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GRACELINES

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From our Pastor

The Light in the Window

Rev. Michael Mueller

The story is told of the only son of a poor widow who lived in a little cottage in rural Pennsylvania. One day, the boy set out for New York to seek fame and fortune. As he left, his mother said, "Son, if you ever get into trouble, no matter how bad it is, you will always find a light burning in the window, and I will welcome you back home."

The son in the big city got into drinking and drugs and wild times, not to mention crime. He spent a time in prison and when released, made for home and his mother. As he saw the outline of the old cottage there was the light burning! He was safe again.

On average, a fair number of members will drift away from their vows for a time. I wish I didn't have to say that, but I do. We start with good intentions. But, more than half of those who used to belong to a church have drifted away from the Church for a variety of reasons.

You should come to the Lord's Table as often as you wish to have your sins washed away. As often as you need strength to say 'no' to your sinful nature. As often as you need power to resist the subtle and not so subtle temptations of the evil one. As often as you feel the world closing in on you and you're not sure where else to turn. As often as you're confused in life, as often as you're feeling guilty about the wrongs you have done and the good you have failed to do. As often as you feel the darkness surrounding you, and you need some light to find your way in life.

Dear friends in Christ, there is light in the Invocation, and there is light in the Absolution and, there is light in the reading of Scripture. There is light for you in the sermons, and there is light for you in the Holy Supper, and there is light for you in the Benediction.

Continues on page 2

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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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The Light in the Window

(continued from page1)

There will always be a light on for you in church. Even if you go through a period of time where you think Church is boring and life is too busy; even if you get caught up in the drinking crowd and you're hung over with a headache and throwing up on Sunday mornings and don't come to church; even if you make bad decisions; even if you get sexually sin active; even if you get pregnant out of wedlock; even if you end up in jail; even if you mess up your first marriage; even if you ruin your second marriage; even if you fail your kids so miserably they don't want to have much to do with you, there will be a light on at the church for you.

Come and be safe again.



"My mind belongs to Jesus. He redeemed it with His blood. When evil thoughts torment me, I choose to think on good."



2015 Flower Chart

Is now available for you to sign up. Please note the cost for flowers is \$30.



2015 Offering Envelopes

The 2015 offering envelopes are now available for pickup from the west counter in the Narthex. Any questions about the offering envelopes may be addressed with Dennis Klein at -943-4304.

Offering

Nov 23	7,592
Nov 30	4,332
Dec 7	13,764
Dec 14	9,717
Dec 21	10,414

Building Fund (BTBC)

Collected	852,756
Available funds	296,317

Attendance

Nov 22	Sat	14	Dec 13	Sat	9
Nov 23	Sun	111	Dec 14	Sun	134
Nov 26	Wed	56	Dec 17	Wed	77
Nov 29	Sat	15	Dec 20	Sat	21
Nov 30	Sun	124	Dec 21	Sun	135
Dec 3	Wed	89			
Dec 6	Sat.	18			
Dec 7	Sun	193			
Dec 10	Wed	101			

Average Attendance Nov.

2013	144
2014	144

A Note of Thanks

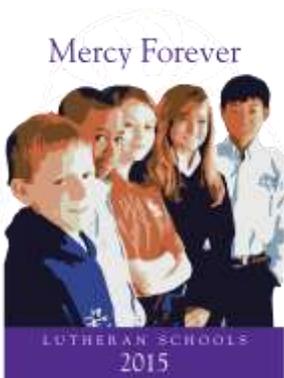
I just want to say many thanks to all who helped make the annual Progressive Dinner a success. Thank you to all who brought food and those that helped at the individual homes. About 66 people enjoyed the evening with great food and even better fellowship. A special thank you goes out to those who opened their homes for the event: Pastor Michael and Carol Mueller who hosted the soup course; George and Kathy Andrews for hosting the salad portion; Wayne and Connie Turner whose home was used for the appetizer portion; and lastly, Larry and Kathy Rottman for hosting the desserts in their home. Again, thank you to all who made this festive event such a success. People who did not attend missed a great time, so next year I would suggest everyone give a look-see at attending this event.

Arlene Klein

News from the Evangelism Committee

Welcome to a New Year. Welcome to friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors. We have made business cards to hand out to people who are interested in Grace Lutheran Church and School. You may pick them up at the church office or at the welcome table. Also remember your Portals of Prayer for January-March. May this year be a blessing to you and those you love.

Martha--Outreach Committee



Lutheran Schools Week

- January 25-30, 2015 -

"Standing in Christ - Serving Others"

“ ‘Standing in Christ,’ Lutheran schools become God’s means of sharing and showing His grace to fellow members of the school and church family, to the community and into the world. Lutheran schools are ‘serving others’ in Jesus’ name.”

Grace Lutheran School celebrates its 58th year with more than 2,444 LCMS schools world-wide!

“National Lutheran Schools Week provides our church and school communities with the opportunity to thank God for the blessings of Lutheran schools,” said Terry Schmidt, director of LCMS School Ministry. “During the week, schools from around our country celebrate teachers who faithfully serve and students who learn in Jesus’ name.”



Special Events:

Sunday - Jan 25 - All-School Sing & Worship

Potluck Brunch

Monday - Jan 26 - Pajama Day - Games & Stories w/Chapel Buddies

Tuesday - Jan 27 - Crazy Dress Day...socks, hats, ?!?

