

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

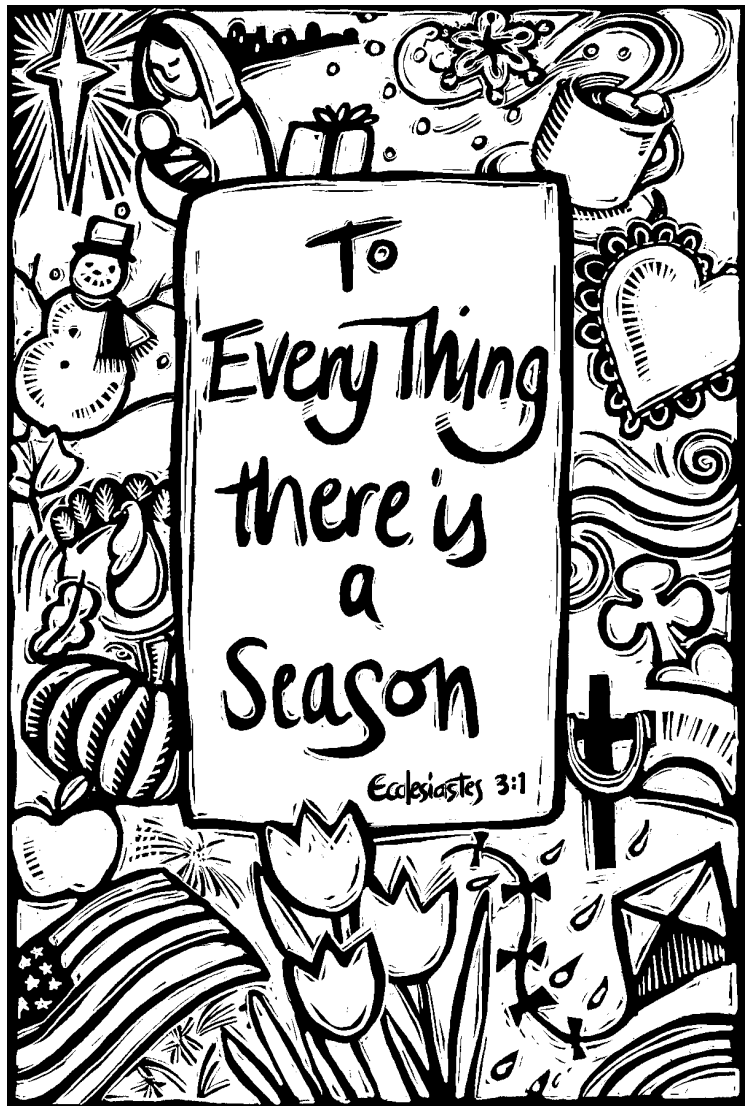
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LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees which commandment in the law was the greatest, the first he said was "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul & mind". The second one he said was **"You shall love your neighbour as yourself"** (Matthew 22:34-39).

Love the Lord sure no problem, but love your neighbour as yourself??

I don't know about you but I struggle with this *Philia* (Greek for brotherly love). I mean, when someone cuts me off in traffic and causes me to almost hit them, I don't yell "love you man". Or when someone is rude to me or hurts my feelings, I don't think "love you".

We are not Jesus, nor are we perfect. **So how do we as flawed humans keep this commandment?**

I think that for me, *Philia* for my fellow man is shown through my actions. I associate brotherly love with being kind to others or, doing an act of kindness.

This can be as simple as just listening to someone when they need to talk, or offering a ride to someone who doesn't drive. You can tell someone that you appreciate them, or that they did a good job.

It all seems so simple doesn't it? Like the golden rule "Treat someone like you would like to be treated". How hard can that be? But like everything else we try to do, we don't always accomplish it. The fact that we strive to treat everyone with kindness is what makes us better than what we are.

