

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

# GRACE... to you

July/August  
2014

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1055 Randolph Rd Middletown, CT, 06457 | Church (860) 346-2641  
[www.gracemiddletown.org](http://www.gracemiddletown.org) | [grace.evan.lutheran@snet.net](mailto:grace.evan.lutheran@snet.net) | Preschool (860) 346-0766

## God Vacation

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### Upcoming Events:

#### *A message from Pastor*

Summertime... school is out so many families plan vacations, a leaving of one area to go to another... Vacate the premises. Unfortunately, the temptation is to also vacate the church and thereby taking a God vacation. If you are blessed to be on a vacation, even if you can't find a church nearby then hold a family devotion. You can read the Bible and sing a favorite hymn.

Now, the act of going to church does not save you. We are saved by grace through faith with the gift of God in Christ with His death and resurrection. We go to church first and foremost to hear about the forgiveness of our sins. Our help comes from the Almighty merciful God who sustains our faith. Psalm 121:1 *I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.3 He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

We need the encouragement and renewing power of God's Word all year round. Realizing God gives His gifts in church, we can't help but be there to rejoice in Jesus who never takes a vacation from us.

*In Christ, Pastor Clow*

## President's Message

*Submitted by Claude Hendrickson*

At the Board of Directors meeting on Monday, June 16, approval was granted to the Second Phase of property maintenance which includes the parking lot and hill behind the church along with the area on the lower level by the side walk that is not in good condition. Also approved was for snow grids on the roof at the entrance door of the lower level which is used mainly by Preschool. Along with that approval was granted for painting of the stained glass windows along with any needed repairs to the casings. We ask that you thoughtfully consider putting some money in the Building Envelopes. It will be nice not to have to dodge all the pot holes in the back. It is up to all of us to make sure God's house is in good order. Thanking you in advance for your support. There will be a Congregation meeting after church in the Fellowship Room on Sunday July 13.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to help with the church. The following are some of the items:

Lawn Mowing

General Maintenance inside the church: window cleaning, vacuuming, maintaining the rest rooms are some of them.

## From the Music Director

*Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger*

The Sunday School youth presented a Patriotic Program during Worship the last Sunday of Sunday School, June 8. It was well received by the Congregation. I wanted to share the program with you and who were our readers and soloists.

"God Bless America" presented by Grace Lutheran Sunday School Youth

1. Amazing Grace - readings "God Rescues a Rebel" by Janina Eddinger, Nicky Stevens, Mitchell Hart. Solo verses Marvel Kaikai and Nicky Stevens
2. America The Beautiful - readings "A Teacher's Tribute" by Katie Stevens, teacher of the Preschool - Grade 3. Sunday School class with Daniel Stouffer. Solo verse Ashley Clow
3. Battle Hymn of the Republic - readings "A Suffragette's Song for Soldiers" by Janina Eddinger, Anthony Pawlak and TJ Pawlak. Solo verse by Ariana Eddinger
4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Graham Eddinger
5. You're A Grand Old Flag - reading by Jessica Hart
6. God Bless America - reading by Abby Asante

Thank you to Janina Eddinger for helping with the rehearsals and choreographing the motions. Thanks to the parents for all their support of the Sunday School and the Music Lovers at Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you to Katie Stevens, Daniel Stouffer, Lucy Kaikai, Lydia Asante, Janina Eddinger, Rhonda Stevens and Jack Zapatka for sharing their love of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with the children as teachers in our Sunday School.

From the Music Corner:

Ariana Eddinger presented the June 15 Postlude with a duet, Ariana on the Violin, and Bobbi Eddinger, Grandmother, on the piano. Any other Sunday School kids that would like to do solos or duets for Postludes after church, please contact me at 860-670-6530 or by email, Bobbi.Eddinger@gmail.com

## Stewardship Commission

*Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger*

Thank you to Nancy Ruffino for presenting the children's message again this month. She had a three legged stool as her object, and reminded the kids about time and how many minutes there are in a week and treasure, the sound of many coins going into the bow. She reminded the children that everything we have is a gift from God and everyone has the same amount. It is up to each of us to spend some of our time in prayer, worship and telling others about Jesus.

