

Grace Notes

August 2011



Senior Youth Donate 360 Hours of Servant Event Work

to/through the efforts of

Camp Restore, New Orleans Restoring Faith, Home, and Community



We thank God for enabling our 6 youth and 2 adults to serve the people of New Orleans as they continue to rebuild their lives after Hurricane Katrina. We stayed at Camp Restore, a Lutheran Church that was converted into a camp with bunkhouses and a dining hall. They have staff who partner with over 70 agencies so as to set up work projects for 150 volunteers a week who come to serve the city.

Our Servant Events included:

- Constructing 5 table carts to donate to Camp Restore and Trinity, Baton Rouge. (56 hours to construct the carts in Huntsville. 20 hours to assemble the carts in New Orleans)
- Helping at the St. Bernard Parish Community Center – Food and Clothing Bank (52 hours)



- Helping at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Bible Day-Camp for the inner-city children of New Orleans (2 days of help, 120 hours)

- Helping at Rising Sun Assisted Living Senior Center, in the Lower Ninth Ward – Visiting, Playing Bingo, Cleaning & Maintenance (48 hours)

- Painting a historic orphanage into a day-care center (64 hours)
- Thank you to Terry & Carrie Bloom and Bob Drensek who helped our group with construction skills in putting together the table carts before the trip.
- Thank you to Debbie Doering, who served as a Youth Counselor for the trip.



Please mark your calendar for the
Young Adult White Water trip Aug 12-14.



Ladies of Grace

It's that time of year again.

LOG QUARTERLY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

ANNEX ASSEMBLY ROOM



Our theme is patriotism because the July 4 Independence Day occurs this month. Fellowship begins with a coffee cake brunch. We'll enjoy a song fest accompanied by Ellinor White at the piano where we'll choose and sing our favorite patriotic/faith songs. And we'll hear and see and do some exciting things from the recent LWML Convention in Peoria. Reservations are \$2; tickets are available from LOG Circle chairs with proceeds going directly to the National Mites Offering. All ladies and teen girls are invited to come and enjoy.



Newly Revised "Exploring Grace"

If you're looking for a new church home, would like to discover the distinctive philosophy that makes Grace Lutheran Church an exciting and alive community of believers, or just want to "refresh" your knowledge about the Christian faith, then mark your calendars for Sunday, at 9:35 AM, as our

newly revised "EXPLORING GRACE CLASS" meets. This is an 8-week course that concludes with a special two and half hour Saturday morning worship! Please contact the church office or Pastor Blair for more information.



Foster
Community

Foster Community Update

Hispanic Cooking Class

Saturday, July 30th from 10:00 AM to Noon (then we eat lunch) is the next cooking class for the Hispanic community at Grace. Attendees will be from the English Classes, Iglesia, Calhoun College ESL, and the A&M Hispanic Nutrition class. If you can help in the kitchen, babysit, clean up, etc., please contact Kleone Nelson at 256-534-2483. Thanks! We are **Making a Difference** in the quality of their lives by acculturating them. There is even opportunity to share the love of Jesus and bring new members to Iglesia.

English Classes

The next 10 week session begins Monday, September 12th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and the classes will be meeting Monday and Thursday evenings. If you would like to join us as a teacher, babysitter, supporter, etc., please contact Jack Renfro at 256-883-6258. To God be the glory!

Iglesia VBS

Thanks to Grace for donating VBS materials to Iglesia de la Comunidad to use for their VBS. They were very happy to receive the donation and would also like to thank those who put together the materials for them. A smile on a child's face is priceless!

The members of Iglesia de la Comunidad would like to thank Grace for Making a Difference in their lives.

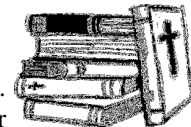
Soups On!



There are containers of soup available for those in need in the kitchen freezer. Please sign the sign out sheet on the freezer door so we can keep track of how much soup we need. Please contact Joyce Larder at 882-0900 with any questions.

Christian Book Club Meeting

The **Christian Bookclub** will meet on August 10, at 10:00 AM in the church library. The book for this month is *The Prisoner in the Third Cell* by Gene Edwards. Join us for our discussion and lunch afterwards. If you have any questions call Millie Sallo at 880-1128.



**Christian
Book Club**



The Principal's Corner

"Connected to the Master", John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing;" –theme for this school year.

Where are we if we are not in Christ? This school year our focus narrows on the cross. As we add new skill elective classes such as Origami Math, iPod Video Broadcasting, advanced mathematics for grades first through eighth, organizational classes for Fifth grade, and even a servant community leadership course; everything is designed with the purpose in mind of educating our students with the principle foundations of academic excellence, servant

leadership, and refining their God given talents so they can bear much fruit for "The Master". A solid foundation starts with developing skills for a three-fold approach to learning; academics, service, and talent. Grace is such a place that now offers to teach, instill and foster such a solid foundational education. An education that will bear much fruit, and service to all the children who walk through our doors for a lifetime of success. What an exciting time to be at Grace. With such ministry going on, the question becomes "How big will the harvest be?" Answer: Only the master knows, but our tools and our work will be through the fountains of blessings that our Lord has provided our faculty, staff, parents, and students with.

