

GRACELINES

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From our Pastor

Meddling

Rev. Michael Mueller

A lot of people think a pastor is a meddler—meddling into why you are not in church, poking his nose into a perfectly good feud, inviting you to come to a Bible study. When does it end?

Jesus was considered a meddler too. The people in John 6 thought they knew it all. They were followers of Jesus, but didn't want Him looking into their lives either. So when He said that without Him they would have no life in themselves (John 6:53), they replied, "Well Jesus, what do you know?" And when He said "*The flesh counts for nothing*" (John 6:63) and "*A person's power is of no use at all,*" the people walked away.

This Jesus was too inflexible, too narrow. He was too hard and difficult. It's hard to let someone else be the master of your choices, isn't it? You shine up the rusty spots in your life; you ignore your points of vulnerability; and you try to handle it all by yourself. You and I want to be the master of our lives.

But even though Jesus knew that people would leave Him, He hung in there. He brought the things we needed into our lives. He hung tough as He hung on the cross and purchased new life for you and for me. He paid for your sins and mine. And He arose from death to put you on the road of new life, life headed toward heaven, life with your Lord and Savior Jesus now and forever.

The people said that Jesus said hard things. The word in the Bible for "hard" is related to our word "skeleton." A skeleton is hard. It is tough. But it holds everything together, doesn't it? I don't know anyone who wants to get rid of their skeleton.

That's why Peter said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God*"

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Meddling

(continued from page1)



(John 6:68-69). Peter knew that it was only Jesus who could hang on to him. It was only Jesus who could give him life.

And that Jesus hangs on to you, too. He hangs tough to carry your burdens and breakdowns. Who else could you trust to hang on to you? Who else could be so good to go to?

Sometimes it's such a surprise to see what God knows and what He can do. But how exciting it is to catch the wind of the Spirit and to sail with your Savior. How exciting it is to see His surprises of mercy and love for you. And you just don't know that unless you stay in the boat with Him...and your meddling pastor.

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



CROSSfit
(5th-8th Grades)

Will meet this month on
Friday, May 1st from
3:15-4:30 and
Friday May 22nd from
12:00-2:00

If you have any question
please contact Esther at
661-917-3638 or by email:
ceealzb@aol.com

Blood Drive



Mark your calendar for Tuesday,
May 26 from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
at the AVOIC- Antelope Valley
Outpatient Imaging Center (J-5
and 15th Street West, Room 305)
Thank you to all who have
participated.

Offering

Mar 22	8,524
Mar 29	4,641
Apr 5	13,416
Apr 12	7,790

Attendance

Mar 21	Sat	17	Apr 3	Fri	102
Mar 22	Sun	120	Apr 4	Sat	15
Mar 25	Wed	62	Apr 5	Sun	367
Mar 28	Sat	11	Apr 11	Sat	13
Mar 29	Sun	164	Apr 12	Sun	133
Apr 2	Thurs	92			

Building Fund (BTBC)

Collected	852,756
Available funds	286,585

Average Attendance March

2014	165
2015	157

School News



Growing at Grace!

Keep praying for 50 more students! We currently have 89% of our current students enrolled for next year! So far, 43 families with 68 children have visited the campus - as of mid-April, 35 new students have enrolled for next year! The mission field is arriving on our doorstep!



SPRING DINNER AUCTION SATURDAY, MAY 2

4:30 PM entry for Pre-purchased Dinner Ticket Holders & Silent Auction

6:00 PM Free entry for Live Auction, Featuring Auctioneer Maurice Howard!

Child Care available by Reservation only



GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERT MONDAY, MAY 11 - 6:30 PM

FEATURING Recorders, Hand Chimes, Beginning Band, Intermediate Band,
and Advanced Band

GRADES K-4 PRESENT GOD BLESS THE USA!

FRIDAY, MAY 15

6:30 PM

Show Your Spirit - Wear Red, White & Blue!

Veterans / Active Military are invited to wear their branch of service gear!





GLS EXCLUSIVE at BEX UNDERGROUND BOWLING

Tuesday, May 19, 5-7 PM

\$20 = 2 hours of bowling, shoes, pizza, wings, soda & friends!

