

"Grace and peace to you from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Phil. 1:2)

GRACE... to you

April
2014

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Easter – Thank God

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Upcoming Events:

A message from Pastor

Literally, thank God, the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that the Holy Spirit has revealed, confirmed, and assures us that this life is not all there is to live. Why? Because we worked hard enough to save ourselves. No. Because we have emotionally manipulated ourselves to feel that there is nothing wrong with us? No.

It is because God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We will die, but not perish forever. When life happens and raves on with broken relationships, self doubt, disease, famine, chaos, terror, and death, we have the One with the power to kill both body and soul in hell that made it so we are no longer condemned by Him.

Let us hold sacred then His Word and gladly hear and learn it as Luther said. For as Peter said, 'Lord, to whom else shall we go for You have the words of eternal life. His Holy Word gives us forgiveness which we need. It gives us healing which we need. It gives us assurance which we. Red and He longs and loves to gives us every day.

In Christ, Pastor Clow

President's Message

Submitted by Claude Hendrickson

It certainly has been a long, cold and snowy winter. Hopefully, with the coming of spring we will see more people in church.

Last year was a very busy year for us. We were able to complete some major projects, however, there are many more that need to be completed.

The following items were completed:

New Roof on the Church and all other roofs were updated

Replace spot lights for the flag pole

Replaced the toilet in the Ladies room upstairs

Removed black mold in Fellowship Room Closets

Repaired fence around oil tanks

Basement Bilco door at the Parsonage was replaced.

Fixed leaky baseboard pipes in the church

Handicap Lift was fixed

Light in the Court Yard was replaced

However, there are more projects that need to be taken care of.

They include:

Handicapped Ramp

Repave Parking Lot

Repair Parking Lot lights

Relevel sidewalk cement

Repair & paint moldings around all stained glass windows

Dampness in wall in Fellowship room needs to be taken care of

Fix water line to the Pavillion

Paint cubboards in the Kitchen

Replace counter tops in Kitchen

Repair and allow windows to open/close in Library and upper classroom

Repaint rest of crosswalks

Parsonage - Scrape & paint exterior parsonage windows

Pavillion - Fix sill around rotted door, remove mold

Pavillion - Replaced the lower boards that are not in good condition

Paint the Pavillion

Establish Storage Space

We really need your support in donating to the Building Fund Envelopes to help us take care of getting these projects completed.

We will also be resuming our Tag Sales. We are grateful for those who donated materials to us last year. We would welcome donations again this year as we plan on continuing the Tag Sales. Thanks to all who gave and all who helped us at the Tag Sale.

Stewardship Commission

Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger

Thank you to Hope Lintz for hosting the Stewardship Commission at her house for our meeting in February. We plan to continue our monthly Stewardship focus teaching others about Time, Talent and Treasure.

February's object lesson for the children was presented by Nancy Ruffino. It was very well received. At our meeting we discussed using the microphone so others in the church family can hear the message as well.

In March, the Stewardship focus for the congregation was on budgeting, with a handout from Dave Ramsey of Financial Peace University. The handout offered excuses people give for not preparing a budget. I will try and follow up with a budget planning worksheet.

We briefly introduced the children to the 10 - 10 - 80 plan, where 10% is shared, 10% is saved and 80% is used for spending. In Nancy's absence, I reviewed the lesson she started last month with the coins and the large mixing bowl. When one coin was dropped, it made a small noise. When all the children dropped their coins, a large noise was made. When children work together to give of their money to the Lord, it can make a big impact. When three or four people find it in their hearts to give to others, it pleases God and can make a difference.

We plan on providing offering envelopes so that the children can share a portion of their money weekly with the Lord during the offering. I am also researching if Thrivent or LCEF have piggy banks for the kids. I heard they donated some for the Preschool kids.

We felt that by teaching the youngest members of our church family, we will be helping to create good habits that we pray will stay with them for their lifetime.

Preschool Page



Preschool News

Submitted by Lisa Mentlick, Director

After a long, snowy winter, we are looking around us for God's signs that spring is on its way, and we have many exciting activities planned.

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair begins on March 30th and will feature many book titles, including books for Easter. We will also be selling Spring plants in mid-March.

We have begun to register for the 2014-2015 school year. Copies of the new brochure are now available and include information about our Extended Day program. If you or anyone you know might be interested in our program, please check the Preschool link on the Church website or call the school.

We are once again holding a Summer Program. During the weeks of June 16-20, June 23-27 and July 7-11, children ages 3 (by 12/31/14 and toilet trained) to 6 may enroll, by the week or by the day. Registration forms and more information are in the downstairs hallway. Please call with any questions.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our fundraisers so far this school year. Have a great month!

Parking Lot Safety

Please drive carefully and make an effort to inform guests and newcomers of our parking lot safety rules. Remember that traffic flows **one way at all times**. Only cars with valid Handicap permits from the State of Connecticut should park in those designated Handicap spaces. Also, in the lower lot, remember to park facing the building, so you will not be backing up into people walking to and from their cars. Safety is a year round effort. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with this important safety matter.

We won!!!

We are proud to announce that we received a 2014 Macaroni Kid's Award for Best Preschool in the Middletown area!

