

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**IN THIS
ISSUE**

MARCH/APRIL 2011

	Page
Feature article by Cathy Anderson	2
Lent & Easter	2, 3, 6
Interesting Facts	8
Think summer	5
Teens & Children	3, 5, 6,
Invitation to volunteer	8
Opportunity to be creative	8
Reports on past ventures	4, 5
Join in Prayer	7,
Events to note	6, 7, 8



Theology. I've been spending some time thinking about this word.

As a lay minister at Grace, I've never really thought about theology until now. I'm just a regular Jane going about my life; running from piano lessons to the grocery store to home. I work part time and do laundry full time. I spend weekends with friends and play chauffeur to my kids. I travel as much as my bank account allows, and I do my best to look after the people that I care about.

If I am particularly well suited to be Grace's Coordinator of Volunteers, it's for my organizational skills and my outgoing nature more than any experience or training. I've never even attended a Bible Study, never mind taken any formal religious studies. The last classes I took were confirmation classes, which I completed in 1986.

I'm not saying this to discredit myself, or to be overly modest or self deprecating. What I'm trying to illustrate is that I'm no different from any member of the congregation. Does that make me unqualified to call myself a minister? Does that mean that I don't understand theology?

I confess. I was never into science. So any word that ends in "ology" scares me a little. I always thought of theology as being the study of religion, to be approached in the same way as any science: in labs and classrooms led by professors with lots of letters after their names. But I've been doing some reading lately that is making me see theology in an entirely different light.

I think theology can be, and should be, accessible to everyone. Instead of being a study of something that is merely historical, it should be a living and breathing and changing set of personal beliefs and values that alter the way we live and the actions we take.

Marlene Wilson is an author and international authority on volunteerism. She describes a moment of clarity when she realized that her own business philosophy and her theology were closely intertwined. She says, "I felt *congruent* – my words and actions matched! That is what theology is: beliefs being lived out wherever we are."

What a beautiful thing, to be congruent!

There are times when I do not act according to my

theology, and it doesn't sit well with me. It screams discomfort in the back of my throat, and makes me toss and turn at night. But when I reach out and try to make things right, that's when I can let it go. Better yet, when I am able to be congruent; when my actions are evidence of my personal philosophy and my theology; then I achieve a harmony in my life that allows me to do all my regular Jane stuff. Sometimes this requires that I stand up and shout, sometimes that I sit down and listen. Sometimes I need to get involved when I'd rather not, and sometimes I need to butt out.

Lay ministry has been identified as a valuable asset to Grace; one that allows each of us to explore our own areas of expertise and share our knowledge. I believe that every one of us carries sufficient theology to teach others, and sufficient theology to learn from others. I am qualified to be a lay minister. So are you.

Let our actions speak louder than words. Let our theology be our guiding light.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only.
James 1:22

Cathy Anderson



LENT AND EASTER

Lent begins forty six days before Easter even though the season of Lent is a period of forty days. This is due to the fact that Sundays are not counted as part of Lent. Each Sunday is to be a celebration of the Resurrection which does not quite fit with Lent's quiet reflection on the passion and death of our Saviour. The mood of Lent is one of quiet reflection and it carries with it a call to spiritual struggle and warfare against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbour. This year Lent begins on Wednesday March 9 and runs to Easter which is celebrated on Sunday April 24. In your own journey through Lent I would like to encourage you to follow a life of quiet reflection, prayer and devotion. I would also like to encourage you to come to one of the Lenten Worship opportunities either on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. or Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. during the Lenten season. At times during this Lenten Journey one may give up something (Gus) or take on more (Tom). These things may seem petty, however the inward journey that one goes through as we practice these disciplines can be very enlightening.

Pastor Bruce

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

As part of your Lenten journey we invite you to join with the choir on Thursday evenings for a short prayer service. Services begin at 7 pm and will use the well loved *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy: a service of songs, readings, prayers, and silence. If you're looking to carve out some reflective and meditative time in your week this is the place to be!

The *Holden Evening Prayer* services will run:
Thursdays at 7 pm from March 24 – April 14, 2011

To find out more about *Holden Evening Prayer*, please check it out on YouTube.com. Search for "Holden Evening Prayer" and click on the links posted by "biry0501" (videos are from the University Lutheran Church of the Epiphany in St. Cloud, MN). You can also speak to a member of the Music Team or Intern Pastor Laura.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

Wed. March 9 - April 20, 2011
 12:15 p.m.

