

Grace Notes

November 2016

Passionate servants, partnering with the community to transform lives through Jesus for eternity

Important Dates!

- Tuesday, Nov. 29 - School Spirit Night at Five Guys, Jones Valley
- Sunday, Dec. 4 - Blood Drive
- Wednesday, Dec. 7 - Saints Alive Christmas Luncheon

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FROM THE MINISTRY STAFF

A Brand New Newsletter Design - Take 2

Note: This article appeared at the beginning of the October Grace Notes, which many of you did not receive due to problems with the church email account. Hopefully, our technical difficulties with email are resolved, and newsletters will be arriving on schedule! Look in the next few days for a complete newsletter for December.

Right away, I'm sure you noticed a few things about this issue of Grace Notes. First, it arrived in your inbox later in the month than usual. I apologize for the delay, but the second difference is largely

to blame. This month's newsletter is the first to feature a new format, and will contain just a few articles to give you an idea of what to expect.

The change in format serves one main purpose - to make the newsletter easier to use for both online and hardcopy readers. The booklet format was difficult to read on a screen and didn't always print well on full-sized paper. This design is easier to read on a screen and is set up to be printed on letter-sized paper, so, no more pages out of order

or page breaks in odd places! It should clear up problems for both online and paper copy readers.

Hopefully, this change will be one that is welcomed, but either way, let the church office know what you think. We're always open to your input!

Blessings!

*Kelly Jenks
Office Manager*

Call Process Continues

On Sunday, November 20, it was announced that Pastor Kurtis Buelmann returned the call extended to him by Grace Lutheran. The

Call Committee is reconvening to review potential candidates. Watch for more information regarding the next steps in the proc-

ess. Please keep Grace Lutheran Ministries in your prayers as we seek God's will for us.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

November 2016 Edition

Amazing what little things catch your attention. How often do we go through the day not really reflecting on the blessings that God has given? Whether it be as simple as extra time to accomplish something you thought you would have no time for, or receiving a simple letter or card from someone saying peace be with you as you go through this time or sorrow. God certainly shows his wonder and majesty in so many ways, a shame sometimes, that it takes the holidays coming up and the changing of the weather for us to reflect on such blessings. And yet, that can be a blessing in and of itself, a reminder of sorts to refocus and see the beauty of what is given as well as refocus on what is important coming up ahead.

There is some exciting news in terms of our school! Grace School was rewarded with a 2016 Best of Huntsville Award in the places of Worship. Why worship you may ask? Simply put, Mrs. James has been working hard with the High School and Middle School students to organize, run, and lead our chapel services on Wednesday mornings. Complete with music videos on the big screens, guitar, singing, prayer, and liturgy. The students have worked hard to develop a worship service in the morning that resonates with them as the children seek to praise their lord and savior. Their efforts for excellence and energy was rewarded with a Best of Huntsville Award for places to worship. Interested in seeing what all the hype is about? Please come out on Wednesday mornings starting at 8:10am and worship along with the students at Grace. You will not only start your day off right, but I am certain you will come out with a smile energized and ready to tackle the day. Certainly, a blessing indeed.

Through such blessings I was reminded about what I wrote about one year ago. Tracking our growth, I wrote a piece talking about just that. Grace at the end of October the last three years was growing at a rapid pace. Last year at this time we were at 187 students. This year we are at 220 students and this is with basically a capped CDC program that has no more rooms for growth and expansion. Our High School tripled in size from exactly one year ago and our day school is coming back to life with classes in the teens once again. Imagine what we can do with opening up rooms for the CDC program by completing our upstairs and moving the upper grades upstairs thereby shifting the classes around. We could expand our ministry outreach to more families, and make a difference in many more lives through excellence in education as well as sharing the life altering message of Jesus Christ. That time is now, and what a better way to get things going then to delve into a Capital Campaign to renovate our upstairs as well as fix other areas of need in our ministry as pointed out in the Ministry Action Plan.

