

Grace Notes

November 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I could hardly believe my eyes this morning as I sat down to pen another edition of our infamous Grace Notes, when I turned the page of my calendar to discover the month of November and how quickly 2011 is coming to a close. With Thanksgiving just around the corner and Christmas not far behind, I couldn't help but wonder where this year has gone! I am sure many of you are saying the same!

It's only as we begin to look back and consider where we've been in the past, that we can move forward into the future. That's one of the things that I love about November and the celebration of Thanksgiving! It provides the opportunity for us to pause and thank God for the many wonderful blessings with which He's showered our lives and our congregation this past year.

I can't help but think back to Luther's Small

Catechism where he defines in the First Article of the Apostles' Creed that "God has made me and all creatures; He has given me body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them." Life truly is a blessing of God's grace for which each one of us can be thankful.

I think back to how Luther explained it further when he said, "He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil." Given our economic conditions with unemployment and growing job loss in our own community, I know that for many holding on to that promise and truth of God's Word can be challenging. And yet I know from my own experience with unemployment, trusting that

...continued on page 2



Thanksgiving



Communion

November 23, 2011 at 7:00 PM

From the Pastor's Desk

promise opened new doors of opportunity and faith as God provides for our daily needs.

Finally, it all comes together at the end of that Article when he states, "All this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!" There is nothing worthy in and of ourselves that God should do this or provide for us, but He does out of His fatherly goodness and mercy in Christ. Fostering in us the only plausible response there is that says, "Thank You!"



I invite you to join with me in giving thanks to God for His blessings in our special Thanksgiving Worship Service with Holy Communion on Wednesday, November 23, 2011, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Invite your family and friends and together celebrate the goodness of God among us. As Paul reminds in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus!"

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Blair Clark

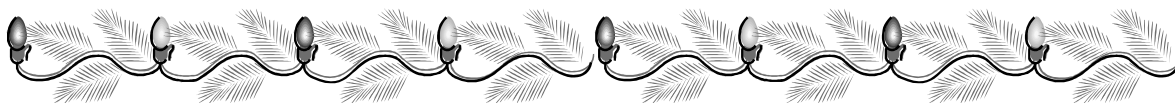
Thrivent Youth Christmas Workshop Addresses Needed for Those Receiving Cookie Boxes:



The Thrivent-Sponsored Youth Christmas Workshop is coming! The focus for our project is :

- *A. Grace Young Adults in College, living away from greater Huntsville, (single, first 5 years out of HS)
- *B. Grace Young Adults in Military, living away from greater Huntsville, (single, first 5 years out of HS)
- *C. Grace Military, any age, in/near Iraq or Afghanistan, (military or civilian-serving-military)

Please, if you know someone who fits this description, please bring us their address so that we can send some cookies to them! Please contact Kevin Brandon, YM, cell 256-797-3110.





Foster
Community

Foster Community Update

Iglesia de la Comunidad 3rd Anniversary

Grace was recognized and presented with a certificate, at Iglesia's 3rd anniversary celebration, for contributing to the success of their mission. They thank us for *Making a Difference* in the quality of their lives.

Donations from Grace

Thanks to Kelly and Dot Grounds and Judy Gibson for meeting basic needs in the Foster community with their generous donations.

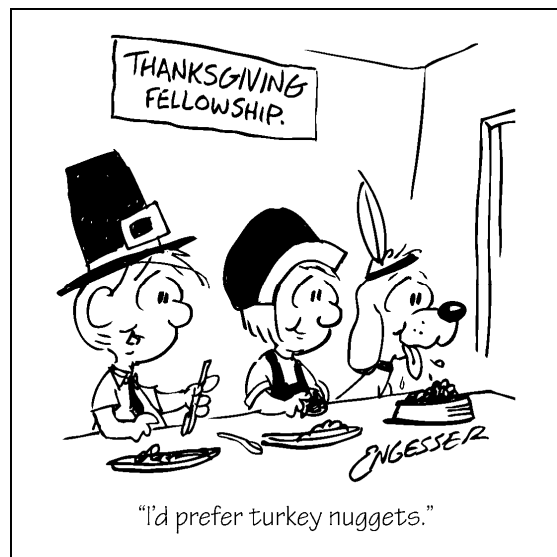
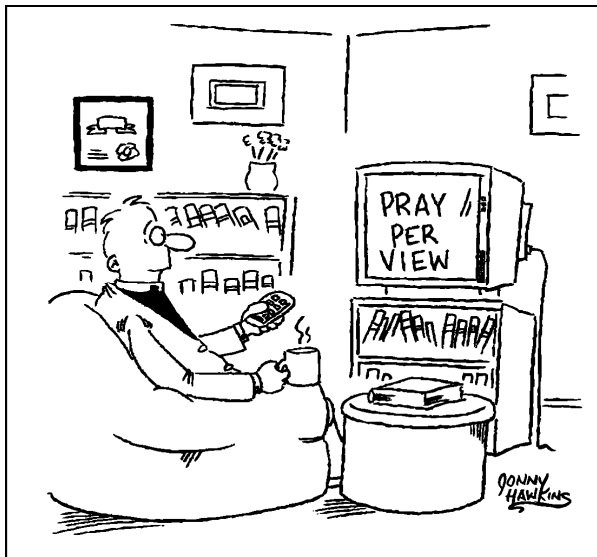
Your contributions were appreciated very much!