The sermon will focus on the Small Catechism.

- March 9th Traditional Ash Wednesday Service
- March 16th The Ten Commandments
- March 23rd The Apostles Creed
- March 30th The Lord's Prayer
- April 6th Baptism
- April 13th Communion
- April 20th Confession



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wed. April 20	12:15 p.m. Lenten Worship – Confession
Thurs. April 21	7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday April 22	10:00 a.m. Good Friday Worship
Sunday April 24	8:00 a.m. Easter Worship 9 – 10 a.m. Buffet Breakfast Hosted by our youth 10:36 a.m. Easter Worship



PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday, Mar. 8

Join us between 5 and 7 p.m. for pancakes at the church.



The choir would like to invite all to join them in singing the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday. Practices will be held in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. on April 3, 10 and 17. If you love to sing in the shower or while you're doing housework, please feel free to practice ahead of time by listening to your parts at http://rehearsalsarts.com/hear_samples.htm



YOUTH CHOIR

Young singers age 10 and up are invited to sing with the choir on Easter Sunday. We will be singing the song "You Are Mine" at the 10:36 service. Rehearsals are on Thurs Apr. 14 at 7:30 pm & Easter Sunday Apr. 24 at 10 am.

KIMBERLY GRACE SENIORS

Lenten Service: 12:15 PM
 Meeting: 1:00 PM Whist/cards & sewing (unless otherwise specified)

- Mar. 2: Bible Study
- Mar. 9: Ash Wednesday Service 12:15 PM
- Mar 16: No meeting – Dinner Theatre set-up
- Mar 23: Soup & Buns 1:00 PM
- Mar 30: Birthdays

- Apr. 6: Meeting
- Apr. 13: Meeting
- Apr. 20: Meeting
- Apr. 27: Bible Study 12:15 PM Meeting



Eleanor Krenz

CHRISTMAS CHEER HAMPERS

The Social Ministry committee wishes to share the Christmas Hamper initiative led by Jeff and Marla Barron, who did a great job of coordinating their first year of Christmas Hampering. For Christmas 2010 the Social Ministry Committee was able to prepare and deliver 12 hampers and to have an extra in case of a last minute request. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, we were able to meet our goal and to have a surplus that will be used next Christmas. We are thankful for the wonderful donations of food and for the monetary gifts totalling \$1,369.00. Next year we hope to help more families by increasing our number of hampers. Donations included: \$1,365 which included last year's surplus, a Safeway gift certificate of \$50, a Sobeys' \$25 gift certificate, a Superstore \$25 credit, \$150 from Faith Life Financial, and I believe a donation of \$200 from the Masonic Lodge next door.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make the Christmas Hamper program a success. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped prepare the hampers and to those who delivered them. We would especially like to recognize Janice Eisbrenner and the youth of Grace who purchased and wrapped toys for the children. Feedback from the drivers that delivered the hampers included: Recipients talked about how ample the hampers were from Grace, how they appreciated the donation, and how friendly folks were at delivery time. Some of the drivers have delivered to the same people each year and enjoyed connecting to people that they are familiar with.

Marla and Jeff Barron
Deb Kostyk

Members of Grace Lutheran Church

The Trinity Food Pantry Board, volunteers and clients thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry. We provide up to fifty-five monthly food hampers. Many clients have several children. On hamper pick up day we also serve a noon meal.

This past Christmas we hosted a Christmas Party and served a full turkey dinner. All the children received a Christmas present from Santa. The clients were given their hamper with a turkey or chicken.

Thank you for your support this past year.

Trinity Food Pantry Board
Don Engel



PRINCE EDWARD SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club at Prince Edward School has been up and running as of January 2010. We have been serving breakfast to an average of 22 children at the school on Monday and Friday during the school year, with Grace Lutheran being responsible for Monday's volunteers and John Black United being responsible for Friday's volunteers. It has been advertised to the entire school population as a club to remove any stigma that might be associated with needing to access a breakfast program. The principal of the school has confidentially contacted those families whose children would really benefit by such a program. It brings us joy knowing that we are partnering in helping these young bodies and minds develop and that we have the potential with a simple breakfast to increase the potential to learn and thereby we shape the day and the future of these children and their families.