She shared that the third leg of the stool is for Talent. Â God gives each of us something that we are good at and asks us to use these gifts to serve Him. The kids really enjoyed when the stool was missing a leg. Â No one wanted to sit on a two legged stool, but when she added the third leg, they could see how the stool was meant to be. Stewardship is like that three legged stool, Time, Talent and Treasure. It was a great message.

One of the folks in Pastor's Information Class has inquired about being on the Stewardship Commission. He had read that we were looking for new commission members in the Sunday News and Notes. This is how I explained what we do... And we welcome anyone that would like to serve after reading what our commission does to consider joining us.

Our commission's goal for the year was to keep Stewardship in the church family's vision each second Sunday of the month. We do an object lesson about Stewardship with the kids, and often provide something for the adults. This has fallen by the wayside with my crazy schedule in spring, hopefully I can get back to that.

We felt by reaching the youngest of our church family, we might impact their parents. We make sure everyone can hear the message by using the microphone.

We work with Pastor Clow to implement a Stewardship Focus each fall that starts on Reformation Sunday and ends the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Pastor does a sermon

series about Stewardship and we add adult sermon notes as a way to make his message more meaningful.

We facilitate a bi-annual Ministry Fair so that the church family has opportunity to see how they can use their time and talents to serve at our church. ^ The Ministry Fair is scheduled for November 23 this year.

Other than that, we meet periodically to brainstorm and see what additional things can be done to keep Stewardship in the hearts of our church family. ^ Each of us has gifts and how we use them to serve the Lord is what He asks of us.

One of my gifts is the ability to see that things happen as we set goals as a commission. I don't think I have a "Stewardship Gift" but I felt I could serve by heading a commission and having those who want to help join me.

We could sure use your help if you think this might be a good fit for you.

I will be reminding the Board each month about the Stewardship sponsored Ministry Fair during our annual Stewardship Emphasis this year. The date will be November 23.

Great news for the Gospel in India!

My friend, the Rev. Dr. J. Priestly Balasingh, has been elected as president of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Balasingh also serves as Pastor of the Naether Memorial Lutheran church and the Hope Lutheran Church in Bangalore in the midst of a Hindu and Muslim population. Pastor Balasingh will need to travel the breadth of India in his new position to visit and care for the needs of the congregations throughout India. Also, the needs of his home church are many and his travel expenses are extensive. Only a portion of his travel expenses are met by the IELC national organization. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause please contact me at [mike@mestevens.com](mailto:mike@mestevens.com) or see me in church. Thank you, Mike Stevens

## Preschool Page



### Preschool News

*Submitted by Lisa Mentlick, Director*

Another successful school year ended with beautiful weather and great memories. We were so blessed with many wonderful families and staff. I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy summer! Our dedicated staff members were treated to lunch at Amici's Restaurant. Thank you to everyone who participated in all of our fundraisers this year. We raised approximately \$4,334.91 and an additional \$2,040.16 towards the Scholarship Fund. We are hoping to use these funds to purchase and install a sun shelter for the gated play area as well as some additional parking directional signs. To date, our PS has also raised over \$13,000 for St. Jude's!

There are still spaces open for the 2014-2015 school year. If you or anyone you know would like more information, please have them call the school. Brochures are available downstairs or by calling the Preschool.

After the 3 weeks of Summer Camp will be over on July 11<sup>th</sup>. After that, I will be working from my home office on some days. I do check phone messages frequently and get the mail. If anyone needs me for any reason, please don't hesitate to leave a message, call me at home (860-349-0513) or send me an email at (mrsm.graceluthps@comcast.net). Enjoy the summer!

### Volunteers Needed!!!

Preschool officially closes on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Since PS staff clean the bathrooms, and put out trash and recyclables, the Church needs some summer volunteers to take over this cleaning responsibility. Duties would include gathering and emptying all trash and putting it all in the outside barrels along with the recycling bins. Trash is picked up early on Thursday mornings. Also, clean the upstairs and downstairs bathrooms (if PS is closed there will not be any staff here to clean them). It takes approximately 30-45 minutes per week to do. All supplies and cleaning products are here. I would be happy to meet with anyone who would be willing to help out. Last summer no one volunteered and the toilets had black and pink mold in them and flies and maggots were found in the Fellowship Room, due to trash that had sat inside too long. Everyone can help out by cleaning up after themselves, not putting food or diapers in any of the upstairs barrels, and taking large empty boxes and packaging directly to the outside barrels. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for our Church in this way. Thank you- Lisa Mentlick

### Fundraiser\$

#### Capri Sun Juice Pouches, Used Ink Cartridges and Cell Phones

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.