Fundraiser\$

Capri Sun Juice Pouches, Used Ink Cartridges, Cell Phones and Tyson Products

Please continue to save and donate empty Capri Sun **juice pouches**, and **used cell phones and ink cartridges**. Collection boxes remain in the downstairs hallway year round. We are also now saving labels from **Tyson** products. A collection envelope is to the left of the PS office door, tacked onto the bulletin board.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

March 30th-April 13th
Fellowship Room
Open week days and after Sunday service!

Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool Baseball Day

Save the date:
Rock Cats Game
Sunday, June 1st
1:35pm
New Britain Rock Cats
vs.
Binghamton Mets

Notes

Heiney Updates

Dear Friends,

With all our travels, the letter is a bit late. Sorry! But lots of great stuff this past month. Thanks for all your encouragement this past month. We really appreciate it.

<http://newsletters.guineamission.com/February2014.pdf>

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

By Reverend Wayne Palmer

"By Day and By Night"

March 15, 2014

Lenten devotion cover 2014 Read Psalm 88.

TEXT: O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest (Psalm 22:2).

Jesus was crucified around nine in the morning. He speaks briefly three times in those early daylight hours, but most of the time He hangs silently. But even in His silence He is crying out to His Father through His groans and tears. Three hours later the world is plunged into unnatural night as the sun stops shining. Crushed beneath the load of our sins and the fiery wrath of our God it must have felt like eternity for Him. In the unnatural darkness His moans cry out to heaven. But His Father gives Him no rest, no relief- just the bitter pangs of hell striking Him in wave after wave.

Sometimes sickness or pain, troubles and fears, guilt or torment grip us. No matter what we try we can't escape the pain night or day. We plead to God to give us relief and help, but we find little or no change, whether it's daytime or nighttime.

Perhaps today is such a time for you.

It is in these times that Jesus encourages us to follow His example, to keep crying out day and night. He promises, "Will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily" (see Luke 18:7-8).

Very soon Jesus will complete His payment for our sins. His suffering will cease and He will be in Paradise forever. Soon God will relieve your burden, and give you times of rest and peace. In the meantime, keep crying out to Him in faith.

THE PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your indescribable pain and agony You cried out to Your Father from the cross. Give me grace to keep praying night and day. Amen.

Falling For 5 Budgeting Myths by Dave Ramsey of Financial Peace

"If you don't believe in something, you'll fall for anything." That's the lyric to an old country song, and it makes sense—though it makes you wonder what someone who believes in [car leasing](#) might fall for.

Anyway, you know us, and you know we want you to believe in [budgeting](#)—if for no other reason than the fact that it works! The worst part about the budget *isn't* that it's difficult (because it's not). The worst part is all the misunderstanding and myths floating out there about *why* you shouldn't budget.

If you're smart—and we think you are—then you'll **let go of these myths, excuses and misunderstandings**, and you'll take control of your money.

1. I don't have the time to budget.

For the first few months, you might spend a couple of hours a month getting your budget down. After that, it's pretty much smooth sailing. You're simply plugging in numbers and letting math do the rest.

So if you're currently not doing a budget because you "don't have the time," then your priorities must be out of whack. Because if you're too busy to make your money situation a higher priority, then we would be curious to see what you *do* have the time for.

2. Budgeting is boring.

You would be amazed at how many grown adults don't make a budget every month because it's "boring." **You know what else is boring?** Credit cards statements. And bankruptcy court. And [collector calls](#). . . . Actually, those aren't very boring.

If you're a [Free Spirit](#) and can't stand the thought of putting a budget together, take a breath. You can do this. Once you get the hang of it, making a budget isn't all that bad! Get your [Nerd](#) spouse or a friend to help you out.

3. Making a budget is difficult math, and I hate math.

This isn't rocket science. If you can do basic third-grade math, you can make a budget. You have your income and your outgo, and they need to equal zero. Hey, it's a poem!

Seriously, this is a really lame excuse. [Use one of our budget forms](#) to help you get started and make the math a little easier. But don't stay away from the budget because "the math is too hard." It's not.

4. I do a budget in my head.

If you can seriously do a [zero-based budget](#) in your head every single month, we'll assume you are the most brilliant person on the planet. **Could you please help our government make a budget?**

A budget in your head isn't a budget. It's just a kinda-sorta-I've-got-a-vague-idea-of-what-I-spend deal-ish thing. To work, a budget needs to be on paper or a spreadsheet or something you can maintain monthly and track. Besides that, if you're married and doing a budget in your head, then only one of you is involved in the decision making, and that's a definite no-no!

5. I budget by keeping track of every thing I spend.

That's a start, but it's not a budget. Because when you only track spending, then you're always **looking at the past and never looking forward**.

Your budget is your plan for the upcoming month. You're planning the money you haven't spent *yet*. When you keep receipts or use your online banking to see what you spent *last month*, you're doing just that—looking at last month. Look forward *and* back—not just one or the other. If you're already tracking your spending, the budget is just a natural next step. It should be easy for you.

It's sad that so many people have fallen for these budgeting myths and excuses. The good news is that you don't have to be one of them.

When it comes to your money, you definitely don't want to be someone who will "fall for anything." Take control of your money by [taking control of your budget](#).

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm PreSchool Board	2	3 7pm Musicians	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	7	8	9	10 7pm Musicians	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	14 6pm Board of Directors	15	16 1:30pm Senior Communion Service	17 7pm Musicians	18	19
20 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion	21	22	23	24 5pm Elders Mtg 7pm Musicians	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	28	29	30			