does, remember what it is worth. “You were bought, not with something that ruins like gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb” (1 Pet. 1:18-9)



The challenge is to remember that. To meditate on it. To focus on it. To allow His love to change the way you look at you.

*Submitted by Pat Clark*

## Four Ways to Encourage Your Kids to Leave the Church

I'm never for doing anything halfway. So if you want your kids to leave the church when they leave your home, I've got a list for you. Here are four ways that you can contribute to your child's spiritual demise:

1. Make other things a priority over church assemblies and functions. Be sure that you are giving your child the impression that there are some things that are more important than assembling with the church if they are "big" enough. Be sure the church comes second to some things. These things include (but are not limited to) sporting events, vacations, family get-togethers, and even some forms of working. Only doing this occasionally is sufficient to get the point across to your child. Better yet, cut out Bible class entirely and only come for Sunday morning worship.
2. Don't talk about God, Jesus, or the church when you are at home or in the car. Keep your lips sealed when it comes to spiritual matters. Don't ask, and don't tell.
3. When you do talk, be sure to complain and nitpick as much as possible. Complain about the preacher, his sermons, the elders, the deacons, the singing, the song selection, the Bible class, the Bible class teacher, the Bible class materials, young kids, older people, and any other Christian who is different from yourself. Never give your child the impression that you are appreciative of the church, or that you respect those who serve it. Never be satisfied. Be sure to plant the seed of dissatisfaction in your child's mind.
4. Indulge your child's immaturity. Despite the fact that they have yet to develop a real concept of the value of a dollar, give them full control when it comes to their most valuable asset: their soul. Even though they might want to eat pizza and french fries for every meal, let them make every soul-affecting decision for themselves. If they don't want to do "it," don't make them do "it." This applies to all aspects of participation, including Bible class, worship, and even (for the boys) leading worship. Make attendance optional. For that matter, make everything optional, with no consequences.

Of course no Christian parent really wants to drive their child away from God and the church. But sometimes we do things that might inadvertently do just that.

I'm not saying that if you ever do one of the previous four things I mentioned that your kids are destined for Hell's fire. But what I am saying is that if you can catch yourself before you keep up some of those pitfalls then you will have a far better time helping your children to transition from being preteens, to being spiritually minded teenagers, and then to being faithful Christian adults.

Consider the statement made in Psalm 127:4 (NKJV): "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth." Just as arrows need to be aimed well in order to have a chance of hitting their target, our children need to be "aimed" well in order for them to have a chance of "hitting the target" of righteous and faithful living, and ultimately Heaven.

Even though the possibility exists that you won't hit the "target" with your "arrows," you definitely won't get anywhere near the target if you aren't at least taking careful aim at it. You have to at least try! Here are a few things to consider when it comes to making that aim:

1. Matthew 6:33 - Be sure that the kingdom (the church) is really the first priority in your family life. Don't let other things become diversions that take you and your kids away from the church. Even missing or failing to participate a few times can set a precedent in your child's mind that's hard to change. You get bonus points if you take or encourage your children to go to Gospel meetings, singings, Summer Youth Series, Bible camp, and other such things.
2. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - Teach your children at every opportunity. A nature walk can become a discussion about Genesis. A ride home from baseball practice can become a lesson about always doing your best (cf. Ecc. 9:10). Mealtime can become Bible time. Take those opportunities to teach, as they are all around you.

*(cont. on next page)*

## Four Ways (cont.)

3. Philippians 2:14 - Don't complain. Just don't do it. There's no good reason for it. Complaining doesn't change anything, anyway. Only actually doing something changes things. Complainers often wait for others to do the changing, and inadvertently teach the principle of the "squeaky wheel" to their children. Don't be that person. Be a doer.

