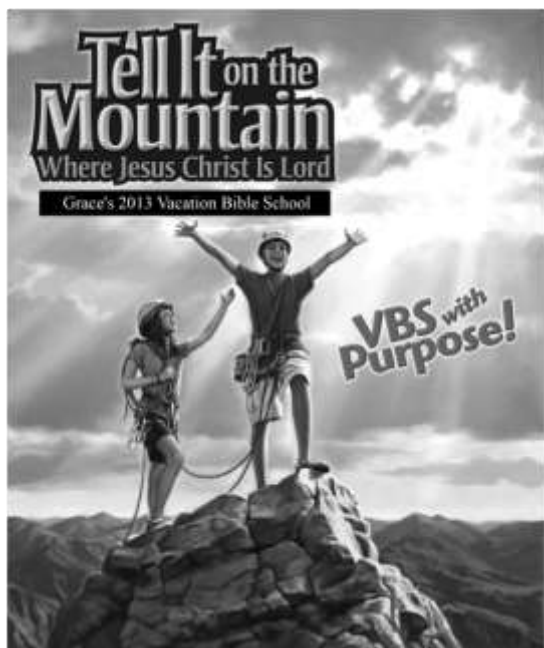


grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



It's Time to Climb the Mountains! Grace's Vacation Bible School Starts on June 10

Hey Grace Kids! It's time to get your hiking boots on to climb up into the mountains! Are you ready? Do you have your backpack ready? Will you want a compass or a hat? Oh...you can't forget your hiking stick and your map. The Children's Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church is heading for the high and mighty mountains in our **"Tell It on the Mountain" 2013 Vacation Bible School** and we want you to come and enjoy all the fun!

It's not too early to think about our trip to the mighty Mountains of God on June 10-14th. Even though it's the first full week after school is out, it's coming up fast. So we're working hard now to get things ready: we are preparing Bible lessons, planning crafts, organizing games and cooking up some of the best snacks we've ever served at VBS!

What Will Vacation Bible School Be Like?

What will our trip to the mountains be like? Well, each day at **"Tell It on the Mountain VBS"** Grace kids will start out at **Base Camp** opening with songs and drama. At **Summit Storytelling**, we'll be looking at

some Bible stories about special mountains in the Bible. Down the trail from there, our kids will create service or craft projects at **Vista Craft Site**, enjoy snacks and learn more about God's Word at the **Trailside Snacks**, and play great games at **Cliffhanger Games**! And, throughout the day, they'll be challenged to tell the message of God's love at the **Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge Place**!

At the heart of our 2013 Vacation Bible School are five mountaintop Bible stories where God meets his people with clear messages of His might and grace. It is our prayer that God's message of salvation through Jesus, our Savior and Lord will be something our kids will want to shout out and share from the mountaintops to the four corners of our world!

How Can I Register my Children or Kids in my Neighborhood?

It's not too late to register for our **"Tell It on the Mountain VBS."** All you have to do is go to www.graceandover.org and click on "children" to download the registration form or stop by the church office or the Welcome Center to pick up a registration form.

How Can I help?

1. Pray for the Lord to bless our VBS Outreach. Pray for health, good weather, and for the Spirit to grow faith in the lives of the students and staff!
2. Donate food and craft items – see the gold sheet in the bulletins for our needs.
3. Donate financial gifts to help support the cost of our biggest outreach ministry to the community.
4. **VOLUNTEER!** No matter how many days you have available, there's a place for you!?

So, get your hiking gear ready. There's just a few more weeks left! We look forward to seeing **YOU** on the mountain!

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Pastor Mark's Remarks:



Running for the Finish Line

I admire my twin sons! I am so proud they have thrown themselves into their college sports, and are driven to do their very best both academically and athletically! Kurt is part of the running team at Luther College in Decorah, IA. Kyle is skiing with the Nordic Team at St. Scholastica in Duluth. Both of them are really "into it!" They constantly train. They carefully watch their diets. They put aside money for equipment or special clothing. They travel to certain parts of the country to "run" or "ski." And they are deeply bonded to their team and the coaches. They love their sports!

Recently I was able to watch Kurt run at a big meet at Hamline University in St. Paul. WOW! Talk about determination. As I watched him and the many other athletes from the colleges in the Midwest, I was so impressed! Of course, I watched my son the most! I could see his resolve in his face! I watched the muscles etched out in his legs as he ran past. He was there to run his absolute best. I think he did!

During the race, I kept thinking of a verse from the Book of Hebrews: ***"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."*** It's a verse I remember when I am feeling tired, bored, or distracted from those things I know I need to do. I find I can't complain about too much when I think of Jesus who ***"endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God"*** (Heb. 12: 1b-2)

I watched Kurt and the other runners looking toward the finish line...talk about perseverance! They hardly saw anything else but the finish line.