We have a good pool of volunteers who sign up and go to the school for 8:00 a.m. where we serve a nutritious breakfast of cereal, fruit, oatmeal, cheese, toast, yogurt, milk, orange juice, and apple juice. At Grace we have been keeping track of the funding as well as purchasing the food for the program. In terms of the funding we received a \$1,000 donation from a member of the community to help with start up costs associated with purchasing dishes, toasters, etc. As well John Black and Grace each received a \$400 grant from the Thomas Cropo Foundation, which has been used for food. Each of the congregations involved have contributed approximately \$250 to the program and, from time to time, some of the volunteers bring a treat of a special food or fruit. As well we have just recently received a \$800 grant from the "Breakfast For Learning Program." Basically thus far the breakfast program has required a minimum of funding from the congregations. The churches of Grace and John Black have been drawn on to provide the volunteers. As one of those volunteers it is very satisfying for me when I see the children come and graciously receive the breakfast. It also serves to renew my hope in the future generations when I witness many of the children treat us and their fellow students with politeness and respect. Their smiling faces and youthful exuberance along with knowing that I am making a difference help to brighten my day. If you would like more information about this program, or you would like to volunteer please speak to Pastor Bruce.

Pastor Bruce

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

African Safari

Let's Go to the Cameroon

The Grace Celebration committee would like to thank everyone who attended our fall celebration dinner and provide a progress and financial update. It was a fun evening in which we were transported to Africa with awesome decorations and drummers playing African music. Zita Fomgbami gave a wonderful presentation of typical Cameroon life and traditions. Celebration dinners have helped to support mission work in our local and global communities as well as daily church operations and building repairs to support Grace Lutheran's mission.

This years fundraising initiatives were undertaken to assist the Cameroon as well as the general budget of the church. Three Manitoba Northwestern Ontario (MNO) Synod projects were chosen for the Cameroon namely *Evangelism, Women in Christ, and Kids Helping Kids*. Jewellery was imported from local artisans in the Cameroon and sold at the church and at the dinner. A total of \$7,560 was raised from the Celebration dinner and \$3022.82 was directed to the Cameroon.

A letter from the Bishop's office highlights the blessings that some of these funds have made for the Cameroon. I quote "Your donation will help to assure that we may extend our support of the Orphan program to include paying the tuition, book, and uniform fees that will allow all of the orphans of school age to attend school." The celebration committee looks forward to planning another exciting event for this coming up fall. The date has been set for October 14, 2011.

At Grace we are very blessed! Praise and Thanks be to God!

Teresa Visser



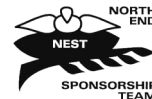
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be having an Easter Riot on Palm Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Come out and have some fun!!!!



SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE

Here is the outcome of the North End Sponsorship Team's fundraiser potluck dinner that was hosted by Grace



Grace Potluck Dinner for NEST on January 30, 2011 raised \$1109.00, with ticket sales of \$674.00 and donations \$435.00. Many thanks from NEST to all members of the Social Ministry Committee and to all the other members of Grace who sold tickets, set up and took down tables, decorated, ran the kitchen, helped with clean up, arranged the sound equipment, and did many other tasks, and to all those who attended. Special thanks to Pastor Bruce who was our Master of Ceremonies, and to Intern Laura Sauder for saying Grace. The speaker was Wanda Yamamoto from Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, Welcome Place. Our entertainment was the El Salvadoran Dancers, whose costumes and dancing gained lots of applause - warm music on a cold evening! NEST also thanks the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church for hosting this event and for all your support of NEST and refugees. Doreen Thorlacius

If these events and all the ongoing "from the heart" work that goes on in Grace and out in our community are not driven by the Holy Spirit with a big huge bunch of God Winks thrown in there on a daily basis....I don't know what is...

Peace and love from God Above,
Deb Kostyk, Chair, Social Ministry Committee

SUMMER THOUGHTS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 25 - 28 from 5 - 8 p.m.
Families encouraged to attend. Bring your friends and family. Make sure and get your registration forms in early!

CHURCH" PIC-NOT "



Sunday June 5th at the church.
Bring a pot luck food item to be shared by all. Hot dogs will be provided.