Reminder of Our Ministry Action Plan Items

- Come be a part of the conversation on November 15 starting at 6:30pm in the sanctuary to begin the process of talking about the faith portion of the Ministry Plan.
- Future portion of the plan along with the entire Campaign kickoff is TBA as we are working on getting the details of costs and plans lined up to share such an exciting adventure. Includes the upstairs and the windows that need addressed. The goal is for a January kickoff and look for updated information as we get closer.

Together, we can make a difference, together we can **KNOW** Jesus and each other, **GROW** to be like Him, and **SOW** his love in thought word and deed. Get ready to get active and be a part of addressing our future for the next generation.

Serving His Kingdom,
Joshua Swartz, Principal



***“In everything
give thanks:
For this is the
will of God
in Christ Jesus
concerning you”***

***(1 Thessalonians
5:18)***

OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

November 2016 Edition

Editor's Note: Dates for events already occurring have been removed from this article.

Life with God and with each other are about living in relationship. We realize the brokenness and dysfunction brought into the world by sin and it continues to affect each of us. We were brought into the world as sinners and that is why Baptism is so important to bring us into a renewed relationship with God and with each other. We often get so involved in thinking it is by doing that we earn salvation but it is more about our being.

September 25 was Be The Church Sunday at Grace Lutheran! It was a lesson for us to love God above all else and to love our neighbor as yourself. We sought to demonstrate love for families and individuals through a variety of projects. The goal of Be The Church is to have us pay attention to our neighbor and how we can respond to help. Persons today want to be connected with a church that is authentic and real in care and building relationships.

How do we apply the prin-

ciples of Be The Church as part of ongoing mission and ministry? We seek to be passionate servants to share Jesus. Think of how many persons we could touch in a variety of ways if each Bible class one Sunday/week a quarter did a special project/activity of care and concern that touched lives in our community! This also applies to each of our small group and auxiliary ministries. Think of the power and love that would be shared if we all were intentional to build relationships with others through genuine care! It's a matter of keeping our eyes and ears open to needs in our neighborhoods and in our community!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO GRACE LUTHERAN! – We welcomed the following into membership at Grace Lutheran on October 30 as these persons have recently completed the Discovering Grace class: John and Debbie Derums, Paul Evans + children, Elizabeth and Paul Jr., Stacey Grant + son, Landon, Paul & Harriett Kicklighter, Marty & Laura Ohme + daughter, Ana, Kyle Schikore, Amanda Steinmetz, Ron

& Carol Wagner. Welcome as we each grow together in discipleship and serving the Master!

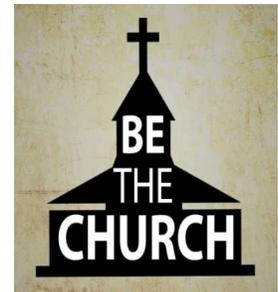
A special thank you to Scott Jagger, Kleone Nelson, and Tabby Jagger for serving as instructors for the recent Discovering Grace class. If you are interested in attending a Discovering Grace class, please communicate your interest to Gene Menzel at gene.menzel@gls-hsv.org. We encourage each member to have eyes open to guests who worship with us. Take time to introduce yourself and get to know the guest's story. Also, help to guide them to the Welcome Center hosts and be open to walking with them to other venues (meet & greet, adult Bible class, etc.)

Engaging persons in groups is essential to build strong friendships and care! May we each grow in being passionate in our witness and outreach as we see lives transformed through Jesus!

Gene Menzel

Director of Missions & Outreach

**Don't Just Go
To
Church**



GRACE LUTHERAN YOUTH

November 2016 Edition



November 2016

Grace Lutheran Youth

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Rummage sale was a **HUGE Success!**
We raised approximately **\$1900!**



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

NOV.

6-Michael | Walker

13-Lauren | Callum

20-Victoria | Juliana

27-Margaret | Christopher

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOV.

18-Galaxy of Lights walk

20- Youth Sunday

20- Agape LUNCH @12

20-Packing Thanksgiving Meals @4

26- Sr. High Christmas Lock in

Dec.