I can tell you, few slowed down or faltered at the end. They kept running until they passed the finish line.

We're now getting to the end of the ministry year. There's just a few more weeks to go before SONday School, Catechism Classes and the regular worship schedule comes to an end. We have had a great year of worship asking the question: ***"Where Do We Fit?"*** in God's plan of salvation! Frankly, I have loved remembering the great stories of the Bible in a sequential way! But, as we come close to the end, I wonder if we might be tempted to "slow down" or even stop in the "race that is set before us!" After such a long year and cold winter, we may be just itching to get out and enjoy the good weather and all the rest of the spring tasks we face!

So before we do, let's remember that verse from Hebrews: ***"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,"*** as we dig in for a second (or third!) wind to finish strong and fast! Let's take a lesson from those runners to keep our focus and determination to run to the end. And I believe no matter when we pass the finish line, we will all be winners!

Running hard till the end!

Pastor Mark



... let us
run with
perseverance
the race
marked out
for us.

Hebrews 12:1



Pastor Steve's Remarks: Confirmation Time!

This month we get to witness another important moment in the journey of our congregation. I've had the privilege of walking alongside a wonderful group of people this year, as more than thirty high school students and their mentors have gone through the **Own Your Faith** process. These dedicated students have met monthly with an adult mentor, have participated in our high school Dojo, and are now ready to make a big step into adulthood.

This journey began fifteen years ago—for most of them—as their parents brought them to the baptismal font to experience the grace of God in the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit. At those waters, their parents and families committed to raise them in the community of faith and teach them the love of God, through Jesus. They've been instructed by their parents, by SONday school teachers, by Catechism leaders, and Own Your Faith mentors. All the decisions have been made for them, and they have been encouraged and led at every step.

Now, on May 19th, these young adults will stand before the congregation and say, "I believe..." with their own voices. They will step out of childhood and begin to make choices based upon their own relationship with God, as the Holy Spirit leads and prompts them.

I invite all of us to take time to pray for these students. Pray that this would be more than a ritual, but that the ritual would be dripping with meaning, and would help shape their imaginations to dream what God can do in and through them in adulthood. Pray that they would feel welcomed in adult spaces and would find meaningful ways to use their gifts and grow deeper in their faith, as they progress through high school. Finally, pray that this would be a time when all of us, young and old, affirm our baptismal identity in the powerful, saving grace of God, through Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Again, I count it a privilege to be able to work with these young adults. I can't wait to see what God will do in and through their lives in the coming years!

See page 14 for a list of our 2013 Confirmands!



Jonathan Orwig Director of Worship & Music

Dear Grace family,

As we move on through spring towards summer, I wanted to take a few moments to offer thanks to our wonderful musicians and artists at Grace, for all of their service. This was my first Lent at Grace, and I was touched and blessed by the many people who came together to make it a meaningful season. We are so fortunate to have many talented and willing volunteers to make our worship special and help us celebrate and experience the seasons of the church year.

To all of you who provided music, decorated, acted, ran sound and screens, worked behind the scenes in any way – I APPRECIATE YOU!

On a personal note, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given Lindsay and I – we have enjoyed getting to know many of you at Grace so far, and look forward to continuing to build relationships as the days, weeks, months and years roll on. In just 7 months, Grace already feels like home, and you all like family!

God is good!

Blessings,

Jonathan Orwig, Director of Worship and Music





Church Administrator: Ralph Holbrook

Wow! What an incredible blessing we experienced during Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to our Easter Celebration of our Resurrected Lord, we were able to take time to reflect and experience a special week in the life of our church.

We were able to share *Grace* with 2,766 people in our community. This includes the 1,500 who attended on Easter Sunday. Throughout the Lent Season, the faithful stewards in our church gave over \$18,400. For Holy Week the staff prepared: 11 services, multiple sermons, 2800+ bulletins, almost 500 power point slides, special music, an Easter Egg hunt with 135 children, and much more. We are taking note of wonderful growth and see this as a tremendous sign of encouragement here at Grace.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the many volunteers who: prepared our facility and grounds for Holy Week; offered their talents through music, art, drama, and readings; served during the services; and much more. It is great to be part of such a strong body of believers!

We continue to make wonderful strides in our *Free 2B Grace Campaign*. So far, 213 (39.0%) of the Grace families have been contacted by 25 volunteers from the *Free 2B Grace Team*. To date, 107 (19.8%) of the Grace families have prayerfully considered and sacrificially pledged over \$1,033,315 above and beyond their regular giving while many others continue to be in prayer. These are incredible metrics to celebrate that match up with our Core Values of *weConnect*, and *weEquip*, *weGrow*!

