

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

GRACE... to you

May
2014

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The Resurrection

A message from Pastor

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Upcoming Events:

What gave the disciples the willingness to die for what they knew, what led to the great turn of beliefs for skeptics like James, the brother of Jesus, and Saul, what caused the huge shift in social structures for large segments of the Jewish population that have been followed for centuries by the Jews, what precipitated the observance of Holy Communion and Christian Baptism, and what happened for the amazing emergence and growth of the church of Christ? Jesus Christ rose from the dead and appeared to people. They had seen the risen Lord!

The world still has skeptics and unbelief. However, in Christ through examining the Scriptures and teaching, people's hearts and minds can be transformed. In books like The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel and How Christianity Changed the World by Rev. Alvin J. Schmidt (LCMS), they lay out for the world what is already known by faith - that historically and factually by virtue of going where the evidence leads, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Read again what John wrote as a witness to the resurrection.

John 1:¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Easter Season continues through most of May, so we focus on our new life in Christ. As God gives us visuals to this new life all around us in the green grass, growing flowers, new buds and leaves on the trees, see anew His love that moves us to bloom and grow in our faith. As we water our plants and gardens, we are reminded of Baptism that saves us by the resurrection of Christ. Let us rely on Jesus to move us to protect our faith by rejoicing in His victory over our sin and death, by coming regularly to prayer, Bible Study, and worship.

In Christ, Pastor Elow

President's Message

Submitted by Claude Hendrickson

At the last meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee we felt the next project that required immediate attention were the stain glass windows. The windows are in really poor shape and need to be painted. There are also a couple of windows that need to have their cases replaced. Maintenance on the windows has never taken place and now there is a lot of work that needs to be done. We are currently receiving bids from several companies.

Also, in bad repair is our parking lot. We need to have the back lot and the hill repaved. It would also require some safety lines and handicapped spaces in designated areas. The water line to the pavilion would also needs to be replaced at the same time before the back lot is repaved. With being blest with many children in our preschool, at least seventy five cars come though the lot at least two times a day for five days. Also, we have other groups along with our Sunday members cars also using the lots.

Constitution Committee: Thea Church Constitution is being reviewed. The committee consists of Joe Rosenthal, Chair, and members Lois puissant, Elsie Jeannette, Joyce Swokla, Rhonda Stevens, Sam Eddinger and Henry Wong. Any suggestions of questions, please contact Chair Joe Rosenthal.

Church Project & Repairs: Please be aware that any project, repairs to the church must have required approval of the Church Board of Directors as stated in the Constitution before any money can be spent.

We will be starting our Tags Sales on a monthly basis with the first one, weather permitting May 3, 2014. If you have anything to donate and it needs to be picked up please feel free to call me at 860-967-6174. I will come and pick up anything that you have or arrange to meet you so your can drop things off at a time good for you.

Building Envelopes - Please folks, if you can put a few dollars each week in the Building Fund Envelopes at the end of the year it would add up so that we may continue to do our projects and get the church back in excellent condition.

Education Commission

Submitted by Rhonda Riggott Stevens

Sundays at Grace Lutheran

9:30-10:30 AM **Worship with Acoustic and Organ Services**

10:30-11:00 AM **Coffee Hour in Fellowship Room**

11:00-12:00 Noon **Adult Bible Study - Fellowship Room**

10:45-11:15 AM **Kids' Music - Sanctuary**

11:15-12:00 Noon **Sunday School & Youth Group**

Youth Group, Grades 7-12, Youth Room

Middle Level, Grade 3-6, Upper classroom

Lower Grades, Preschool-2, Lower classroom

Parents with their babies and toddlers enjoy fellowship time in the after-care preschool room.

Monthly Update

Sunday School Curriculum...All age groups continue their studies using the Growing in Christ Series. We are now working with the Spring curriculum. All children are invited to attend. Your children and grandchildren can jump in at any time and feel right at home!

Youth Group...Students in grades 7-12 are invited to attend lively and interesting discussions about the role faith plays in their lives in a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment. Janina Eddinger and Lydia Asante continue to teach Youth Group on alternating months. Mike Stevens will continue his lessons throughout the year on Christian apologetics (the discipline of defending a religious position through the systematic use of information). The Youth Group is reading Kisses from Katie. "Katie went on short mission trip to Uganda at the age of eighteen. Today she lives in Uganda, where she is the adoptive mother of fourteen little girls." Students can jump in at any time and feel right at home!

The GELC Youth Ministry Philosophy...Our youth ministry exists to **reach out** to all Christian youth and those who have yet to **find** Christ, to **connect** students with each other, to make them **feel connected**, to help them **strengthen** their faith, to **challenge** them to **grow** as individuals and members of a Christian community, to **encourage** them to **share** their talents and gifts, to **discover** their ministry in the community and the larger world, and to **honor** God in their thoughts, words and deeds.