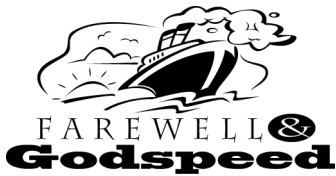
In the movie "Evan Almighty", Evan (played by Steve Carell) is having a conversation with God (played by Morgan Freeman) about "How do we change the world"? The answer they gave just blew me away; **"One act of random kindness at a time"**, or ARK for short. Could it be that simple? Could we really change the world by just being kind to others?

So I propose that we put this to a test. I want everyone to *get your ARK on*. Smile at a stranger, say good morning to your neighbour. Help someone with their groceries.

We can make this world a better place, one act of random kindness at a time.

My ARK to you.
Jo-Ann





UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN INTERN LAURA

It's time to begin our goodbyes to Intern Pastor Laura. Her final day at Grace will be on August 14. Please join us for cake and coffee that day after the service, and take a moment to wish Laura well!

PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY

It feels strange to be sitting here at the beginning of June, writing a farewell article for the July/August newsletter. I still have 10 weeks of internship to go and although I'm aware that my time at Grace is winding down it feels too soon to begin saying goodbye.

Saying goodbye is never easy. And it's certainly challenging to say goodbye to such a large group of people – how do you make sure you don't miss anybody! So I guess that's why I'm writing this newsletter article with still 10 weeks to go. I know that people will be in and out over the summer months and that goodbyes will be starting shortly.

As I was struggling to think of what I might write to sum up my time with you the words from a hymn popped into my head: "We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load" ("Will You Let Me Be Your Servant," *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 659). It would be impossible to "sum up" my time with you in a single newsletter article, but I believe that these lyrics are a good start.

The image of the pilgrim ("one who journeys in foreign lands") is an image that has strong roots in scripture. Recently I read again the Old Testament story of Moses and Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for forty years. The Israelites followed Moses out of Egypt because they trusted in God's promise to bring them new life as a free people. However, it wasn't long before they began to grumble and question God's judgment. This is because in the wilderness the Israelites found that the life of a pilgrim can be uncertain and insecure – they didn't always know where their next meal would come from, or whether the people they encountered on their journey would be friendly or hostile.

But the Israelites also found that the life of a pilgrim can be life-giving and edifying. In the wilderness they re-discovered their identity as a people through God's giving of the Torah. They also learned (although often the hard way) that God is always faithful to God's promises.

The image of the pilgrim is one that speaks to our identity as followers of Christ. We are all pilgrims on a journey, each of us, seeking to follow God's call to be faithful and loving servants during the time we've been given on this earth. At times our pilgrimage might be spiritual or emotional rather than a physical journey to a foreign land, but we are all on a journey. None of us know what joys or challenges lay ahead yet we hold fast to the promise that God is with us through it all. We also give thanks to God for the faithful pilgrims who walk alongside us, sharing together the joys and burdens.

My time with you here at Grace has been a pilgrimage for me (although I don't know if you can call a move from Regina to Winnipeg a journey to a foreign land!). I came to Grace 10 months ago unsure of what internship might hold for me. I was blessed to find myself welcomed into this community and to receive such affirmation of my gifts for ministry. Over these months my identity as one called to ordained ministry has been molded, encouraged and strengthened by you. Thank you for giving me the freedom to explore this calling with you, through leading worship, preaching, teaching, visiting, fellowship, and so much more. Thank you for accompanying me on this part of my journey, for traveling on the road with me over this year.

It isn't easy to say goodbye to fellow pilgrims who've walked with me in such a significant part of my journey. So from one pilgrim to another I'd like to leave you with a prayer for your journey. In the words of St. Paul, may you "be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love. May you have the power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19)

God's peace, grace & blessings be with you,
Intern Pastor Laura



It's a SECRET!

Pastor Bruce is celebrating a milestone this summer - the 30th anniversary of his ordination! Knowing that the congregation would like the opportunity to recognize this and congratulate him, we are planning a special surprise celebration on September 18.