Tickets go on sale May 4th from our future GLS 7th and 8th graders

Fundraiser for trip to Washington, D.C. April 2016



Congratulations to Iris Razo
2015 Principal for a Day - May 22 !



May 29 - Grace Lutheran School Bands will head to Anaheim
9 AM Concert at Walnut Village
Off to Knott's Berry Farm - all those practice hours were worth it!

at

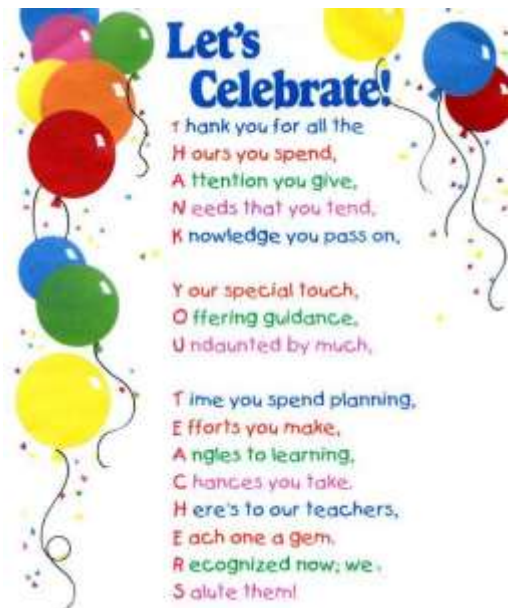


Monday, June 1 - 25% profit for D.C. trip kids if you mention the Fundraiser
the register!

Located at Valley Central Plaza near Black Angus

Great frozen yogurt in many flavors w/multiple toppings!!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK - MAY 4-8
SHARE A NOTE WITH YOUR TEACHERS THAT SHARE
MORE THAN 300 YEARS COMBINED EXPERTISE!





MILES OF SMILES SUMMER 2015 DAY CAMP
WEEKLY JUNE 8 THROUGH AUGUST 7

Sign up All-Day or Half-Days by the Week
Only \$150 for the week all-day or \$75 for the week half-days
Discounts available for multiple children in one family

Grace Lutheran School Teachers are teaching
SPECIAL CLASSES from 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Offerings range for Ages 6-14

Classes include: STEM Activities, Art, Basketball Camp,
Animals, Games, Holidays & Customs Around the World,
Fairy Tale Creations, Improvisation, and Soccer Camp!

All-Day Themes include: Alice in Wonderland, Animal Planet,
Best of the Best, Bugs Life, Mad Science, Time Travelers,
Wacky & Wonderful, Mystery Week, Getting Dirty

Activities include water/swim days, movies, bike/skate/scooter days,
Library days, Apollo Park, computer days, science activities, karate, and more!

For more information, contact the School Office at 948-1018 or email school@gracelancaster.org



SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Recycle those boxes, bottle caps, string, yarn, small metal washers & lids...any of those things that can be used by students to create / innovate their own inventions!

Donations may be brought to the school office through June 4.

Thank you!

Church News



Attention All Graduates! (High School, College, Proud Parents!) Please share with Teri in the church office information concerning you or your son/daughter's graduation and future plans. We would like to share and pray for their success and future.



Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 17th, in the 10:00 a.m. service. Making confirmation of their baptismal faith will be: John Paul Calvert, Zane Hamby, Noah Hinckley, Chris Worrell.





Paso Robles Camping at Steinbeck Vineyards is back! Memorial Weekend May 23-25. The cost is \$25 per family which includes your stay and meat for Tri-Tip dinner on Sunday evening. Please call Teri in the church office to reserve your spot. Activities include: Fishing, swimming, campfire, bathrooms with hot showers, tent camping on grass under large oak trees, limited parking for R.V's.



Vacation Bible School-VBS will be held here at Grace the week of June 15-19, from 9:00 am-11:30 am. We are very excited about our theme this year, Thailand Trek, and can't wait to start planning another fun adventure for our kids.



Faith Family Nights with the Jethawks! Baseball Tickets are only \$4 for Friday, June 5 & Saturday, July 25. Both games start at 6:30 p.m. See Teri in the church office for tickets now!



Physical Facilities is looking for any and all available persons to help mow and edge the lawns and maintain our grounds each Thursday starting at 3:30. If you have any questions please call the church office.