You Made a Difference!

Halloween

Grace is gathering Halloween treats for the children at Iglesia. This way the children do not have to go out for Trick or Treat.

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



The Principal's Corner

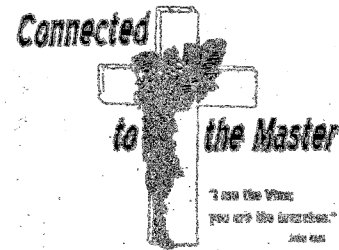
"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). God's word through the Apostle Paul challenges us to look at intentional ways of service by having us challenge each other towards helping God's children to know Him through the outpouring of our hearts, gifts, and talents. November's "Be the Church" activity is a good reminder of the need to work out our active faith walk in Christ.



This year our school is adding an intentional dimension of service in order to effectively educate our youth on the importance of service. During the week of November 1-4 each grade will be involved in our community in an effort to "Be the School" as we intentionally educate our youth by doing acts of service.

- **Pre-K, Kin, 1st grade:** Thank you cookies for our fire and police departments.
- **2nd grade:** Attend the Garden of Huntsville Assisted Living.
- **3rd grade:** Work on Operation Shoe Box for Children in Need.
- **4th grade:** Attend the Whitesburg Assisted Living
- **5th grade:** Work on decorations for assisted living homes and Operation Shoe Box for Children in Need.
- **6th grade:** Focus on Backpack Lunches for Poor Children in Need teaming up with Trinity Methodist.
- **7th grade:** Focus on Backpack Lunches for Poor Children in Need teaming up with Trinity Methodist.
- **8th grade:** Focus on Backpack Lunches for Poor Children in Need teaming up with Trinity Methodist.
- **Middle School Leadership Clubs:** Painting wheelchair ramps for CASA.
- **Cooking Life Skills Class:** Work on making casserole dishes for the Blount House.

As educators we are excited, and honored that God has given us

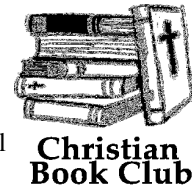


an opportunity "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Ephesians 4:12). As we push for new opportunities for our students to learn and put into practice new and exciting skills we are truly excited to announce that our school has been awarded a \$9,850 grant from Goldenrod Research Corporation. This grant is designed to offset a \$19,700 Robotic Technology Integration System for our school. Such innovative technology will give Grace Student's another avenue of real world experience of how to problem solve, use team work, communication, mathematics, and physics through advanced robotic technology. As we look to secure the other half of the funds for this wonderful program please prayerfully consider donating to the cause. God certainly has given us opportunities and challenges, we are certainly blessed as we continue to roll up our sleeves and move forward in faith.

Serving His Kingdom,
Josh Swartz

Christian Book Club Meeting

The Christian Book Club will Meet on Nov. 9 at 10 a. m. in the Church Library.
We will be discussing THE RED TENT by Anita Diamant. The book for December will be A TREASURE OF CHRISTMAS MIRACLES by Karen Kingsbury.



Grace Lutheran School Fundraiser Wreaths and Garland



Wreaths:

12-14" BOXWOOD – \$24

12-14" FRASER FIR – \$16

16-20" FRASER FIR – \$20

20-22" FRASER FIR – \$24

MAILBOX SWAG – \$18

16-18" BOXWOOD – \$30

Garland:

25' FRASER FIR – \$30

**All greenery is hand tied from fresh Fraser Fir
and comes directly from the grower.**

Wreaths and garland from the supplier of the Biltmore Estates Christmas decorations!