10- Christmas Dinner

21- Youth Advent Din-



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

September 11- December 18

Discovering Grace

If you're looking for a new church home, would like to discover the distinctive philosophy that makes Grace Lutheran Church an exciting and alive community of believers, or just want to refresh your knowledge about the Christian faith then join us. This is a twelve week course that meets each Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. Please contact the Church Office for more information.

Meeting In the Haag Church Library. Leader: Scott Jagger

The Story – Getting to the Heart of God's Story – This class will start October 2nd.

The Story of the Bible demonstrates the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Our story, the Lower story, is actually the many stories of men and women interacting with God in the daily course of life. Sometimes we get so mired in the Lower story that we fail to recognize God's presence breaking into our world. God's story, the Upper story, is the tale of His great overarching purpose that fits all the individual stories together like panels in one unified mural. God is real, He is present, and He is working on our behalf. Experience the joy that comes as you align your story with God's.

Meeting In the 5th grade classroom. Leader: Kenny Ols

"Heaven without the slightest contribution on our part." (Martin Luther)

People in the early 16th century looked to the Roman Church for direction, comfort, and assurance in their struggles to cope with the fears of death and a judgment to Hell. The primary and outstanding achievement of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation was the restoration of the Word of God to its place of authority in the church and Christian life. We will study the history of the Christian Church from Apostolic times to the 17th century, keeping in mind that "the faith that really makes a person a Christian is not merely information that adds to his stock of knowledge; it is a conviction that touches the very center of his/her being." We will use the writings of Luther and Holy Scripture as a basis for strengthening our personal faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. This class incorporates a great deal of new material from the last time it was taught.

Meeting In the 6th grade classroom. Leader: Bob Wank

Foundations of Freedom

Join historian David Barton and special guests Rick Green, Dr. Carol Swain and others as they explore the America our Founding Fathers envisioned. What if America's story is bolder, more colorful, and more compelling than you ever imagined? This video series looks at the Biblical Foundations of Freedom including economics, competition, manners, civility, science, integrity, and many other topics. With Barton's unique way of making the Founding Era come to life with actual books and pamphlets, you'll have a greater understanding of how important the Bible was then and needs to be now.

Meeting In the 7th Grade Room. Leader: Rita Lange

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*"Your Word is a
lamp to my feet
and a light to
my
path." (Psalm
119:105)*

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

September 11- December 18

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The Life and Teaching of St. Paul

Jesus said of Saul/Paul at his Damascus road conversion, "This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before Gentiles and kings". Who was Saul/Paul? From Stephen's stoning (Acts 7) he often admitted his intense hateful vengeance to destroy the church and to persecute to the death any follower of the Way. Saul/Paul was proud to boast that he was a blue blood "Hebrew of Hebrews" – legalistic and righteous beyond a fault. Yet when Jesus confronted Saul/Paul three years following his Easter resurrection and proclaimed: "Saul, Saul, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting", the apostle's life totally changed. His life's passion now centered not on obedience to the Law as a self-righteous Pharisee but to know Christ as the "least of the apostles". In our scriptural discussion we shall study Paul's life and teaching from the Book of Acts and several of his NT letters; we will follow his missionary journeys. Bring your Bibles!

Meeting In the 8th grade classroom. Leader: Pat Carlson

Genesis, geared for non-English Native Speakers

This study, currently going through Genesis, is a basic Bible study. Being geared towards those whose native language is not English, about 30 percent of the class covers the pronunciation and definitions of the words used in each chapter. This is followed by Bible reading and discussion of the topics related to the current chapter. Key Christian concepts of God's creation, His supremacy, grace and love, as well as our individual sin nature and need for salvation are emphasized throughout. The uniqueness of and truth of Christianity, along with salvation by grace through faith are additional key concepts highlighted through scripture. The course is available to anyone who is interested in basic Bible study, with the understanding that language skill & understanding development is a component of the class.

Meeting In the Spanish Classroom. Leader: Dennis Sierk

Young Adult Bible Class: In the Beginning, God: Creation from God's Perspective

Dr. Heck presents a theological defense of young earth creationism through a straightforward reading of the first chapter of Genesis as narrative history. Much has been written on the creation from the scientific view, but little has attempted to explain the text of Genesis 1. A failure to read Genesis 1 as narrative history almost always comes as a result of the reader bringing presuppositions on the assured results of science. The first chapter of Genesis must be taken as historical fact!