Youth Room Update...The new Youth Room is up and running! It is located on the second floor, next to Pastor's office. If you have not been to Youth Group in a while, come visit us. ☺ The next task is painting and putting up new shades. Please consider volunteering your time and talents.

VBS July 14th through 18th 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon...The theme this summer is *Weird Creatures*. Katie Stevens is taking the lead on organizing this event. She has put up signs and Lisa Mentick is sending out "Save the Date" and Registrations to Pre-School parents. Contact us to enroll your children or grandchildren. Volunteers of all ages always needed too.

Sunday School Teachers...For the month of April: Katie Stevens has taken the first two weeks and Daniel Stouffer will take the second two for grades pre K-2. Rhonda Stevens will teach grades 3-6 group for the month of April.

Sunday School Parent Meeting on 3.16.14 ...We held a parent meeting with the 3-6 grade parents to talk about fund raising, the Youth Gathering, Easter Festival, VBS, Easter Breakfast and painting the Youth Room. Thank you to all those who attended.

Nomads Adventure Quest on 3.1.14...We had a great turn out at Bertucci's and Nomads Adventure Quest in South Windsor! Kids enjoyed laser tag, bumper cars, rock climbing, bouncy house, arcade games, mechanical bull, and the spinning tea cup ride. Kids and parents had a wonderful time. Join us for the next one!

Easter Festival on 4.12.14: 10-12:00 PM... Attendance: 50 children. Kids had a great time! They decorated cupcakes, crafted, dyed Easter eggs, had an egg hunt and sang and danced to Pastor Clow playing the guitar. Special thanks Kerry Hart and her family for organizing the event and setting everything up Friday night. Thank you to Pastor Clow, Mike Stevens, Lucy Yeboeh, Janina Eddinger, Christine Kline and Sarah Steuerwald for all of their help too.

Easter Breakfast 4.20.14...We updated the large three fold sign and two posters for this year (For Narthex and Fellowship Room). Sign-ups for food donations and working Friday, Saturday and Sunday are in the Fellowship Room. Volunteer Times:
4.18 Friday 2-6 - set up.
4.19 Saturday 2-6 - set up and food preparation.
4.20 Sunday 5:15 AM though Noon - food preparation and clean-up.

Mark Your Calendars...

Youth & Family Activities - *Fun and Fellowship for All Ages!*

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event
May	15 th	Thursday	5:30 - 8:00 PM	<i>Acoustic Night</i> at Perk on Main café in Durham. Featuring GELC's Adult and Youth Bands. Come out for a night of great music, food and fellowship!
June	28th	Saturday	11:00 AM -	<i>Lake Compounce</i> in Bristol Water park, rides, games and food. ☺

Stewardship Commission

Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger

Thank you to Alice Reitz from Thrivent Financial for donating piggy banks to the children for our object lesson this month. We also appreciate her being available during coffee hour and bringing a cake to share.

April's object lesson for the children was presented by Sam and Ariana Eddinger. They shared about a lemonade stand and how the money earned was divided. Ariana earned \$11.00. She used six dollars to pay for the sugar and lemons and with the money left, gave twenty five cents in a church offering, saved seventy five cents, and even had a dollar to spend at the candy store. She may buy more lemons, sugar and cups for her next business venture with the rest. The object lesson was very well received.

We plan on providing offering envelopes in May so that they can bring in the "share" money for the Lord during a special offering in June.

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.

The kids also got a Thrivent magazine to take home to their parents that go along with the piggy banks. These were passed out in Sunday School.

Notes

Heiney Update

Many of you have been asking about how you can continue to support us. Before now we didn't really have an solid answer. Now we do, so we wanted to get the word out as soon as possible. We have applied and have been accepted to work with Global Lutheran Outreach (GLO) to be deployed back to Siguri, Guinea! We're very excited about this.

Our next newsletter (out in the next few day) will give more information on GLO. It was started by two former LCMS missionaries, Jim Tino and Dale Talsma. We've known Dale and his family for many years as he was an LCMS missionary first in Africa, then in South America. GLO works very closely with the local churches in the areas into which they send people. We know that the Guinea church is anxious for us to return, and this will be a great way to make that happen. Please feel free to check out their website using the link below.

As I said, we're currently working on a newsletter and it will have more information on how you can continue to support us, should you feel called to do so. We will be in the US until we have raised the support we need to return to the field. And GLO is working to get us into their system as well. We will pretty much continue doing what we were doing before in Guinea and hope to grow the team there eventually.

More information to follow soon, but we wanted to get the word out quickly since many have been wondering. Meanwhile, please, please pray for the work among the Maninka!

As always, thank you for your prayers and support!

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Musicians	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	5	6 7 pm PreSchool Board	7	8 7pm Musicians	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	12 6pm Board of Directors	13	14	15 7pm Musicians	16	17
18 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion	19	20	21 1:30pm Senior Communion Service	22 5pm Elders Mtg 7pm Musicians	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	26	27	28	29 7pm Musicians	30	31