As we end our summer we thank Concept Learning Behaviors for partnering with us to provide such a wonderful enriching summer camp for so many

students. It has been a joy to once again see an overflowing camp. We thank God for such a harvest. Also, please check us out on the Valley's CW television station. Our commercial airs starting in July and will run until September. If you know of anyone looking for a premier educational foundation for their child please do not hesitate to mention Grace. Word of mouth is worth its weight in gold, and you are our biggest supporters. I cannot express enough how exciting it is to be a part of Grace and the wonderful direction God is blessing our efforts in. Together, may we continue to Know Christ and each other, Grow to be like Him in word and deed, and Sow His love in all that we say and do! To Christ be the glory as we work to be "Connected to the Master" in all that we do.

Serving His Kingdom,
Joshua Swartz



Challenge Yourself Spiritually Join in one of our Bible Classes

All classes will begin at 9:30

The following **Sunday morning classes** start at 9:30 AM and will continue through the month of August: **Exploring Grace** led by Pastor Clark in the School Library

Does God Exist? led by Dick Bradshaw in the 7th grade classroom

Big Words of the Bible led by Joe Fairchild in the 8th grade classroom

“Life Light” study of Romans led by Kevin Brandon in the 6th grade classroom

America’s Christian Foundation led by Millie Sallo in the Assembly Meeting room

College/ Career class – Hearing from God meeting at Panera Bread Co. at 9:30

High School Class – Does God Exist? led by Mark Thorsen in the Youth Room

Weekday Classes:

Beth Moore class: Living Beyond Yourself – Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit will meet 9-11 AM **beginning Tuesday morning, August 16**, in the Church library by Nancy Rice (256-880-9374).

The Monday morning Bible class will be meeting at 9:30 in the Church Library starting August 15. The topic is yet to be determined.

The Bethel Bible Series is a 21 week overview study of the Bible that ties together the themes, events, and time periods of the Old and New Testaments. If you have completed the Old Testament, join us for the **New Testament class beginning on Wednesday, August 31st at 6:30 PM in the church library.** If you have questions, call Judy Zecher (256-722-3612). Millie Sallo (256-880-1128) will be starting an **Old Testament class on Monday afternoon, September 12th at 1:00 PM in the church library.** If you haven’t already



contacted Judy or Millie, please let us know if you are planning to join the class, so we can order materials.

Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace” will be taught on the best week night for those attending.

Have you wondered where your money goes? This video teaching by Dave Ramsey has lessons on saving, debt elimination, investing, planning for the future, giving, etc. These principles apply to everyone – whether you are financially secure or are struggling with debt.

Let us know by August 15th if you are planning to take the class, so we can order materials and be ready to go in September. The cost of materials per couple is \$99. We have scholarship money available to help in the cost of materials. We also need to know if babysitting is needed. Contact David Zecher (256-464-6524), Bob Drensek (256-859-5383), or Judy Zecher (256-722-3612).

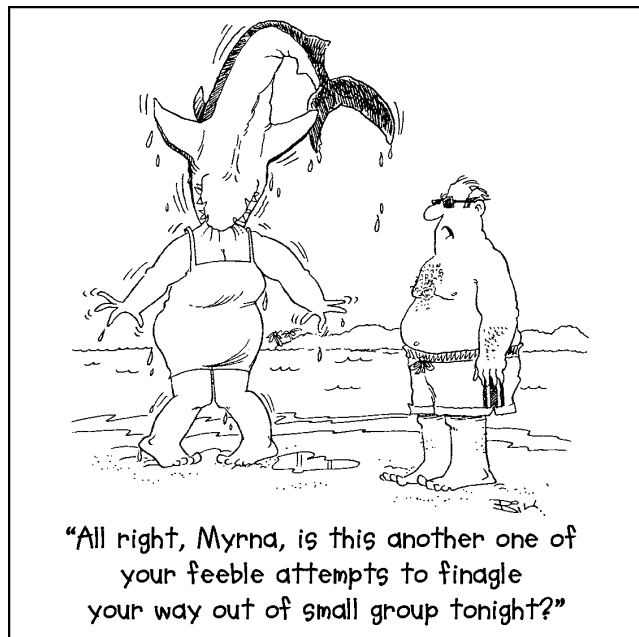
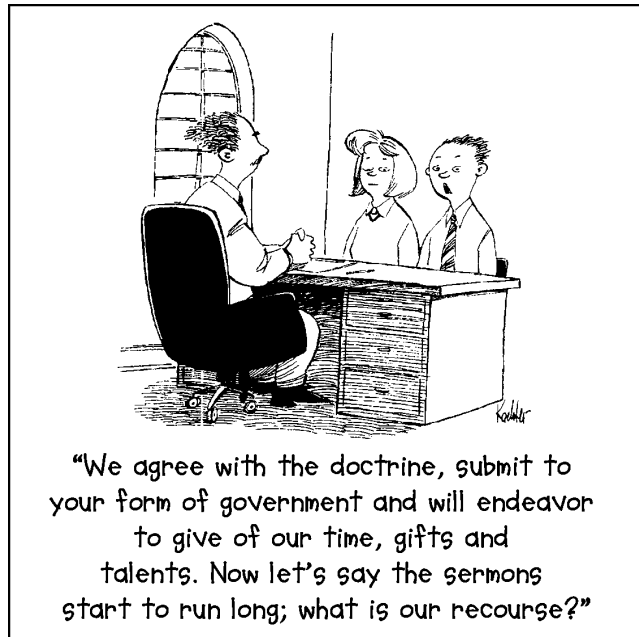
All the classes are listed on our website, as well as on the Parish Education bulletin boards at the church.