Details will follow shortly. Please plan to attend, and spread the word, but... DON'T SPILL THE BEANS! :)



THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Worship Committee is planning for the future, and we're pretty excited about it! We have a five year plan that will offer multiple opportunities to worship, with a greater variety of times and formats. Stay tuned as we begin to put that plan into action, starting this fall with once-a-month Sunday evening contemporary services. These services will offer families and young people (and anyone else who enjoys contemporary Christian music) an opportunity to worship in an entirely contemporary setting, including liturgy. Keep watching your bulletin and newsletter for more information, and plan to join us as we branch out in new and exhilarating ways!



REFLECTING ON 60 YEARS

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our worship service on **October 16, 2011 at 10:36 am.**

****There will only be ONE SERVICE that Sunday.****

We will be giving thanks for 60 years together! In 1950, Melrose Community Hall was purchased on Melrose Avenue (now Kimberly) and became our first building. In 1951, Grace Lutheran Church officially organized as a congregation with an enrolment of 26 baptized members consisting of 8 families. See how we have grown, thanks be to God!

THE AESTHETICS COMMITTEE

The newly-formed sub committee of Worship Committee, responsible for the appearance of many things in our worship space. This includes seasonal displays and altar linens, candles and hymnals. We meet approximately monthly, from August to May. If you have a knack for decorating or an eye for detail, please join us at our next meeting on August 30 at 7 pm. For more details, contact Cathy Anderson by phoning the church office at 661-2562.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Confirmation information packets will be mailed out to all families in July. Please call the church office if you do not receive one. A general meeting for all parents to explain the program and answer questions will be held on Wednesday September 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Karen Colquhoun



MUSIC NOTES

Choir has wrapped up their season, and will enjoy their summer hiatus. Thank you to all of our faithful members for another year of music and fellowship! By adding music to your life, you have added life to our worship services. If you are interested in joining choir, please come to our first fall rehearsal on September 8 at 7:30 pm. Bring a friend!

If a whole season of choir does not fit into your schedule, we understand but we'd still like you to lend us your voice. Can you work in three rehearsals in Advent, and then another three before Easter? Watch the bulletin and newsletter for announcements, and become a part time choir member. You'll receive full time benefits!

It was so wonderful to see our Sunday School children singing in church this past fall, winter and spring. Watching the faces of the children during their songs was absolutely priceless; as was watching the faces of our congregation! It's obvious that we all believe children are more than the future of Grace, they are our here and now. The music team would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Karen Strome and Jo-Ann Filipowicz for leading Sunday School music - thank you for the valuable reminder that children belong everywhere we are!



July 25 to 28
5:00 - 8:00 PM
Vacation Bible
School Begins

Theme: UNDER THE BAOBAB TREE

So far only 4 children have registered. We need at least 10 to 15 to make it a go. Please make sure and get your registrations in as soon as possible. Forms can be found in the Narthex on the table. Once completed please put them in the Christian Education mailbox. Remember there is no cost to come!

All children ages 3 and over are welcome.

We begin the evening with supper and then have games, crafts, stories and singing. Parents are welcome!!



CLEARING OUR VISION 2011 – LEARN, GROW, LIVE!

Pentecost 3 **Thurs Jun 30 & Sun Jul 3, 2011**

Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67; Romans 7:15-25a
Psalm 45:11-18; Matt 11:16-19,25-30

Pentecost 4 **Thurs Jul 7 & Sun Jul 10, 2011**

Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11
Psalm: Thy Word; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Pentecost 5 **Thurs Jul 14 & Sun Jul 17, 2011**

Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25
Psalm 139:1-12,22-23; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Pentecost 6 **Thurs Jul 21 & Sun Jul 24, 2011**

Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39
Psalm 105:1-11, 45c; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Pentecost 7 **Thurs Jul 28 & Sun Jul 31, 2011**

Genesis 32:22-31; Romans 9:1-5
Psalm 17:1-7, 16; Matthew 14:13-21

Pentecost 8 **Thurs Aug 4 & Sun Aug 7, 2011**

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28; Romans 10:5-15
Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45c; Matthew 14:22-33

Pentecost 9 **Thurs Aug 11 & Sun Aug 14, 2011**

Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-2a,29-32
Psalm 133; Matthew 15:[10-20],21-28