## Property Commission

*Submitted by Chris Hart*

### Items Completed:

- Flag Pole line and Flag replaced
- Church and parsonage boilers cleaned
- Winter lawn damage repaired (by Jamie Parret)
- Checking on Energy evaluation for Church (Lantern Energy -free with no obligation - delayed progress - should have an update soon)
- Initiated Energy Audit for Parsonage (\$90) Lantern Energy (Pastor did this happen?)
- Lawnmower maintenance completed (oil and filter, air filter, gas filter spark plug - work done by Chris)
- Lawnmower Carburetor cleaning by Jamie Parret. (2 hours labor? Maybe rebuild kit is needed due to troubles with operation that started prior to maintenance being done)
- Septic system pumped at Parsonage

### Upcoming Items:

- Repair Pre-school Signage and clean
- Purchase basic small lawnmower for toddler area and small areas (\$150 - **request Board approval**)
- Replace burned out lights in kitchen, preschool areas, and alter spots lights
- Decide what to spend \$50 gift card on. (Lawnmower parts? Flag?)
- Review energy report for Church and decide if next steps - rebates involved
- Look at tree damage at Parsonage
- Get Lawn Schedule for 2014 (We are low on volunteers - Rick and I cannot do it alone. **Request / Suggestion** - we may need to either pay Daniel Stouffer for the summer? Or pay Jamie Parrett on occasion)
- Get quote for painting East Side windows (Claude)
- Get quote for snow slide guards for West side of new roof (Claude)
- Change filters in rooftop units on preschool
- Work with Doug on sound system upgrades (prevent feedback - possible consultant... Progress made with relocating the speaker)
- Determine plan and schedule for parking lot repaving. (**Question** - should we pay to replace the water line running to the pavilion - for use 1-2 days per year? Or abandon it in place? It needs to be 4.5 feet below grade and drained prior to winter to prevent freezing)

## Those Serving

### *Greeters Needed!*

**Date: July 6th**

Elder: Rick Eddinger

Acolytes: Abby Asante

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: July 13th**

Elder: Allen Jensen

Acolytes: Katie Stevens

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: July 20th**

Elder: Jack Zapatka

Acolytes: Dallas Dorman

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: July 27th**

Elder: Rick Eddinger

Acolytes: Jessica Hart

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

***Volunteers needed. Please help.***

## Deadline Reminders:

**Tuesday, 5PM** for that week's Sunday Bulletin

**August 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM** for the September Newsletter

## Altar Flowers:

July 6, 2014

July 13, 2014

July 20, 2014

July 27, 2014

## Volunteers Opportunities

Prayerfully consider filling any of the current requests listed below.

- ✓ **Greeters - Welcome people into worship service - sign up sheet in the narthex.**
- ✓ **Reach out to homebound members: Please check your church directory for address and telephone information.**

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and Preschool

*A family of faith*

*"Sharing Faith, Hope and Love in Christ."*

Saturday Worship Service 5 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service 8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Youth Hour/Bible Study 9:45 a.m.

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<http://www.gracemiddletown.org>

## Those Serving

### *Greeters Needed!*

**Date: August 3rd**

Elder: Allen Jensen

Acolytes: Abby Asante

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: August 10th**

Elder: Jack Zapatka

Acolytes: Katie Stevens

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: August 17th**

Elder: Rick Eddinger

Acolytes: Dallas Dorman

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: August 24th**

Elder: Allen Jensen

Acolytes: Jessica Hart

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

**Date: August 30th**

Elder: Jack Zapatka

Acolytes: TJ Pawlak

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

***Volunteers needed. Please help.***

## Deadline Reminders:

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August 10, 2014

August 17, 2014

August 24, 2014

August 31, 2014

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# July 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 Sunday School Play 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	14 7pm Board of Directors	15 VBS All Week 6-8 pm	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	31 7pm Musicians		

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