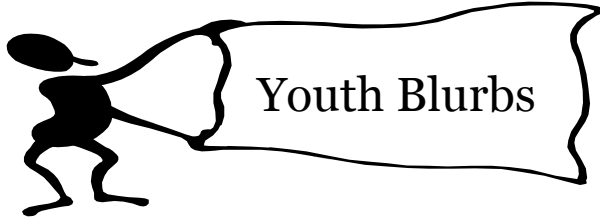
There are also Parish Education folders in the narthex of the sanctuary and on the welcome table in the Family Life Center. Check them out! And JOIN IN!

nothing but NOODLES

Support the 7 & 8 graders at Grace Lutheran School by participating in a fundraising day at Nothing but Noodles on Tuesday, August 2. Eat at either the Whitesburg or University Drive location and mention Grace Lutheran when you pay for your order. The school will receive 10% of receipts to be used towards next year's 7 & 8 class trip to Washington, DC. Go out for lunch or dinner and help send our students to Washington!

Thank you for your support of our last fundraising event at McAlister's Deli in May. We earned over \$400 for the trip! Watch for a restaurant fundraising event for our class trip each month in Grace Notes. Next month we plan to have one at McAlister's Deli on Thursday, September 1.





Our Church offers **one of the best ministries possible to young people: "Faith Mentoring!"** Many studies reveal and the Bible itself agrees that **young people learn about God best when their parents become directly involved** in the faith life of their children. Our ministry utilizes **small groups, Youth Counselors, and parents** attending with their youth to **learn, play, and serve together. It is called:**

"Faith Journey"

**for Middle School and Senior High Youth
Wednesday Nights, begins August 24, 2011
6:00-7:30 p.m., in the Annex
(Wed. Night Supper, 5:15-5:45 p.m.)**

IMPORTANT KICK-OFF EVENT!

**Faith Journey – Orientation Meeting for
Parents of Youth, Grades 6-12
Wednesday, August 17, 2011
7:00 p.m., in the Annex**

Each Wednesday night, Faith Journey kicks off with: a guest-speaker with a faith story, a drama by some of our high school youth, a basics-of-the-faith Bible lesson using hands-on visuals, and small-group time for parents and youth to share some "faith talk" on what it means, and a special "Youth Night" for our 8th-12th Grade Youth! Faith Journey is open to any family, (with a 6-12th Grader,) who wants to grow in their faith in God and have an awful lot of fun in the process!

SENIOR YOUTH SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS

(For all those entering Grades 9-12.)

Saturdays – as scheduled, 7:30-11:00 p.m.

Bring your friends!

Bring \$5 each time for pizza and drinks.

Dates: July 30 & Aug. 13 at Youth Center.

SUPER SATURDAY NIGHT !

**For Middle School & Senior Youth, Grades 6-12+
Saturday, Aug. 27, 7:00-9:30 p.m.**

In the Family Life Center Gym & Youth Center !!!

***FREETIME IN THE YOUTH CENTER!**

*Open gym, basketball, games, friendship, food, fun!

*Christian Growth & Prayer

*Video games, foosball, pool, Rock Band, Wii!

*Everyone in Grades 6-12+ is invited to come and bring friends!

*Please bring brownies, cookies, or a snack to share.

LEADERSHIP QUEST II

July 22-31, 2011

**Camp Wilderness North
in Brimson, Minnesota**

We have 2 youth, 1 young adult, and 2 adult attending this in-depth leadership training camp. Please pray for safe travel and a rich experience!

The Senior Youth 16th Annual

"Welcome Retreat-Canoe Trip"

Mark your calendar: Fri.-Sun., Sept. 2-4, 2011
on the Buffalo River, Waynesboro, Tenn.

This entire weekend has been planned to welcome our new 9th Graders into Grace's Senior High Youth! This trip is a blast; you won't want to miss it! We will meet to leave at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, stop to eat supper, travel to Waynesboro. This event will feature: tent camping, campfires, Bible study, good food, canoeing and swimming in the river, and an outdoor Church service. **WE ARE IN NEED OF PARENTS TO ATTEND AND HELP; SEE KEVIN BRANDON!** To register, forms will be available Aug. 14 on Kevin's Office door. Sign them and return them with \$55 fee **BY SUNDAY, AUG. 24!**