Pentecost 10 **Thurs Aug 18 & Sun Aug 21, 2011**

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Romans 12:1-8
Psalm 124; Matthew 16:13-20

Pentecost 11 **Thurs Aug 25 & Sun Aug 28, 2011**

Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21
Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45c; Matthew 16:21-28

Come, participate in planning for the future of your Grace Lutheran Church! Mark your calendar for Saturday October 1, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to noon as a special time for you to join with other members of Grace Lutheran in fellowship, learning and sharing. This is the day for the 3rd annual Clearing Our Vision event where 5 committees (Worship, Learning, Youth, Social Ministry, and Property) will be planning and setting goals for the coming year. We will start the day with breakfast (we Lutherans love to eat!), followed by a brief presentation and then breaking out into the 5 groups for dreaming, planning and goal setting. Your ideas and input are important so please come!

This year's theme is "Learn, Grow, and Live". Over the past year, the focus of the Stewardship Committee has been to educate members of the congregation about Stewardship and what it means by Giving To God. This has been done through a number of skits and messages on Sunday mornings, posters, newsletters, and the annual report. We have tried to stress the importance of "Learning" about Stewardship and then "Growing" in our understanding of God's will for our lives, and then finally "Living" our lives according to His will.

Come on Oct. 1 and "Learn" more about what these 5 committees are all about, "Grow" in your knowledge, understanding and awareness of what God is calling you to do, and then go and "Live" your life, serving our Lord! You will be surprised and blessed as you expand your life in Christ!

Rick Schindel



APPLES, APPLES, APPLES!

Consider giving your extra apples to the church. After you've picked them, Mike & Karen Colquhoun will take them to be pressed into apple cider.

This cider will be shared at church with the congregation and also taken to Missions to be distributed there. Please call Karen at 667-1076 and she will make arrangements to come and pick them up.

Thank you in advance!!



MINISTER OF YOUTH

Congratulations to Luke Filipowicz, the successful candidate for the position of Minister of Youth at Grace Lutheran.

Luke is working at Luther Village for the summer and will officially start at Grace in September. During the summer the youth committee chair, Anita Anelle will be in contact with Luke to make plans for the fall youth programming.

SOCIAL MINISTRY PROGRAMS

You all know what I am going to say – let's see if you have it memorized...Here we go!

Lutheran Urban Mission:

You will be seeing more in the newsletters about LUM as we get more organized with our service commitment. (See page 7)

For July, social ministry committee is taking on the LUM meal. On Saturday morning, July 2, we will be meeting at Grace to prepare the food and on Sunday, July 3 at 12:30 we will be at LUM in the St. Matthews Anglican Church on the corner of St. Matthews and Maryland to deliver and serve the meal to about 125 hungry folks.

We are calling for donations of funds and food: white bread, margarine, cookies or rice crispie bars, bologna and eggs.

For August, we are preparing food on Saturday morning, Aug. 6 at Grace and on Sunday, Aug. 7, we are serving food, same place, same time. The menu is still to be determined for that month.

Thinking ahead, we could use helpers for Saturday morning Sept. 3 and Sunday Sept. 4 as well. At some point in the near future, there will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for helpers on the Saturdays and Sundays.

Folks from the Social Ministry Committee and the Stewardship Committee may call around to people to ask for more helping hands if we are short of folks. We will keep you posted about what specific food donations we need for each month as we go along.

If you have any questions or comments, check in with Ron Hermann, who has kindly offered to put in some elbow grease to coordinate and organize this initiative.

Habitat for Humanity: On Wednesday, July 13, we are helping to give shelter to people who can't afford housing by feeding the builders. We will be preparing snack for 2 coffee breaks for 100 people at each break. The ask: we will need funds for perishable yummys like fruit and food like cookies, bars, loafs or muffins. If you would like to join the well-oiled machine of the social ministry committee to prepare and deliver the goods, check in with Anita Fingler at 663-1051.

Trinity Food Pantry and Grace Food Bank:

While we are barbequing hamburgers, smokies, chops, ribs, chicken....other people have nothing to put on their table. Please continue to add food to the bins in the Narthex. Maybe pop in to visit these programs and lend a hand...

