

February, 2015
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Issue 2

GRACELINES

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From our Pastor

Receive God's Gifts by Worshiping with WOW!

Rev. Michael Mueller

In a tape entitled "Credibility", Barry Posner states that people are six times more likely to talk about a business they consider a '5' on a five-point scale than one rated as a '4'. Jesus used this in His ministry. The wedding at Cana. Feeding of 5,000. Driving merchants from the Temple. Healings that brought people from miles around. Appearing to the disciples and others in a locked room.

Why did He do things in such a dramatic and attention getting way? Because there's power in WOW!

Worship, too, should reflect the WOW that comes from the gifts that we receive from God in a Lutheran service. The Word of God is described in the Bible as the very breath of God (II Timothy 3:16-17)—the same breath that breathed life into Adam (Genesis 2:7).

In Baptism, we become united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12), and grafted into the family of God (Romans 11). At the Lord's Table we literally receive Christ's body and blood into our own for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 10:16-17). [In fact, that is why the New Testament is called that—it is at the institution of the Lord's Supper that the New Covenant—New Testament—is established!] These are really WOW things! But, often they are lost because we fail to treat them like WOW.

The whole Lutheran service was given to us by God to receive His gifts. In the Invocation Jesus Himself is now present (Matthew 18:20; Matthew 28:19-20). Then we confess our sins (James 5:16) and receive again the forgiveness of our sins pronounced by the pastor as was commanded by Jesus (John 20:19-23; I John 1:9). We remember our own Baptism as we celebrate the Baptism of those whom God is adding to His Body (Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Matthew 28:18-20). His Word is read to us in the Old Testament, Psalm, New

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Receive God’s Gifts by Worshiping with WOW! (continued from page1)

Testament and Gospel readings (Romans 1:16-17). God’s Word is then spoken into our lives in the Sermon (Mark 6:34). And finally, we receive forgiveness of sins in the New Covenant of the Lord’s Supper (Matthew 26:26-30).

How can we put the WOW that the first century worshiper had back into our services? First, spend some time understanding just what is taking place and why. (If you need some help there, come see me.) Next, adjust your attitude, now that you can appreciate the WOW of God’s real presence in what He does for us. Finally, let your actions reflect the awesome joy that you have in receiving His gifts.

Churches that WOW people don’t have attendance problems, they have parking, seating and space problems. We can’t reach those whom God is calling by being just another option for Sunday morning—sleeping, shopping or attending a feel-good me-centered praise service.

No. We must put energy, joy, enthusiasm, warmth, authenticity and WOW into their experience from the open parking spaces next to the door, to the warm greeting inside, to the many Bible studies and fellowship opportunities filled with our members, to the easy-to-use worship bulletin and screen, to the awe shown in how we dress and conduct our rites, to the easy-to-sing music in our services, to the WOW sermon that convicts our hearts and brings despair with the Law and then lifts to the very heights of heaven with the Gospel, to the joy of sitting at His Table and feasting together as we will for all eternity.

Love them like Christ loves you. Make people say “WOW! I had no idea church could be like this.” Let them see Christ in you—like He did 2000 years ago—with the power of WOW!



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

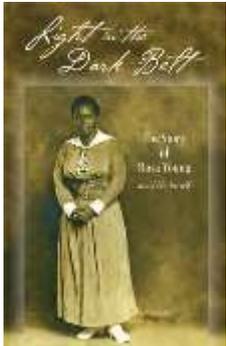


Offering		Attendance					
Dec 24-31	26,321	Dec 24	Wed	309	Jan 10	Sat	21
Jan 4	8,009	Dec 25	Thurs	61	Jan 11	Sun	129
Jan 11	4,670	Dec 27	Sat	14	Jan 17	Sat	13
Jan 18	5,716	Dec 28	Sun	108	Jan 18	Sun	149
		Dec 31	Wed	55			
		Jan 3	Sat	9			
		Jan 4	Sun	129			
Building Fund (BTBC)		Average Attendance Dec		2013	139		
Collected	852,756			2014	158		
Available funds	286,115						

School News

THANKFUL...for all that joined in during our busy month of January. The re-enrollment process is now underway in the school. As we already plan for our next school year, PRAY FOR 36 NEW STUDENTS and ALL RETURNING STUDENTS!