Meeting at Panera Bread Co. at 9:30. Leaders: Laura and Cameron Muelling

High School Bible Class: Living My Faith Every Day

How does the Bible apply to my everyday life? How do I live my faith every day? How is God with me helping me to deal with whatever happens around me? Join us to share and learn.

Meeting In the Youth Room. Leader: Tommy Presley

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

September 11- December 18

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Faith Journey for confirmands

Faith Journey confirmation instruction for middle school students, 6th, 7th, or 8th grades is a time to explore your faith, grow in God's love, develop relationships, and evaluate your commitment to living a life of Christian discipleship. If you have any questions or want more information about Faith Journey, please contact the church office. Please note that you do not need to be a member of Grace Lutheran to attend Faith Journey.

Meeting In the 4th Grade Room. Leaders: Mark Nelson and Elizabeth Lange, (Jack Tomkovich assisting)

Sunday School

The **3 year olds through Pre-Kindergarten** will meet in the Pre-School classroom (Room 124). Their teacher, Lorna Menzel is assisted by Nancy Rice. Their age appropriate Bible lessons are "God made people", "Moses and God's people", "Joshua and God's people."

The **Kindergarten through 4th grades** will meet in the Assembly Room. Their teachers are Craig and Marion Camealy, Elise Fulda, Rebecca Armstrong, and Karen Tomkovich. Their topics will include: Twelve Spies in Canaan, Entering the Promised Land, Fall of Jericho, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Samuel, Saul becomes King, David and Goliath, David and Jonathan, David becomes King, God forgives David.

The **5th graders** will meet in the School Library with Pam Ols as their teacher, and Kelly Jenks assisting. They will begin the Confirmation Curriculum with a Survey of the Bible.

If you are interested in teaching a class of 2 year olds, please contact Karen Tomkovich and Lorna Menzel.

Weekday Bible Classes: Found on Page 8

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

September 11- December 18

(Continued from Page 6)

Weekday Bible Classes:

Young Adults: Pint-Sized Bible Class

Meeting on Mondays at 7:00 PM at the Nook (3305 Bob Wallace Avenue).

Find our group on Facebook, “A Pint Sized Bible Study”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178180318860551>

Monday Afternoon Bible Class will meet at 1:00 PM in the church library beginning the Monday after Labor Day. Our study “Majoring in the Minors” will focus on the 12 Minor Prophets of the Old Testament time. Your workbook materials for this class will be \$10.00. If you plan to attend, contact Millie Sallo (256-880-1128) so she will have your study materials ready for you.

Tuesday Morning Bible Class meets at 9:30 in the church library. Beginning September 6th, the day after Labor Day, we will begin the Bible study, “Living a Chocolate Life”, by Deb Burma. The cost of each “Living a Chocolate Life” study book is \$10.00. Please contact Karen Crout (crout@juno.com), phone: 256-652-1482 or Norma Palmer (tpalmer385@yahoo.com), phone: 256-653-8349 if you are planning to join “Chocolate life”, so we know how many study books to order from CPH. Deb Burma also subtitled the study, “Savoring God’s Sweet Grace” and until we’re together again, “The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.” (Rev. 22:21)

Thursday Morning Bible Class will meet at 9:30 at Sina Andrew’s home on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays beginning September 8th. In the early church the believers displayed passion and commitment as they claimed Jesus in the face of fierce consequences and powerful adversaries. Join us for this Ray Vander Laan video series. If you have any questions, please contact Sina Andrews (256-461-9384).

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays

8:00 AM

Blended Worship - 1st & 2nd Sundays of the Month
Traditional Worship - 3rd & 4th Sundays of the Month

0:45 AM

Contemporary Worship

Communion

1st & 3rd Sundays 8:00 AM
2nd & 4th Sundays 10:45 AM

Check Us Out Online!
www.gracelutheran-hsv.org

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