March

- 4th - Mission component @ Grace
- 6th - Prairie Fire @ Epiphany; rides from Grace at 5:45 pm
- 8th - 5-7 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 11th - 6-9 pm - Archery @ Heartland Archery; rides from Grace at 6 pm; \$10.50 (under 14), \$13.50 (over 14)
- 16th-19th - DINNER THEATRE
- 25th - Games Night

April

- 1st - NO YOUTH (Spring Break!)
- 3rd - Prairie Fire @ Christ Lutheran; rides from Grace at 6 pm
- 8th - Hide & Seek Night
- 15th - The Great Grace Bake-Off! Cake-baking Competition
- 22nd - NO YOUTH (Good Friday)
- 24th - EASTER BREAKFAST (9-10 am)
- 29th - Scavenger Hunt
- *meet in the youth room at 7 pm unless otherwise specified



**One of the ideas brought up was to go do some sandbagging in Winnipeg if the need arises. We'll keep our ears open - if our services are required, we may head out for an evening of manual labour, possibly replacing a Friday event, or some other evening. Stay tuned to your email/facebook for forthcoming information!

Anita Annell

GRADE 4-6 YOUTH EVENTS

Swimming at Concordia Pool
Sunday March 20, 2-4 pm \$4

Easter Party at Grace
Saturday April 23, 2-4 pm



Friends are always welcome!
Contact Amy Northcliffe at 222 9470 if you have questions or to RSVP

April 10, 2011.

Please join us on this day, so that we can thank you for all you do at Grace! The staff will offer a special presentation during the service, and a luncheon will be served between services.



Gr. 7,8 & 9 Mission component sign-up sheet is in the narthex on the table. Please check it and sign up. We will be going to Winnipeg harvest on Mon. Mar 22. We will make lunch for the people of the Urban on Sat. Apr 30 from 9 - 12 in our kitchen. Apr 9 we will do prep from 9 -11 in our kitchen at Grace for Volunteer Recognition Sunday. Remember that you need to do 6 mission activities each school year! Fri Mar 4 we will have an activity with the Youth group. Please bring a video ipod as we are going to do some church inventory.

Gr. 9 Confession component begins on Ash Wednesday at St. Stephen's Anglican Church -7:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to come along to this service. The two follow up classes will be on Mar 10 and Mar 24 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. at Grace. Parents do not need to come to these two follow up classes.

Gr. 7,8 and 9 End of life component on Apr 11 at 3030 Notre Dame Ave. (Neil Bardal) from 6:45 to 8 p.m. Parents are required to attend the tour. The second class will be on Apr 18 from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Fireside room. This component needs to be done once in either Grade 7,8 or 9.

Karen Colquhoun



Transfiguration **March 6, 2011**
 Exodus 24:12-18/ Psalm 2
 2 Peter 1:16-21/ Matthew 17:1-9

Lent 1 **March 13, 2011**
 Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7/ Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19/Matthew 4:1-11

Lent 2 **March 20, 2011**
 Genesis 12:1-4a/ Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17/ John 3:1-17

Lent 3 **March 27, 2011**
 Exodus 17:1-7/ Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11/John 4:5-42

Lent 4 **April 3, 2011**
 1 Samuel 16:1-13/ Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14/John 9:1-41

Lent 5 **April 10, 2011**
 Ezekiel 37:1-14/ Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11/John 11:1-45

Palm Sunday **April 17, 2011**
 Isaiah 50:4-9a/ Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11/Matthew 26:14-27:66

Maundy Thursday **April 21, 2011**
 Exodus 12:1-4[5-10],11-14/Psalm 116:1-2,12-19
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26/John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday **April 22, 2011**
 Isaiah 52:13-53:12/Psalm 22
 Hebrews 10:16-25/John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday **April 24, 2011**
 Acts 10:34-43/ Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
 Colossians 3:1-4/ Matthew 28:1-10

FUNERAL PLANNING

April 7th from 7 - 8 p.m.
 Come out and plan your funeral in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Karen Colquhoun