Proceeds support the 7th and 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. Orders must be placed by Oct. 31st and will be available for pick-up at Grace Lutheran School on Nov. 27th and 28th.

Vision Planning Workshop on Saturday, October 29!

A special word of thanks and appreciation are expressed to all of those who assisted with our Community Research Sunday which was held on October 16, 2011. We were blessed with a beautiful day that included more than 75 members dispersing throughout our community participating in prayer walks, community surveys, on-the-street-interviews, and business interviews. The early results of that effort are truly exciting as we begin to see a number of trends for ministry opportunity.

You can still take part in that process and stop by the church office, pick up a map and survey form, and please return all information no later than October 24.

The second part of that process will be our Vision Planning Workshop which will be held on Saturday, October 29, from 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. in the Annex Assembly Room. The workshop, sponsored and hosted by our Southern District-LCMS, will lead us through a process

interpreting our results and formulating a Vision Statement based upon the needs and opportunities that are unique to Grace Lutheran Church and School for ministry direction. The workshop is open to anyone who would like to attend and provide input into this process along with all church and school staff, faculty, and all board members. All that we ask is that you please try and register in advance with the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Centers or contact the church office.

Fall Congregational Meeting to be Held on Sunday, October 30

The regularly called meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2011, beginning at 1:30 P.M. in the Family Life Annex Assembly Room. The meeting will consist of the sharing of staff and board reports, updates on the

TCN process, financial reports, and future ministry opportunities and direction. We look forward to your active participation and interest in your congregation!



Transforming Churches Network (TCN) Updates

In an effort to keep you informed about the TCN consultation and our progress toward completion of the formal Prescriptions that were approved by the congregation in May, we thought you might like an update on the revisions and progress we made so far.

Prescription #1: Shared Vision

A Visioning Team will be in place no later than September 30, 2011
Jim Kirsch, Judy Zecher, Pastor Blair
Community Research completed no later than October 31, 2011.
Vision Workshop to be held October 29, 2011
Congregational approval of Vision Statement on or before November 30, 2011.

Prescriptions #2 Focused Outreach

Five Interest Groups to begin on or before September 15, 2011.
10 total Interest Groups by May 31, 2012.
(5) Quilters, Sewing, Community Action, Book Club, Cooking (Meeting)
If you have not been contacted for a group, we have no facilitator at this time.
Six (6) Fishing Events:
September 24, 2011.....Outdoor Christian Music Concert
@200 attendance 50 Grace Volunteers/70+ Visitors on site/63 Community Members in
Drawing/3 Visitors on Sunday/2 families continue to worship now
October 22, 2011.....LOG Autumn Tea
November 5, 2011.....Youth Garage Sale
November 6, 2011.....Be the Church Outreach

Prescriptions #3: Accountability for Ministry Goals

Ministry goals of all staff shall be submitted to the Church Council by the Senior Pastor and presented to the Church Council on (July 1, 2011/revised to November 10, 2011)
Goals to be established for Jan 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Prescription #4 Financial Stewardship and Accountability

September 30, 2011 Formal policy statement addressing monthly financial reporting to the congregation.
Late - Current policy under review for revision and adoption.

Prescription #5 Campus Appearance

June 30, 2011.....First Impressions Team
August 2011.....First Impressions Team Formation
Jim Kirsch, Craig Camealy, Ron Schmitz, Roger Meyer, Josh Swartz, Pastor Blair Clark
Major Roof Repairs, School Blitz Weekends, Landscape Improvements, Outside Buildings Painted, and more to come.



GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	2. peanut praise pear	3. temple house LORD	4. proclaim past present	5. name boy lad	6. ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	8. train nations bus	9. done donut muffin	10. Sing Sleep Yawn	11. she him girl	12. sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	14. red all blue	15. horrible dreadful wonderful	16. acts sisters aunts		

" _____ to the _____, _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ ." PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.





