

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

GRACE...

to you

November
2014

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1055 Randolph Rd Middletown, CT, 06457 | Church (860) 346-2641
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Thanksgiving and the Advantages of

A message from Pastor

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Lists...people often make a list of things to remember. Below is a list that may help one to remember God's blessings even in suffering. It is good to know these before a trial because in the midst of a trial we are not ready to hear some of these.

1. God desires we depend on His free gift of salvation in Christ more than anything/anyone else.
2. Trials help us to appreciate our blessings more and not take them for granted.
3. Trials help to establish or strengthen godly qualities and characteristics in us, like perseverance, character, hope, patience, and trust. (Romans 5)
4. They give us an opportunity to witness our Christian faith to others because we live in a fallen world and don't escape suffering just because we are a Christian.
5. They drive us deeper into God's Holy Word.
6. They are not direct a consequence of specific sin in our lives (see the Book of Job) but used by God as a means of showing faith, not works or feelings, saves us.
7. They keep us from becoming spoiled and taking God for granted (our pride and sinfulness cause this).

Upcoming Events:

With this list, I am reminded of how the pilgrims who first celebrated thanksgiving did so amidst terrible and painful trials. Now, some of these seem tough and painful, but by faith we swallow our pride to say that God is Holy and our Redeemer.

So, by Thanksgiving Day this month, no matter what may be going on in the world and in your life, make a list of the things that we all have to be thankful for. *"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."* Col. 2:6-7

In Christ, Pastor Clow

President's Message

Submitted by Claude Hendrickson

The Long Range Planning Committee has accomplished a lot in the last two years. We want to thank those of you who contributed to the Building Fund so that repairs could be made around the church. We were able to get a new roof on the church, the parking lot was repaved and will be relined soon. Work was also completed on the roof of the modulars and we also have had our sidewalks repaired. We were also very fortunate to have money donated so that we could have air conditioning in the church and it also paid for some electrical updates in the kitchen area. The stained glass windows have been repaired and painted. A lot has been accomplished and we will continue to work on getting other repairs done.

We would also like to thank those who so generously donated items to the tag sales we have been having. We have approximately \$4,000.00 towards a handicapped ramp. We will continue the tag sales in the spring and hope that we are able to receive more donations. We would like to thank the people who helped us to put the items out for sale and also those who helped put them away at the end of the day. Many hands made light work. Also, thanks goes to the gentlemen who get the tables out for us and then return them to storage when we are finished.

There are still many things that need to be repaired or replaced. Our kitchen area is in need of being upgraded. Also, we understand that there is work to be done in the boiler room. There are also some repairs that are needed for the parsonage.

We pray that those of you who have not donated to the Building Fund in the past, that you would prayerfully consider donating to the Building Fund in 2015 so that we may finish the projects that are left to do. We need total support from everyone. It is the responsibility of everyone to make sure the church is in good repair.

Stewardship Commission

Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger

On October 12 and October 19, the Sunday School Children of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown, CT collected coins (and dollars and checks) to help those in need as part of our annual Stewardship Emphasis.

Between the two Sundays of Thrivent Financial for Lutheran's piggy bank collections, we were able to purchase 408 cans of soup to share with the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown, our church provides soup to them monthly. The idea of this collection came from Hope Lintz, a Stewardship Commission member. She thought it would be great to have the kids see how much soup their coin collection could become before we started collecting for other mission projects of our church family.

These include:

Ghana MMOFRA'S Mission, the school planning to be built on member Lydia Asante's land, to be called Grace Academy.

"Let Me Learn of Jesus" with Rev. Nicholas Salifu in northern Ghana at Concordia Preparatory School, adopted as 2014-2015 Sunday School Mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

India Ministry - Reverend Priestly Balasingh is pastor of this Lutheran Church a member attends when working in India.

Orphan Grain Train - CT branch at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Terryville, CT. We will learn more about this when Al Macke comes to present a special Bible Study for Stewardship Emphasis on November 9 at 11 am.

Photos are some of Rick and Bobbi Eddinger's grandchildren, all members of the Sunday School.



Those Serving

Date: November 2, 2014

Elder: Allen Jensen

Acolytes: Jessica Hart

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: November 9, 2014

Elder: Jack Zapatka

Acolytes: Abby Asante

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: November 16, 2014

Elder: Rick Eddinger

Acolytes: Katie Stevens

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: November 23, 2014

Elder: Allen Jensen

Acolytes: Dallas Dorman

Fellowship: Social Ministry Commission

Date: November 30, 2014

Elder: Rick Eddinger

Acolytes: Jessica Hart

Fellowship; Social Ministry Commission

Deadline Reminders;

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

November 15th 9:00 A.M. for the December Newsletter

Altar Flowers:

November 2, 2014

November 9, 2014

November 16, 2014

November 23, 2014

November 30, 2014

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church 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>

November 2014

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