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to those who have already accepted the invitation to meet individually with the Free 2B Grace volunteers by engaging in conversation about the future of the church, praying along side the church leadership, and prayerfully considering a sacrificial gift to help meet the vision before us. If you have not been contacted yet, please know the team continues to work hard to reach all the families here at Grace.

Just as savings build slowly over time in our personal finances, the funds will build slowly here at Grace *over the next five years*. This means, in time, we will be able to begin work on some of the safety and deterioration projects at Grace.

While we would like to fix everything all at one time, we are taking a conservative approach and will fix items like the sidewalk, roof, and tuck pointing as funds become available. Currently, we are working with several companies to get updated bids on these three important items.

We will continue to keep you updated as we progress with the *Free 2B Grace Campaign*. Again, thank you Grace Family for your support!

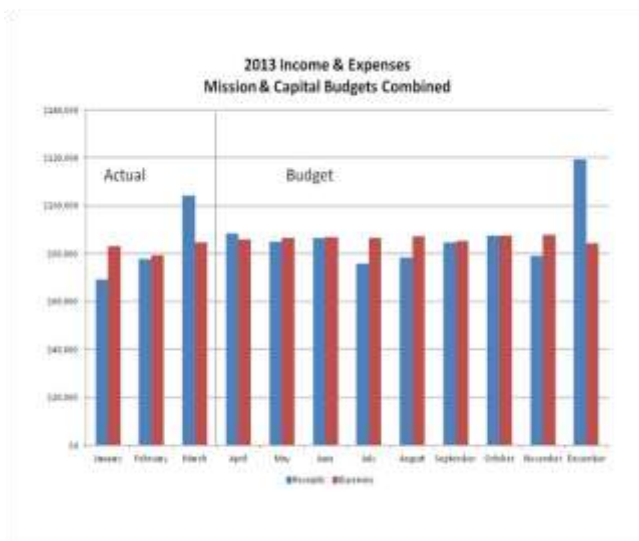
In him,

Ralph

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Here is a snapshot of our Income and Expenses through the first quarter (March 31st). **Mission (Operational) Budget:** We are slightly ahead in receipts through the first quarter when compared to 2012. Our expenses are up mainly due to the abundance of snow this year and the replacement of our failed voice mail system. **Capital Budget:** Giving to the capital mortgage is flat compared to last year. Thanks to the Free 2B Grace Campaign, we are beginning to turn the corner and are slowly building the fund back up. Monies pledged are gradually starting to be received. **Overall:** Our outlook is very positive for 2013.





Vision Board Member: Mary Jo Andrusko

Volunteering at Grace!

Webster defines a volunteer as *“a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task”* (Noun) or, as a verb – *“to freely offer to do something”*.

In today’s society, our time available to “freely offer” to do something is limited by what our children, or in my case, my grandchildren are involved in.

At Grace, there are so many, many opportunities to volunteer. Even one hour a week can help in accomplishing these tasks, and any amount of time is greatly appreciated.

The colored sheets in the bulletins hold many opportunities such as: Vacation Bible School (there are 15 different areas needing help for VBS and over 150 people are needed to fill these spots); Worship Servants (there are at least 10 different areas that help is needed during each Worship Service, every week)

There are many, many more opportunities throughout the year to serve here at Grace, as well as out in our community and the world. It warms your heart and soul to know that you helped with God’s work and helped care for His people.

Mary Jo Andrusko



Senior Moments:



According to the Grace Lutheran roster, there are 86 senior members at the present time, which is represented by 68 couples and 18 singles.

Due to the extended winter, the property team has been confined to working on indoor projects. If the snow ever melts, we can begin working on outdoor maintenance tasks. I hope the snow melts soon, the longer it takes, the more things Ralph finds to add to the list. One member of our team spends his free time volunteering at the Anoka County Brotherhood Council Food Shelf. Other team members are helping by driving the bus for our Family Promise host week.

Graceful senior members are also cooking and serving meals during our host week for Family Promise. Once a month some of these same people are helping to serve dinner at Family Table. When tragedy strikes members of Grace, the Graceful Seniors are there to provide refreshments and fellowship for grieving families.

On a rotating basis, seven of our senior men have voluntarily transported one of our Grace members to the U of M Hospital for daily radiation treatments. The senior men are working on a plan for a fishing trip to Lake Mille Lacs sometime in early June. Keep this in your mind and stay tuned for further information.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Pastor Gene Heglund leads the “Senior breakfast” in a Biblically-related study at the Farmstead in Andover. The current charge for a delicious breakfast buffet served by the Farmstead staff is \$6.50. The meeting begins at 8:30am and is usually completed by 9:45am. Reservations need to be made for the breakfast. If you are interested in joining us, please call the church office at 763-421-6520. In addition, this group attends occasional plays at Lyric Arts as a group and usually meets at Billy’s for brunch the Sunday of the play. “Hairspray” is on the schedule for August.