4. Proverbs 22:6 - The word "train" in this verse means more than just talking to your kids about God. It literally means "to narrow," and also is translated as "dedicate" in other places besides this passage. Think about dedicating your child's path to the Lord, as well as "reining in" their immaturity. That's what it really means to train - to narrow the focus of your child's life to not just what they should do, but what they ought to do. There is a difference.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, nor does it cover every facet of raising your children to stay faithful. But I pray that you will take these words, and do some studying and praying on your own.

You see, the reality is that there is one person who has more to do with a child's direction in life than any preacher, elder, youth minister, teacher, or coach: It's you, their parent. Step up like a warrior, and aim those arrows to Heaven.

*by Daniel Howell*

<http://www.mdanielhowell.com/>

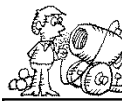
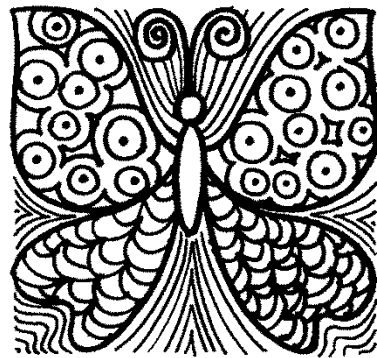
### **Birthdays, Baptismal Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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.

### **Crazy Quilt**

I think of my Church family as a crazy quilt. We are each a piece of the pattern that God puts together. A crazy quilt uses up left over bits and pieces of fabric and no piece of fabric gets wasted. Each unique piece is fitted together with all the other unique pieces to make a whole quilt. Trimming (God pruning us) may be needed here and there, but the beauty of each piece is held intact. As we grow in Christ we will be ready to be a fabric piece in a new quilt if He so chooses to move us. Even if there are holes in the quilt, it is still warm and comforting while it is being mended and made new. He makes a beautiful quilt of our lives and binds us together as a family.

*by Ruth Swindell*



**Paul Says...**

*Every time I think I've hit the bottom, someone lends me a shovel.*



## 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.

## Need Washing?

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in the mall. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle-faced image of innocence.

It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there, under the awning, just inside the door of the store.

We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day.

I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

The girl's little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in. "Mom let's run through the rain," she said.

"What?" Mom asked.

"Let's run through the rain!" she repeated.

"No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom replied.

This young child waited a minute and repeated: "Mom, let's run through the rain."

"We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said.

"No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm.

"This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?"

"Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, He can get us through anything!'"

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one left. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say.

Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

"Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If God lets us get wet, well maybe we just need washing," Mom said.

Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They got soaked.

They were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars. And yes, I did, too.

I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.

Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories... So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories every day.

*Submitted Anonymously*



## Prayers

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

Remember those who serve in the military, our family of Grace, Janice Devan Durant, Sharon Knapp, Pauline Smith, Grover Hedgecock, Jean Case, James T. White, Lorraine Sobieraj, Bob Hedgecock, Jenn Hedgecock, Mandie Egelston, Ann Eldred, Dan Smith & Tony Farrara, Robin Piersall, Hayley Miller, Jill Froelick-Jones, Tim Haley, Tyson Fowler, Glade Cook Jr., Ed Snyder, Billy, Savannah, Cody Metott, Barbara, James & Rebekah, Christine Treece, Carmilla Spartano, Judy Williamson, Jackie Grimes, Josh Sobieraj, Trudy Fike, Andrew Marris, Barbara Brinck, Pastor and Ruth Bernard, Sheree Manley, Russell Everitt, Julie, Florence Manders, Pam Heila, Sharon, Jim W., Mary Bones, Annie Whitney, Adam Sobieraj, Paul Clark, Robin Whipple, Cindy Farnach, Paul Tyler, Julie Christiansen Dorn, good friend of Andrea suffering from cancer, Denise, Ron Chase, Darin O'Shea, Eleanor Redman, Pastor Schneider, Lcpl. Brett A. Seeber, Barbara Bole, Aubrey, and all who were affected by the recent flooding.



