

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

GRACE... to you

September
2014

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Blessed to be a Blessing!

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A message from Pastor

Every year or so there is a famous person who utters, "I am not a role model." This is in response to the media digging into an incident of bad behavior. As I have said before in messages, we are role models, witnesses, and missionaries whether we like it or not in this life.

This leads us to the Romans 7 struggle with our imperfections of sin. Even if no one is watching us (which would only happen if we were a hermit in a cave), God is always watching us. We may tend to take this knowledge and back off or be timid in being witnesses of Christ's love. We think that our mistakes, faults, and quirks disqualify us from speaking of God.

Upcoming Events:

Hear God speak on this subject in Ephesians 1:3-4:
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us before creation to be holy and blameless in His sight."

All we need to be witnesses and missionaries (locally and globally) for God, we have been given! God chose you before the creation of the world to give you certain gifts, talents, and dispositions so we share that God chooses imperfect faulty people, forgives them by sending His Son, Jesus, to die and rise in our place, and sends us the Holy Spirit to create faith in us. Thus, in that joy, the Lord will use us to reach out to those who don't understand the Gospel as well as those who do, but have lost their way.

So be encouraged in this for Rally Day and this Fall. The Lord has blessed us 'with every spiritual blessing in Christ', to invite someone to worship and Bible Study. What good news we have to share. How can we keep it in?

In Christ, Pastor Clow

Stewardship Commission

Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger

July 2014 Stewardship Commission Report

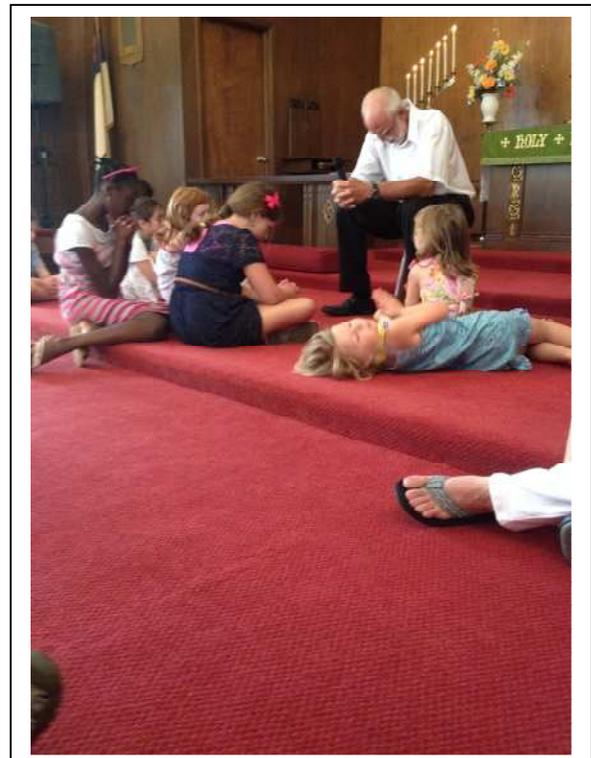
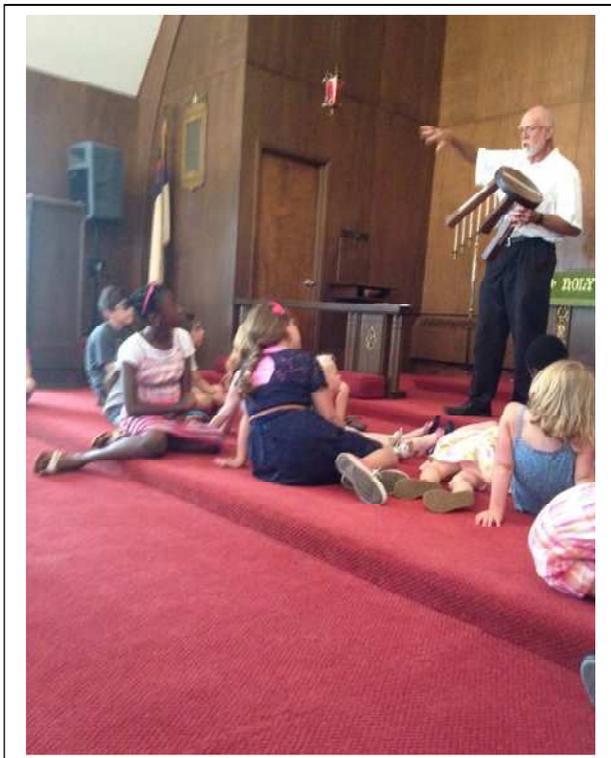
Thank you to Rick Eddinger for presenting the children's message this month. We used the three legged stool as our object, and taught the kids about time in prayer with Jesus. He reminded the children that everything we have is a gift from God and everyone has the same amount of time. It is up to each of us to spend some of our time in prayer, worship and telling others about Jesus.