School Breakfast Club has been running smoothly, giving kids a good start to their school day. It will be wrapping up soon, but September will be coming up fast. Please consider signing up...the sign up sheet is usually on the bulletin board by the Narthex washrooms...

All of us from Social Ministry Committee extend a hearty thank you to all those who have given time, talents and resources to help people in need. May God's breath be the wind under your wings....

Your servant,
Deb Kostyk, Chair



Brett Adam / David Allen / Melanie Bauer / Candi Bezte / Edna Boehler / Sharon Bretecher / Guy Brisson / Rolly Burnet / Eleanor Conn / Ed Deibert / Mary Deibert / Millie Deibert / Eric Derby / Oscar Domke / Lori Ebbeling-Treon / Barbara Feakes / Reinhard Fershau / Helen Flatt / Elsie Frank / Margaret Franz / Bill Fritz / Dane Goodall-George / Theresa Gutwein / Stephanie Hawkins / Martha Heckert / Kay Hendricks / Chantal Jenin / Tom Kaplik / Kay Kelln / Daniella Kendel / Dale Kergen / Frank Koesters / Louise Kohlmeier / Bernie Lemanski / Ruby Lotz / Stephanie Mack (nee Hudon) / Rose Manning / Ella Mantai / Sidney Matthes / Mervin Mauthe / Brad McDougall / Don McKenzie / Sarah Megyeri / Terry Miller / Peter Neufeld / Audrey Oddleifson / Conrad Plemel / Mary Rach / Diana Rodger / Ann Rueb / Garry Russell / Joan Schleinig / Joy Schmidt / Jim Schultz / Linda Selch / Herta Shuparsky / Carol Smith / Sue Sobczak / Norma Sol / Elsie Steiner / Louise Steinke / Ryan Veldkamp / Brian Waisanen / Erika Werbowesky / Bob Wilson / Olga Wruck / Edna Yaegar / Laurie Zubert

KIMBERLY GRACE SENIORS

Kimberly Grace Seniors are not meeting during the summer months.

Club will resume meeting September 7th with Bible Study at 12:15 and meeting at 1:00 PM.

Have a safe & happy summer.

AUGUST SERVICE GROUP

will be meeting in the boardroom on July 7 and/or July 10. For more information, please contact Anita and Anders Annell.



THE URBAN CHALLENGE

Social Ministry has taken on a very big challenge. Our goal is to provide a lunch time meal hosted at the Urban once a month, on the first Sunday of each month. We started preparing for this challenge in May and our first full meal service was on Sunday June 5th. As I am writing this update, we are preparing for July 3rd, August 7th and September 4th meals. These will be our biggest challenge because of warm summer weather (we hope), vacations and long weekends. Additionally, we know that everyone is busy!! But the Challenge remains. There is still a need to feed and provide for those who need our help.

Remember, 'Hunger doesn't go on vacation.'

The Urban is not a challenge because it is challenging to feeding 90-150 people, or because it is hard or difficult work. The challenge is to keep the momentum going, getting people engaged, and supporting the program 12 months a year.

The Urban Challenge goal is to provide a great outreach opportunity for those who are willing to challenge themselves. We wish to create an organized and safe environment where you can join us for a Community outreach effort to support our mission of Social Justice. Our challenge is to the Congregation, the Council, Council Committees, families, young and old. It is a challenge to our entire church family.

The Team Challenge!

Both Social Ministry and Stewardship Committees have already taken on the Challenge. Stewardship has hosted the June meal service and Social Ministry will be preparing and serving in July. Sunday School has taken up the challenge a few times now!! We ask that all Committees look to take up the challenge as a great team building opportunity. The great news is that there is lots of opportunity for everyone to get involved.

How do I challenge myself and get involved?

You can always take the personal challenge and sign-up yourself and/or your family in the Narthex. (Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board nearest to the bathrooms).

You may get 'the call' ... We may be calling you or stopping you at coffee break because we think you are ready for the challenge. (consider this a sign that we need your help.) The monthly Service Group teams will be asked to provide two volunteers and cookie bakers.