## Independence Day

A few years ago, I was visiting my sister in New Jersey. We decided to go to Philadelphia and take the historic tour. I had the privilege of standing in the room where the Declaration of Independence was written. I can truthfully say that I was deeply moved to just be in the room where so many of our founding fathers stood. Then I visited the Liberty Bell. At that time it was outside and I actually was able to touch it! Another great moment!

Now as we celebrate another Fourth of July, I am reminded of that visit and all the sacrifices made by those who have come after 1776. The many wars and other types of conflicts have taken hundreds of thousands of our men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy all the freedoms of living in the United States of America.

Take a few moments to stop and give a prayer of thanks that you are of the privileged few who can Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Happy Birthday America!

*Submitted by Pat Clark*

*Our God Reigns,  
Alleluia!*

## KIDZ KORNER

It is hard to believe that summer is here and school is out. Time sure moves quickly! It is time for graduations, parties, picnics, reunions, weddings, camping, swimming, baseball and fireworks. This is a great time of year, one that I always look forward to. It is always fun to go on vacation and see things around our great country and visit with family and friends.

Summertime is also a wonderful time to come to church to worship and have fellowship with your church family. When you are on vacation visiting other places, it is always fun to attend another church for worship. It is a unique opportunity to see how other churches worship and operate. You can pick up ideas that intrigue you and then share them with us when you return. You can also invite people from these other churches to visit this area and worship with us while they are here.

Our Sunday school is in recess during these summer months. This is because so many of us like to travel and take a vacation. We will begin classes this September on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Parents

and students are invited to come to the opening at 8:45 am. We will sing, pray and celebrate our summer birthdays. Our Rally Day worship service will kick off the new school year and prepare our hearts for Bible study.

In July we will have our annual Vacation Bible School. We will have evening sessions from July 15—19, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Volunteers to help are needed and there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for you to sign if you desire to help. We need help with teaching, drama, singing, recreation, snacks and crafts. Please consider giving your time to this worthwhile program. We hold evening sessions so that workers can come after work to help out. We would like to see more men in the ranks.

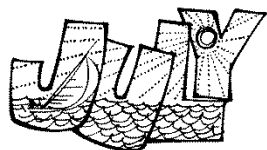
We are in the Pentecost—Trinity season of the church year. The color is green, representing everlasting life. Have a great summer and we'll see you in church!

*Mrs. Linda Bahr*  
*Chairman of Christian Education*

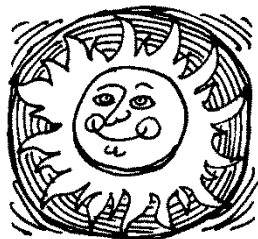




## Birthdays

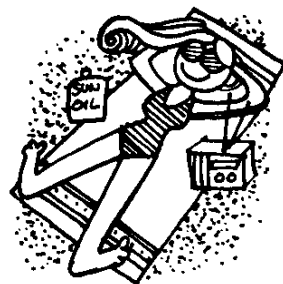


- 7/3 Joe Underwood
- 7/4 Kurt Medley
- 7/7 Charles Flay Jr.
- 7/9 Ruth Bernard
- 7/10 Gail Hood  
Annie Whitney
- 7/11 Hoyt Hedgecock  
Dionne Underwood  
Millie Weismuller
- 7/15 Joshua Snyder
- 7/16 Lyle Stevenson
- 7/19 David Thomas
- 7/22 Karen Devan
- 7/24 Mike Balbuena
- 7/26 Krystal Burton  
Jason Flay  
Devin McCormick  
Judy Wallace
- 7/27 MacKenzie Eaton  
Jane Gualtieri  
Mackenna Narolis



## Baptismal Birthdays

- 7/1 Stacey Stevens
- 7/3 David Gilbert  
Toree Gilbert
- 7/4 Tonya Everitt
- 7/14 Ann Eldred
- 7/15 Betsy Dodge Wise