The BUZZZ is back

BEE THE CHURCH SUNDAY

November 6, 2011

Please Donate for Be the Church (Nov 6) Projects

Place Items in PINK Containers Located at Church Entrances

Items needed for homeless and emergency room snack boxes:

- 300 small cans of meat, fish or chicken
- 300 packages of pre-wrapped crackers (peanut butter or cheese)
- 300 packages of pre-wrapped dessert (cookies or snack cakes)
- 300 6 oz. cans or boxes of juice
- 300 individual fruit cups
- 300 boxes / sturdy bags for the snacks (see project lead for details)

Items needed for snack boxes and thirsty workers:

- 200 snack items for the hungry workers
- 500 bottles of water for snack boxes and thirsty workers

Money needed to buy project supplies:

- Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church / memo 'Be the Church'

Sign up to volunteer or be a project manager.

Thanks for Making a Difference

The BUZZZZ is back **Bee the Church**

is Sunday

November 6, 2011

OPPORTUNITIES:

Sign Up for Project Manager or Project

Support Roles:

Prayer

Yard work

Cooking, serving

Singing

Exterior repairs

Interior repairs

Painting

Assemble snack boxes

Deliver

Make greeting cards



Monetary Donations-Make checks out to

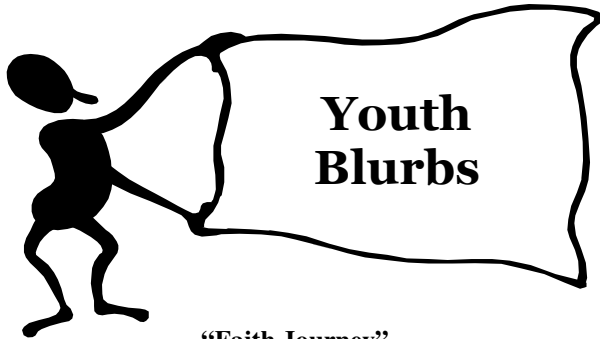
Grace Lutheran Church and put *Be the Church* in the memo line.

Put your donation of supplies in Pink Donation boxes.

Applications for assistance (to be put on the project list) are in the Grace Church office.

Thanks for **Making a Difference**





“Faith Journey”
for Middle School and Senior High Youth
Wednesday Nights
6:00-7:30 p.m., in the Annex
(Wed. Night Supper, 5:15-5:45 p.m.)
Oct. 26 SERVANT EVENT NIGHT
Nov. 2 Learning Night: Old Test. Overview II
Nov. 9 DREAM TEAM & 8th Grade with Pastor
Nov. 16 Learning Night: New Test. Overview
Thanksgiving & Christmas Break -
Jan. 4 Learning Night: The Gospel
Jan. 11 SERVANT EVENT NIGHT
Jan. 18 Learning Night: 5th Commandment
Jan. 25 DREAM TEAM & 8th Grade with Pastor

At each session, 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!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
CHURCHWIDE Garage sale !
Sponsored by the Senior Youth
Sat., Nov. 5, 9:00-3:00 p.m., in the Gym
We will start collecting items on the STAGE,
beginning Sun., Oct. 23.
Unfortunately, we do not have the room to
collect items before this date.
Thank you for your great support!

Please pray for our youth & parents attending:
10th ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH
FALL RETREAT
Fri.-Sun., Oct. 21-23, at Horn’s Creek, Ocoee TN

MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH
SERVANT EVENT: CHRISTMAS
WORKSHOP
Sun., Nov. 13, 4:00-7:00 PM, in the FLC Gym
A Regional Lutheran Youth Event
SENIOR YOUTH MOVIE NIGHTS
(For all those entering Grades 9-12.)
Sat., Oct. 29, 7:00-10:30 pm
In the Youth Center
Bring your friends!
Bring \$5 for pizza and drinks.
Coming Dates: Sat., Nov. 19; Fri., Dec. 30

Senior Youth & Parents – Plan to be there for
“GARAGE SALE SET-UP NIGHT”
Fri., Nov. 5, 6:00-9:00 p.m., in the Old Gym

THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH AND
PARENTS FOR THEIR RECENT SERVANT
EVENTS

*6th Graders brought a meal and large card to someone recovering from surgery.
*7th Graders brought by some treats to someone expecting a child.
*8th Graders brought a meal to a family in memory of their loved one.
*9-12th Graders served as parking attendants at the Arison Concert.
*Our Youth Ministry for recently providing the Foster Hispanic congregation with puppets, a stage, and lots of Spanish puppet tapes, enabling them to carry out a new puppet ministry!



Ladies of Grace



The 1st Annual Ladies Autumn was a great success with 15 tables and more than 100 attending. We are looking forward to next year's Tea as a "fishing" event and part of Grace's TCN program.

