

August, 2015
Volume 14,
Issue 8

GRACELINES

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From our Pastor

God Sustains His Creation

Rev. Michael Mueller

Jesus said in John 3:12 that, *"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"* So, if He says that, *"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist"* (see also Colossians 1:16-17 and John 1:1-3), we should expect to see proof.

In other words, all things were not only created through Jesus Christ, but all things continue to be sustained through Him. So, if we take these two passages together, we should be able to see some evidence of the truth of Jesus sustaining this Creation we live in.

Now everybody knows the old Einstein equation of $E = MC^2$, but we also have another principle known as the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, which, in simple terms, says that we can either know the exact energy level of a particle (E) or its exact location (M), but not both at the same time.

Taken together, this means that everything in the universe should be in flux between its energy state (E) and its matter state (M). So, we should find this universe we live in constantly shifting between the two states—yet we find stable matter the norm, rather than a constantly shifting. How can this be?

Pierre Meystre, chair of Quantum Optics at the University of Arizona Optical Sciences Center, and his University of Arizona colleagues were able to use laser light to nearly stop the vibrations of sodium atoms by chilling them to within a few billionths of a degree of absolute zero. (That's because the atom's vibrations are what we call 'heat' and the reduction of vibrations is what we call 'cooling').

At these low temperatures, the theory of quantum mechanics predicts that atoms become waves (energy only) and that they will return to being a particle—materialize, if you will—within a certain well-defined area, depending upon (and this is the awesome part) the effect of an observer.

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Gracelines Calendar and Gracelines are monthly publications of

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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God Sustains His Creation

In other words, the atom exists only because it is being observed and where it appears is determined by where the observer is looking. This was confirmed in the lab some seventeen years ago.

What does this mean to us? Well, according to Meystre, it means that God must be *“watching every jot and tittle”* in the universe for it to exist in a matter only state. This is because matter exists at the quantum level only if it is observed and its location is dependent upon where the observer looks.

So you see, Jesus has to be watching everything so it can exist as stable matter. As it says in Matthew 10:30, *“But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.”* This gives a whole new meaning to our understanding that God is omnipresent, and that He is in charge of everything in the universe. *“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”*

So, even in the field of quantum physics we find that the Bible correctly describes what we are now learning about this universe. And we can see how God sustains it until Jesus’ Second Coming when He will stop observing all things and, *“...then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed”* (II Peter 3:10b).

How then should the Christian respond to this? Well, continuing in II Peter 3:11-13, *“Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”* Faith is an action verb. Live it!



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



Offering		Attendance					
June 21	5,026	June 20	Sat	13	July 8	Wed	6
June 28	3,574	June 21	Sun	100	July 11	Sat	13
July 5	10,395	June 27	Sat	13	July 12	Sun	119
July 12	7,172	June 28	Sun	114	July 15	Wed	8
July 19		July 1	Wed	0	July 18	Sat	5
		July 4	Sat	21	July 19	Sun	124
		July 5	Sun	114	July 22	Wed	12
Building Fund (BTBC)		Average Attendance June					
Collected	852,756			2014		136	
Available funds	287,121			2015		130	

VOTERS MEETING UPDATES

The Voters met on Sunday, July 29. Here are the highlights of that meeting.

- Saturday night worship service will end with the last Saturday of July. A midweek service on Wednesdays at 7 PM will replace it.
- School enrollment is closing in on 100 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade and preschool is getting close to being full. Much of this is due to Pinecrest, a private school in our area, closing at the end of the school year this spring. There is still room in all the grades for additional students. If you have family or friends looking for a quality education bring them to Grace. Additional staff has been hired so that grades 1 to 4 will be in self-contained classrooms.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE MISSION FIELD THAT HAS COME TO OUR DOORS!

- A sizable increase in our tuition income comes as a result of the growth in enrollment. The Day School Committee and Board of Directors will be keeping a careful watch on this in the coming months and how it will be used to continue providing the kind of education Grace is known for in the community.
- Physical Facilities reported three major projects will be done during the next few weeks. All will be paid for from the 2015 budgeted \$30,000 for Physical Facilities.