You can also help us with Saturday food preparation if you are not able to do the meal service on Sunday. This is done on Saturday mornings in the basement of our Grace Church. Remember, food preparation is always the first Saturday of each month.

'Lift up your voices' ... Ask, call and email us with your support.

The Urban meal service is an opportunity for Grace to work as a team and to support our mission of Social Justice through outreach. We would like to see everyone get involved with the Urban at least twice per year. It is my challenge to do something that I typically don't do. Should you wish to get involved, have any questions, concerns, ideas please do not hesitate to email me or call me. I will do my best to respond quickly.

Challenge Yourself! Challenge others!

Ron Hermann
Urban Coordinator
Social Ministry Committee

Mark Your Calendars NOW!!!!





FROM PASTOR BRUCE

It is hard for me to wrap my head around the fact that this summer I will be celebrating 30 years in the ordained ministry. I say ordained ministry because I was heavily involved at Christ Lutheran Wpg. before I went to seminary. Yes, participation in sharing the Gospel is ministry even though one may not be ordained. However as I approach this milestone of thirty years in ordained ministry it has caused me to reflect in a much different way on life as a parish pastor. On the one hand my mind spins at all that is required of me. There is an expectation that as a pastor you will not just be competent but rather above average in; preaching, leading worship, teaching, counseling, visiting, developing lay leadership, supervising interns, managing staff, putting out fires of conflict, problem solving, attending meetings, visioning, presiding at funerals and weddings, relating to young and old, being a welcoming presence. The list goes on and on. I am expected within the space of a few minutes to go from leading Worship, to greeting people in the entry way, to popping in on a meeting, to un jamming the photocopier, to answering questions that relate to groups that I may not even be directly involved with.

Thinking of all these things makes me sigh, now I am tired. But I digress. As I reflected I also thought about the things that I love about this vocation.

First of all I love the freedom. As pastors we are blessed with remarkable autonomy. Few people have the flexibility that we have. True there are some very specific times that I have to be here. However if I want to make a trip to the dentist I don't have to ask for permission. When our children were younger I could volunteer to drive to the zoo or Lower Fort Garry for example. For us as pastors, as long as we cover off the essential tasks, we have a flexible schedule that most people just dream about.

Secondly I love the relationships of this vocation. Pastoral ministry allows us to build relationships with people that deeply enriches our lives too. I am told that this is especially true for long-tenure pastorates. (By the way I have been at Grace some 23 years) We all know that some church members can be difficult. But most are good people who respect and support me as pastor. Who else besides clergy get to make relationship building part of their job?

Thirdly I love that I also get to participate in the setting of priorities, goals and dreams. These things are not dictated from some higher body. But these goals and priorities come from our members and I get to help chart the course by participating in these visioning sessions.

Lastly, and most importantly I get to share the Word of God. When I do any of those things that are listed in the first paragraph of this article I have the privilege of pointing to something that is much bigger than I am. I get to proclaim,

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."
Who could ask for anything more from a vocation.

Peace
Pastor Bruce

SUNDAY MAY 29 WERE YOU IN CHURCH?

Did you see something different at the front of the church part way through the service?

Have you ever seen those legs before?

What I am talking about is Pastor Bruce in a dress! It was said that Sunday that "He looks better in the dress than the woman who owns it! Pastor Bruce was a really good sport and helped to bring a smile and a giggle to quite a few of our children in our church.

These are youngsters who were collecting money for the 'Kids helping Kids' campaign of our Manitoba Northwestern Ontario synod. They were challenged to do chores and raise money. If they raised \$130 (enough to send 2 children to school) Pastor Bruce would preach a sermon in a dress!! Our children along with the generous pocket emptying supportive members of our congregation raised a total of \$377.01 for this campaign. It costs \$65 to send one child to school for a year. The money raised will give 6 children the opportunity to attend!

Thanks soooo much for everyone's contributions.

Karen Colquhoun



Sunday School will begin again on Sunday September 11th. Please come out to register and meet your teachers!