THE CIRCLES OF LOG

Agape Circle is 6th to 12th grade girls and their moms. They meet at church on the 3rd Sunday of odd months. Contact Karen Tomkovich at 256-489-2741

Peace Circle meets in homes the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Contact Pam Stieglitz at 256-533-3444.

Hope Circle meets in the Church Library on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Contact Karen Crout at 256-725-2874.

Charity Circle meets in member homes on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Joyce McClure at 256-883-

Faith Circle meets in the Church Parlor on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Contact Rita Lange at 256-828-1084.

Many Thanks!

To the congregation,

I thank you for the many cards and especially your prayers for my health.

The operation was a success and I am on the mend. It was uplifting and a comfort to know so many people were praying for me during this latest medical procedure.

The Lord bless you!

Bill Zecher



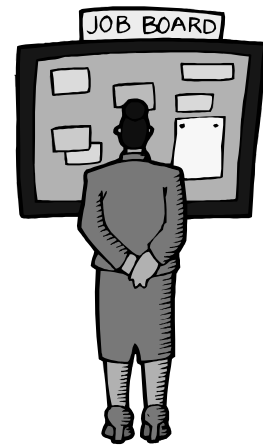


Job Opportunity

We are needing someone to fill in for the Church Secretary when she takes her vacation time. It will consist of four weeks out of the year. This is a paid position. Some requirements for the job include:

- Have a heart and desire to serve the Lord
- Office support experience
- Knowledge in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher
- Organized, focused individual
- Ability to maintain accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive, and confidential files and records
- Adept in member relations with the ability to handle and resolve issues
- Team-oriented
- Utilize graphics software and database applications
- Receive visitors and telephone calls
- Receive, review, sort, and distribute incoming mail
- Utilize word processing software to create, format, modify, and print various documents
- Organize and efficiently process bulk mailings

Please send your resume to the Church Office if you are interested in helping out.



Those Serving in the Month of November

8:00 AM

Elders

Terry Miller

Ushers

Larry Woellhart

Jon & Pam Stieglitz

Greeters

Nov 6 Jack & Wanda Hengel

Nov 13 Frank & Carol Childs

Nov 20 Paul & Shirley Counts

Nov 27 Bob & Sabina Wank

Sound & Video Operators

Nov 6 Tommy Presley

Nov 13 Harvey Lange

Nov 20 Bill McFerrin

Nov 27 David Zecher

Acolyte

Nov 6 Zachary Burhans

Nov 13 Amanda Melton

Nov 20 Austin Clark

Nov 27 Amanda Melton

10:45 PM

Bill Zecher

Cameron Muelling

Terry & Sylvia Miller

Doug & Susan Keegan

Matt & Billie Hurst

Eric Larder, Jim Hartmann

Brian Steeve, Kathryn Bradshaw

Ken Ols, Bob Drensek

Andy King, Paul Drensek

Maddie Denis, Robbie Caple

Helen Steeve, Jesse Rullman

Emma, Josh & Sarah Miller

John & Calahan Bloom

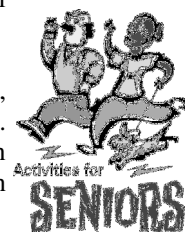


Saints Alive October Events

During November the Saints Alive will be on the road again. On Wednesday November 2nd we will travel to Gadsden, AL. to visit the "Gone With the Wind" museum a museum filled with memories from that wonderful Civil War story. Lunch will follow.

Wednesday, November 16th will find us on the road to Nashville, TN. for a visit to the Parthenon Museum with lunch to follow. Details on both trips will be found on the sign up sheets. Do sign

up to assure you a seat on the van. For more information contact Shirley Vigil or Ron Schmitz.





3321 S. Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35801

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Fax: 256-881-0563
glc@gracelutheran-hsv.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
HUNTSVILLE AL
PERMIT #797

Return Service Requested

GERMAN LUNCHEON

Friday, October 28, 2011

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

A fund-raiser to support Grace Lutheran School

Choice of Menu

Rouladen Sirloin Steak

Red Cabbage, Noodles and Gravy, Homemade Apfel Kuchen

- or -

2 Bratwurst with Sauerkraut, Roll, and Noodles

Homemade Apfel Kuchen

Dine-in at Grace Lutheran School

- or -

Drive-thru, Carry Out, or Delivery to your place of business

Tickets \$12.00 per person

Buy Tickets in advance in school office