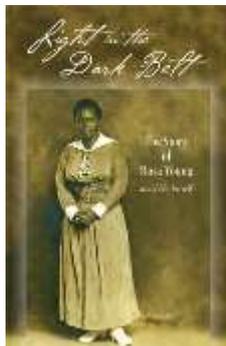
Wednesday - Jan 28 - Best Dress Day - Chapel - Open House - Tours at 10 AM and 2 PM - led by our 7th & 8th grade students!

Thursday - Jan 29 - K-8 to the Discovery Cube LA Museum!

Friday - Sports Team Day / Jump Rope for Heart

**Adopt a Grandparent**

Grace Lutheran School would like to adopt 'Grandparents' in the congregation. September 13, 2015 is National Grandparent Day. Members open to developing a connection with a Grace School student contact Mrs. Markin! This would involve sharing some time together at school reading, playing games, talking... and sharing cards and notes of encouragement. I would also encourage the shut-ins to volunteer and we will arrange for visits to your home!

Book Talk

Join a unique opportunity to read and discuss a book that shows the empowerment of God's people to bring the Good News through the mission of a Lutheran school.

Light in the Dark Belt

Dr. Rosa Young

"Known as the "mother of Black Lutheranism in central Alabama" and a strong advocate of education for rural children, Rosa Young (1890-1971) was instrumental in founding and promoting the development of Lutheran schools and congregations in Alabama's Black Belt."

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1373>

"The story of mission work among the colored (Black) people of Alabama. The story is woven around the life of Rosa Young, a pioneer in this work. Miss Young wrote her story in gratitude to Almighty God, who, to use her own words, "led me and a host of others out of the gross darkness, which hung like a dense fog over our souls, into the marvelous light of His salvation." Concordia Publishing House

During January and February Grace Lutheran Church and School will offer 4 day-time meetings at 1 PM on Wednesdays, beginning January 21 and 28 and also February 4 and 11. Each participant will need to pre-purchase the book.

Contact Karen Markin to sign up!

January Abundance Sunday Collection for Grace Resource Center is toothpaste and toothbrushes. Bring them to the narthex any time during the month.

VOTERS MEETING

Sunday ~ January 25 ~ 12:15 PM

State of the Church with Committee Reports and 2015 Budget

Join your fellow Grace Lutheran members in worship at 10 AM celebrating Lutheran Schools week followed by a potluck meal sponsored by the PTL. After enjoying fellowship with school and church families there will be a voters meeting at approximately 12:15 PM. The meeting will include written reports from our committees of their 2014 activities and ideas of what is planned for 2015. The 2015 budget will be presented for your discussion and vote.

Please plan to attend these events and PRAY for your CHURCH; HER LEADERS, STAFF AND MEMBERS as together we strive to
“KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE CHRIST KNOWN”

ELECTRONIC GIVING

For several years now Grace has participated in an Electronic Funds Program provided by Thrivent Financial for Christians. How about a New Year’s resolution to use this convenient means make your first fruits giving to the work of God’s kingdom? Many of you have automatic bill pay for your utilities, mortgage, credit cards and much more. There are several advantages to using this process:

1. Your offering to the Lord is here on a regular basis even when you are unable to attend worship because you are out of town or ill.
2. It puts your return to the Lord of His gifts to you at the top of your financial obligations as He has already told us to do.
3. It gives your leaders a consistent amount coming in each month as they administer the budget.

The process to begin using this method of contributing to Grace Lutheran is easy. **THE FORM IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.** Complete the form, attach a void check from your account and bring it to the church office

Thank you to all who used this in 2014 and will continue to do so in 2015.

LWML MITES TOP THE GOAL IN 2014

LWML Mite contributions were \$1,650.00 in 2014. Praise God and thank you to all who contributed to this effort. We will again set our goal at \$1,600 in 2015. Please continue filling your MITE BOX and bring it any Sunday to the large MITE BOX.





**MARK YOUR CALENDARS Sunday ~
February 8 ~ 3 PM
Chili Cook-off & Desert Bake-off**

Yes, it's that time of the year to get out those chili & dessert recipes to enter the annual chili and dessert cook-off sponsored by the LWML of Grace Lutheran. Football season will be over and the winter doldrums may have set in so plan to come to the Parish Hall for a few hours on a lazy Sunday afternoon for some great chili and desserts along with great fellowship with your fellow church members.



Entries are due at 3 PM for judging. During the judging there'll be the opportunity to bid on several baskets and specialty items. Other surprises and activities are being planned so watch the bulletin for more details. This will benefit the LWML Mite projects and Prayers & Squares.

Entry forms will be available in January in the Sunday bulletin, the narthex and the church office. Watch for them and get ready for great fun with a few surprises!!

**Family Movie Night
Hosted by CROSSfit
Friday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

The featured movie will be FROZEN. You can bring camp chairs, pillows, sleeping bags and blankets to sit on. Come dressed as your favorite character (optional)! Bring a new winter hat, scarf, gloves/mittens or socks for the homeless.

Hot cocoa and popcorn will be provided





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ORGANIZATION
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gracelancaster.org

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Church Secretary Teri Morgan

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School Secretary Christine Calvert

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