FUNDING THE FUTURE - Grace Lutheran School continues to accept monies to support families that cannot afford the full tuition. Thank you in advance for your help!



BOOK TALK... two sessions remain for our discussions with the autobiography of Rosa Young - LIGHT IN THE DARK BELT. Join us on Wednesday, February 4 and 11 at 1 PM in the Modular!



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!

Evangelism Committee

It's working! We had over 270 visits to our web site in December. Log on to www.gracelancaster.org and be in the know about all that is happening at Grace Lutheran Church and School. God is truly growing us. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us." Ephesians 3:20

Blood Drive Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 3 from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm at the AVOIC- Antelope Valley Outpatient Imaging Center (J-5 and 15th Street West Room 305) There is a table set up in the Narthex for you to sign up. Thank you to all who have participated.

TCT Network, Direct TV Channel 377 at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings is a broadcast by Fort Wayne Indiana Seminary. TCT is a network of eight religious television stations and their repeaters, mainly in the Midwest. TCT Network provides Christian programming such as teaching, preaching, family-based movies, music, documentaries, youth and children, live broadcasts and original content.

SEW IN SATURDAY # 6 ~MARCH 28 ~ 9 AM

Bring your sewing machine ~ join the fun while helping children.



We have pillowcases and shorts cut and ready for sewing and lots of lace and trims

Grace Lutheran Church ~ Modular Building

**We'll have the coffee pot on and soup in the Crockpot.
Bring something to go with the soup or a snack.**

Make a New Year's Resolution to use EFT.

Enclosed with this issue of *Gracelines* is an EFT enrolment form. Grace makes this available to our members who wish to have their contributions automatically transferred from their bank account to Grace Lutheran's account on a regular basis. You are free to choose weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Please consider do this with your tithe. Your questions can be answered in the church office.

MISSION GRANT SUPPORTS LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO WITH \$40,000

Lutheran Public Radio is home for the weekday terrestrial and Internet radio show "Issues, Etc.," which has been on the air for 20 years proclaiming the Word of salvation and providing a better understanding of contemporary social issues in a Christian context. Issues, Etc. is a live, call-in, topical radio show featuring Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod pastors, professors, lay people and other professional church workers. Experts are frequent guests on the show where the audience

is invited to respond and interact by phone, email, Twitter and Facebook on social issues, government relations, church music and liturgy, church history, and journalism.

The grant from LWML will make it possible for LPR to employ a part-time bookkeeper for Lutheran Public Radio, in order to allow the director of business operations to devote more time to the development goals and donor needs. It will help to ensure the continued, long-term financial viability and sustainability of Issues Etc., allowing them to expand the goal of educating a new generation of Lutherans.





**“SERVING CHILDREN” with
BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

February 2015

California - Arizona - Nevada Regional Location and The Pacific Southwest District LWML are sponsoring ‘Gifts from the Heart’

*Please bring new backpacks and/or school supplies
(Do not put supplies in backpacks)*

Suggested items are:

Spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, construction paper, colored pencils, rulers, glue sticks, blunt scissors, washable markers, protractors to be distributed to needy people within our Pacific Southwest District, in New Mexico, Mexico & beyond.

*Cash donations are also needed for delivery of gifts.
See Marge Barckholtz to make cash donations.*

Bring your gifts to the purple bin in the narthex anytime during February.



**Grace Lutheran LWML’S Great
Chili & Dessert Cook-off And Silent Auction
Sunday, February 8, 2014**

3 PM - Contestants have entries ready for judgin’
3:15 PM – Judgin’ and BINGO for ALL ~ SILENT AUCTION
4:15 PM ~ LET’S EAT
5:15 PM ~ AWARDS



A SILENT AUCTION! ~ Baskets, craft items and more!

Super Duper Prizes for best in each category, Eaters Choice and for the bingo.

**Bring your coins and \$\$ bills to vote for the Eaters Choice in the MITE BOXES.
Funds raised will benefit LWML MITE grants in the district and national level including Lutheran Public Radio.**

Find the entry blank with this *Gracelines* or on the narthex bulletin board.
This event is being support by a Thrivent Action Team grant.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gracelancaster.org

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