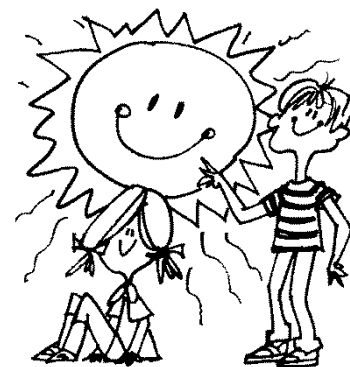


## Wedding Anniversaries

- 7/1 Tom & Rachel Jones
- 7/2 Charlene & David Kirk
- 7/11 Adam & Danielle DelaRoche
- 7/12 Linda & Glen Bahr
- 7/16 Lyle & Nelda Stevenson
- 7/18 Tammy & Adam Moran
- 7/19 Rev. David & Ruth Bernard

## Birthdays

- 8/1 Benjamin Scholl
- 8/3 Joseph Jones
- 8/4 Anita Thomas
- 8/7 Summer Wall
- 8/9 Susan Dodge
- 8/11 Aaron Thomas
- 8/14 Rev. Ben Bahr
- 8/15 Greg Scholl
- 8/18 Gale Hedgecock
- 8/22 Paul Clark Jr
- 8/24 Ashlee Gilbert
- 8/28 Dana Smith
- 8/31 Rose Fidler



## Baptismal Birthdays

- 8/10 Devin McCormick
- 8/14 Jason Flay
- 8/18 Summer Wall
- 8/19 Joe Underwood
- 8/21 Bradley Balbuena
- 8/23 Floyd Whitney Jr.
- 8/25 John Flay
- 8/31 Kate Hurrel
- 8/? Krystal Burton  
Mackenna Narolis



## Wedding Anniversaries

- 8/12 Karen & David Devan
- 8/15 Jim & Velma Manley
- 8/19 Kate & Chris Hurrel
- 8/22 Katie & David C. Devan
- 8/26 David & Linda Dishlaccoff



**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](mailto:aaronbahr@gmail.com), or call Aaron at 271-5932 to make any corrections.

# July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:45A BS (No SS) 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship, Deacon Bd meet.	8	9 10:00A Women's BS 6:00P Choir Practice	10	11	12	13
14 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> , Installation 11:00A Fellowship	15	16	17	18	19	20
Vacation Bible School: 6:00P – 8:30P						
21 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	22	23 10:00A Women's BS 6:00P Choir Practice	24	25	26	27
28 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	29	30 10:00A Women's BS	31			

# 2013

# August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship, Deacon Bd meet.	5	6 10:00A Women's BS	7	8	9	10
11 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	12	13 10:00A Women's BS 6:00P Choir	14	15	16	17
18 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship <div>Voters Meeting</div>	19	20 10:00A Women's BS	21 <div>Newsletter Article Submission Deadline</div>	22	23	24
25 8:45A BS 10:00A <u>Worship</u> 11:00A Fellowship	26	27 10:00A Women's BS 6:00P Choir	28	29	30	31

2013

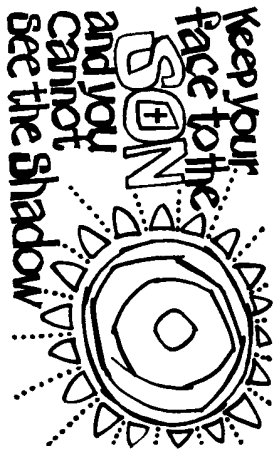
Come Join Hands With Us!

*Grace Lutheran Church*

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

**James Burch, Deacon**  
**(607) 591-4865**

Hours of Worship  
Sunday 10:00 AM  
Holy Communion Every Sunday  
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM  
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM  
Women's Bible Study Tuesdays 10:00 AM

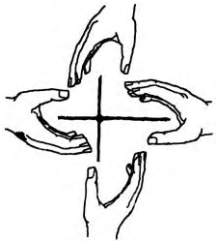


**Grace Lutheran Church Officers:**

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
Patricia Clark, <i>Deacon</i> .....	762-5654
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
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