Brett Adam / David Allen / Melanie Bauer / Candi Bezte /
 Edna Boehler / Sharon Bretecher / Guy Brisson / Rolly Burnet /
 Liz Campbell / Eleanor Conn / Ed Deibert /Mary Deibert / Eric
 Derby /Oscar Domke / Lori Ebbeling-Treon / Todd Ermet /
 Barbara Feakes / Reinhard Fershau / Helen Flatt / Elsie Frank /
 Margaret Franz / Dane Goodall-George / Theresa Gutwein /
 Stephanie Hawkins / Martha Heckert / Kay Hendricks / Chantal
 Jenin / Tom Kaplik / Darlene Kalenchuk / Kay Kelln / Daniella
 Kendel / Dale Kergen / Frank Koesters / Louise Kohlmeier /
 Bernie Lemanski / Ruby Lotz / Rose Manning / Sidney
 Matthes / Mervin Mauthe / Brad McDougall / Don McKenzie /
 Sarah Megyeri / Terry Miller / Peter Neufeld / Conrad Plemel /
 Mary Rach / Diana Rodger / Ann Rueb / Garry Russell / Joan
 Schleining / 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 / Edna Yaegar / Laurie Zubert

TREASURER'S REPORT

Grace ended the 2010 fiscal year \$661 ahead against a budget of <\$653>. As with any organization, how you get to budget will always change from plan, but the important part is that we covered our expenses and did not take on any deficit.

2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2010 Budget
<u>Revenues (Giving)</u>		
\$372,855	\$375,662	\$386,850
<u>Expenses</u>		
\$356,201	\$375,001	\$394,533
<u>Net Income <Loss></u>		
\$16,654	\$661	<\$653>

* General envelope (including CAFT) giving increased approx. \$22,000 over 2009 - this is the first year in many where envelope giving has increased to meet our overall church expenses vs. raising funds through fundraising and special campaigns.

* Church operating expenses such as heat and electricity came in under budget which is not something that can be planned for, but definitely helps

-*Committee / Program expenses were significantly lower than budgeted

Adelle Fenn

ESTHETICS COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has received Council approval to strike a sub-committee called the Esthetics Committee. This new sub-committee will be responsible for decorating the worship space for special holidays and seasons. Reporting to Worship Committee, they will also be instrumental in the hanging of banners, the arranging of flowers and candles, the maintenance of paraments and worship materials. If you are interested in being a part of this sub-committee, please contact Cathy Anderson at 668-2416 or cathyanderson@mymts.net



January 2011 marked the beginning of our 60th year as a congregation. We had an enrolment of 26 baptized members consisting of 8 families: Erhardt, Hendricks, Hilderman, Hollender, Mastin, McMillan, Rosin and Weizel. Here's just a few tidbits from our past:

- First recorded service held December 31, 1950
- The budget in 1951 was \$2145.00
- In 1952, the parsonage at 207 Kimberly was built by members of the congregation
- By 1962, membership had increased to 837 so that two services were needed
- July 1962, construction of our current building began. The cornerstone was laid on November 24th
- At the 10th Anniversary Evening Service, February 6, 1961, the mortgage was retired more than a year ahead of schedule. Pastor Brandt, Wally Petsnick (treasurer) and Albert Mastin (chairman) performed a mortgage burning for all to see.

Our history contains so much more than this! Look through upcoming newsletters for more memories. Please visit our coffee station in the narthex, and view the confirmation pictures/pastor portraits in the digital picture frame hanging on the wall.

Cathy Anderson



MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

Articles, information and calendar items should be submitted by **April 13, 2011**. Please submit to Louise Hatch at hatchdl@shaw.ca or into the Newsletter mailbox.



FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Due to a number of reasons, the list of volunteers that bake for funerals has decreased greatly. We find that we are asking the same people to bake for every funeral. It would be nice to have many more names so each person would only be asked once in awhile.

When we call for baking it is okay to say 'not this time' (for whatever reason) and it is okay to provide something purchased. We like to receive something equal to a 9"x12" pan or 3 to 4 dozen cookies.

If you can help us, please fill in your name and telephone number and return it to the office or to Elaine Schwenneker (mailbox #379).



FALL FROM GRACE

March 16,17,18 and 19.

Tickets are on sale in the narthex between services and after the second service.
\$25 with \$15 a tax receipt.
Come out and see our largest cast yet! Bring your family and friends!
The meal will be Greek.
Helpers, strong men or women are needed to come help pick up the stage on March 9th and return on March 21st.



Thank you for supporting the Venturers, my dad and I on our Mexico Trip. The prayers and financial support are very appreciated!

Emily Anderson.