Mission Outreach at St.Paul Community Lutheran Church Pontiac, Michigan ~ \$65,559



St Paul Congregation is the only remaining congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Pontiac, MI and has been blessed with new beginnings and rapid growth. LWML funding assistance has provided urgently needed resources for stability and development in youth ministry, outreach, and staff for reaching the community.

Since receiving the grant, the congregation has been able to hire a part-time secretary to organize the church office and be an extra set of hands for many daily tasks. This has given Pastor and Becky Gladden more time to devote to their duties; time to plan and lead the ministry, to care for, teach and counsel community members, meet physical and spiritual needs, and direct volunteers among other things.

The enhanced music and technology resource in worship has seen more young people attend and more regular attendance of all ages. A large number of Spanish speaking children have attend VBS. The grant has made it possible to purchase more materials, provide lunches and school backpacks which the students may otherwise not have.

LWML MITES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BIENNIUM 2013-15 HAVE EXCEEDED THE GOAL OF \$1,830,000.

You were a part of reaching that goal with the MITES you have contributed here at Grace. Our goal for 2015 is \$1600. We are closing in on \$1000 collected. Remember to bring your MITE BOX any Sunday to the large box in the narthex. These mites are shared between the Pacific Southwest District and the International LWML.

We pray together: Oh Lord, bless the efforts of those who share Jesus in Pontiac. Guide them as they renovate their facilities so that they can better serve their community with the love of Your Son, Jesus. May each of Your beloved that receive care and support in this out reach ministry come to a solid realization of Your promises, faithfulness, and truth. Bless all of the recipients of Mission Mite Grants as they share gospel message. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

^^

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM SEED MONEY IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

Thrivent members - Is there an unmet need in your community or congregation you could help? Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including: Promotional banner, invitations and thank-you cards, Thrivent Action Team T-shirts,

And A \$250 Community Impact Card you can use as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials.

Bring together a volunteer team of friends, family and people in your community to have a bigger impact. It's seed money, and it's an investment to help get your project started or gain awareness for your cause, rather than directly giving the money to (granting) or purchasing items for (gifting) your cause.

Talk to Marge Barckholtz or Teri Morgan for help in making your application. Not a Thrivent Member? These gals can connect your with a member who will team with you to make it happen!



Parish Life Report

WoW! Easter Breakfast was a great success. We had a great crowd this year with lots of new faces. Hope God blesses us with them returning in the near future. Thanks to all the people who donated and volunteered this year. We have successful events because of all who volunteer, donate and attend. The egg hunt had less kids this year because so many other organizations have held this event. All who participated had a great time. Again, thank you for donations and volunteers.

Thank you to Connie and Joanie for taking over during the Sunday Bible Study while I was taking care of my brothers' affairs and Pattie Gutierrez for a great job with the Lenten Soup Supper. Help is needed in the kitchen on Sunday morning during Bible Study hour. If you have an hour on Sunday, I would appreciate your help, It isn't every week, we rotate every few weeks.

We are very involved in planning the Mother's Day Tea on May 9. Table hostesses are still needed. At this writing we need 4 more. Please contact Sandy Garland or Terri in the church office. Tickets are available from us also.

We have been asked to fix desserts for the school dinner and auction. I am so glad they ask us to participate in this wonderful event. Hope to see many of you there.

Some future events to look forward to will be:

Father and Son dinner to honor fathers for Fathers Day
 Sunday Brunch
 Ice Cream Social this summer

In closing, thank you for all the prayers and cards for my brother's loss. I really felt all your kindness and God's blessing and guidance.

Gratefully, In Christ Service
 Sandy Garland



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| May 2 | GLS Annual Spring Auction and Dinner |
| May 3 | High Desert Lutheran Chorale |
| May 9 | Mother Daughter Tea |
| May 11 | School Music Concert |
| May 17 | Confirmation |
| May 22 | CROSSfit |
| May 23-25 | Memorial Weekend Campout at Steinbeck Vineyard |
| May 26 | Blood Drive |
| June 1 | Preschool Graduation |
| June 3 | 8 th Grade Graduation |
| June 4 | GLS Last Day of School |
| June 15-19 | Vacation Bible School |
| July 27 -29 | Youth Campout at Steinbeck Vineyard |

Please watch for more information in the coming weeks/months on each of these events.