Rick also tried to get the kids to think about how they talk to their friends, with the result of spending time together making for a better friendship. He shared that their best friend Jesus is available to them 24 hours a day and wants to have them talk to him, like they do to their friends.

We concentrated fully on the Prayer aspect of time and included the adults as receivers of the message. Pastor included prayer as an important focus of his Sermon, and Rick shared a devotion about time with the congregation after the children's message.

The Stewardship Commission worked together to come up with this topic this month through numerous email discussions. Thank you to Pastor Clow, Hope Lintz, Nancy Ruffino and Marty Knight.

We plan to have a meeting this summer one Sunday after church so the members can see who each other are and brainstorm.



August 2014 Stewardship Commission Report

The lazy days of summer are here and I am enjoying an endless summer in Moodus. The Stewardship Commission worked hard last month to get the gift of prayer in the church family's minds and hearts, and this month we continued the conversation with the children. I hope to get back to putting Stewardship information into the News and Notes for the adults of our church family each second Sunday soon.

We continue presenting an Object Lesson with a person besides Pastor on each second Sunday of the month. Janina Eddinger did a terrific object lesson this month using her five fingers. The presentation is copied below...

Here's a "TIP" on how to pray...

TIP

T = Thank you

I = I'm sorry

P = Please

This I just learned at a Bible study in my life's journey. TIP is easy for kids to remember. For adults, I learned ACTS: Adoration (praise), Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (please).

Then what do I ask for when I pray?

5 Fingers of Prayer

<http://childrensministryvault.com/ministry-lessons-ideas-training/560/5-fingers-of-prayer/>

1. Your thumb is nearest to you so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a sweet duty.
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and our church leaders. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, The least shall be the greatest among you. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.

Submitted by Rev. Greg Amos

At the last Board of Director's Meetings I suggested combining the Ministry Fair with the Christmas Fair. We will continue the conversation at the August Board meeting.

Annual Family Outdoor Activity Day on the Salmon River

Who? Church Family, Friends and Neighbors

What? To get together and to enjoy

When? Monday, Labor Day, September 1. 10 am - ?

Where? 173 Leesville Road, Moodus

Why? To enjoy fellowship with each other and appreciate the beautiful world God has given us

A perfect way to end the summer. Come spend a few hours with our church family, invite friends and neighbors to join us. Kayaks, canoes, swimming pool, trampoline, sand volleyball pit (compliments of the New England District Teens, built at their August 1 - 3 retreat), basketball court, hiking parks nearby are all available for the active family. Lots of chairs, loungers, sun and shade locations are all available for the not as active family.

To find us, take the Portland Arrigoni Bridge, take a right onto Rt 66. At the four corners in Cobalt Center, take a right onto Rt 151. Follow about ten minutes until you cross the Salmon River Bridge. We are the first driveway on the right.

Hope to see you there.

Bobbi and Rick Eddinger

Those Serving

Date: September 7, 2014
Elder: Allen Jensen
Acolytes: TJ Pawlak
Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: September 14, 2014
Elder: Jack Zapatka
Acolytes: Abby Asante
Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: September 21, 2014
Elder: Rick Eddinger
Acolytes: Dallas Dorman
Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: September 28, 2014
Elder: Allen Jensen
Acolytes: Katie Stevens
Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Deadline Reminders;

Tuesday, 5:00 P.M. for that week's Sunday
Bulletin

September 15th 9:00 A.M. for the October Newsletter

Altar Flowers:

September 7, 2014
September 14, 2014
September 21, 2014
September 28, 2014

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Preschool
A family of faith
"Sharing Faith, Hope and Love in Christ"
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Email: grace.evan.lutheran@snet.net
<http://www.gracemiddletown.org>

September 2014

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