These are:

Parking Lot Resurfacing - \$16,780

Kindergarten flooring - \$3,386

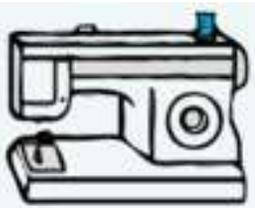
Electrical Box in Narthex - \$2,950

- A committee “Developing Church Priorities and Action” Plan is being formed to study the needs of Grace Lutheran Church and School. Don Crane is chairing this committee and plans to bring a report to the congregation in November.
- Election of officers resulted in Brad Norris becoming Vice President and Marge Barckholtz as Secretary. This leaves the position of member at large vacant. A replacement will be name by the BOD to complete the remaining year of that term.

Together we are **KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING CHRIST KNOWN**

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SEW IN SATURDAY ~ August 15 ~ 9 AM



The ladies are continuing to meet once a month on a Saturday to work on various projects for Prayers and Squares and for the LWML Sunday (October 4) Boutique. Come join us for a day of fun and fellowship. You don't have to be able to sew or even have a sewing machine. We'll find something you can do. Bring a sandwich for lunch and a snack to share.

Prayers and Squares continues to meet every Monday at 9 AM to work on prayer quilts and Lutheran World Relief quilts.

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Thrivent Members

Please check your available
CHOICE DOLLARS and
designate them to
Grace Lutheran Church.

Grace Fair**Sunday, August 23**

Reception following
the Worship service.

Come see all the things we will be
offering in this new church year.



Second Annual Women's Conference at Resurrection Lutheran in Quartz Hill on Saturday, August 22 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Speaker is Deaconess Pamela Boehle-Silva she graduated with a Master of Arts degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in 2011. She is a deaconess at Holy Cross in Rocklin, CA. Fee is \$15 for adults, \$5 for Middle/High School students, and free for an unchurched friend for every paid attendee. Limited seating. Call Sue at Resurrection, Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to noon, 661-943-8433.

School News

Over 100 students will begin our new school year!

Life Together is our theme this year - 1 Corinthians 1:9: "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." We have students from the Netherlands, Denmark, England, Scotland and parents from Belize, Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica, Vietnam, Taiwan. The mission field has come to us! Pray for our many diverse families - that their hearts are touched by His love and ours.

Join us at 8 AM for Chapel.

**AUGUST 25 - Chipotle Fundraiser**

Northeast corner of K and 10th Streets West
Let them know you are with Grace Lutheran!
40% goes to 7th/8th Grade D.C. Fundraiser!



Bring in those metal recyclables to the white trailer in the parking lot! Aluminum cans and plastic bottles are welcomed too. Large items that need to be picked up? Let us know! 7th/8th Grade D.C. students thank you!



CONNECTIONS...Do you have a half-hour to an hour a month to come to school and share some joy with a young student?

We have over 100 students in our school, and most not living near their grandparents.

Let's see how many 'connections' we can make between church and school families!

Come read a book - play a game - sit and talk - come for lunch - kick a ball around at recess...

Contact Mrs. Markin in the school office to sign up now!

Enrolling Now!! - Grace Lutheran Christian School and Grace's Little Lambs Preschool, affiliates of Grace Lutheran Church, are currently enrolling students for the 2015/2016 school year. Packets are available in the school office; come by and pick one up for your family, your neighbors and/or friends. You are also encouraged to give us a call (ask for Chris) for more information 661-948-1018. **Our School begins Wednesday, August 12 at 8:00 a.m.**

August Abundance Sunday Collection

for Grace Resource Center is baby formula, baby food and baby supplies.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 1 8:00 Clean up Day at Grace Lutheran
- August 5 8:00-4:00 Fees & Forms Day
- August 12 8:00 GLS 1st Day of School
- August 15 9:00 Sew In Saturday
- August 23 Grace Fair in the Parish Hall after the Worship service
- August 25 7th-8th Grade Fundraiser at Chipotle
- August 27 8:00 am & 7:00 pm GLS Parent Orientation





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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gracelancaster.org

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Michael Mueller
Church Secretary Teri Morgan

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal Karen Markin
School Secretary Christine Calvert

CHURCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President Brad Norris
Treasurer Bob Petersen
Recording Secretary Marge Barckholtz
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