We would love to have you join us.



Upcoming Events:

Birthday Celebration at Feed My Starving Children!

Please join us as we pack meals at Feed My Starving Children from 8 – 9:30 pm on Wed. May 22. Pastor Mark and Jeannie have birthdays a few days apart in May, and this is their Birthday party celebration . . . And you're all invited (well, the first 120 people anyway)



- ◆ Pastor Mark is turning ?? (it's a memorable one) so come and join the festivities.
- ◆ No cake will be served – just a taste of Chicken-Veggie-Soy-Rice.
- ◆ No gifts will be accepted – except donations to Feed My Starving Children.

THANKS for your continued support of Feed My Starving Children! Hope to see you at the Birthday Party!

Please sign up at www.fmsc.org, on the blue opportunity pages in worship, or call the church office at 763-421-6520.



315 Pairs of Shoes!

During our Lenten journey of 'No Turning Back,' we combined our fabric cutting efforts and Noisy Offering resources to support a ministry called SOLE HOPE. Your donations and efforts will bless children in Africa, protecting them from foot infections. The shoe soles are created from old discarded rubber tires in Africa, while the outer shoe material was cut and prepared by YOU, then shipped to Africa where the shoes will be sewn and distributed to kids in need.

And the final tally is in . . . we cut fabric for 315 pairs of shoes! Plus we sent over \$1800 to the SOLE HOPE ministry! THANKS to the Grace family here in Andover, so many children in Africa will be blessed with shoes as well as freedom from foot infections.

- ◆ THANKS for donating your old blue jeans.
- ◆ THANKS for tracing patterns and cutting fabric during our Lenten Suppers.
- ◆ THANKS to so many Catechism students who helped at the big 'shoe cutting party.'
- ◆ THANKS to the WOW group that helped organize and finish up this project.
- ◆ THANKS for your financial support which will help African adults learn the trade of shoe making.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for embracing this all church Lenten project, and for blessing 315 African children with shoes. ***SOLE HOPE's mission is to provide HOPE, healthier lives, and freedom from foot-related diseases through education, jobs, and medical relief.*** Read more about this ministry at www.solehope.org

Summer Worship Schedule beings the weekend of May 25th and 26th!

Beginning the weekend of May 25th & 26th we will begin our Summer Worship Schedule which means we will go from 3 Sunday services down to 2. We will still have our Saturday night service at **5:00PM** and then our Sunday services will be held at **8:30AM and 10:00AM**.



Time
for
a
Change!



Summer Softball Sign Up!

Calling all gals.....it's almost time for Summer softball! You don't want to miss

this wonderful opportunity to laugh, learn and fellowship with great coaches and players. This is a recreational team (all skill levels welcome) that will play from May-Aug against other local church teams. Cost is approx. \$30. All practices & games at the fields behind Meadow Creek Church. If you are interested, please sign up on the blue sheet in worship or call the church office at 763-421-6520. First practice will be the end of May.

Congregational Meeting!

We will be holding a Congregational Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, May 25th & 26th after each of the Worship services. We will be voting on acceptance of New Vision Board nominees during this time. A copy of the Annual Report will be available for download from our website, www.graceandover.org, by Sunday, May 25th.



Mobile Online Giving Fast, Easy, & Convenient

Grace Lutheran Church now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give at anytime from your smart phone.

Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Trembath in the church office or email bonniet@graceandover.org.



Wear RED on Pentecost Sunday - May 19, 2013

"Pentecost is the day that the church was born. On that day, the Holy Spirit came to fill believers. Jesus had ascended, but he sent the Spirit so that believers could have the comfort, guidance, and empowerment of God's presence.

"Each year, Pentecost Sunday comes 50 days after Easter Sunday, hence its name. The Greek word for 50 is pentecost. The beginning of Pentecost is recorded in Acts 2:1-2.

Help us celebrate Pentecost this year by wearing **RED** on Pentecost Sunday!



Children's Ministry Happenings:



SONday School Birthday Offering

We have collected **\$124.81** in Birthday Offering since September! Wow! That is enough to purchase **5** flocks of chicks which is about 250 chicks that will bless five families in the world. Kids at Grace are making a difference! Birthday offerings will be collected on **2nd – 5th Sundays of the month**. During May, we will collect recognize Summer Birthdays so children with birthdays in June, July, and August may bring their coins any Sunday. So come see how old Kim and Monica are as we put in our Summer Birthday Offering! Check out heifer.org to see how your birthday money is helping so many families!

Family Worship Weekend May 4th & 5th

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon.



SONday School Memory Work



Share God's Word

Each SONday School class is working on their own special memory piece for the year. When kids are ready, they may recite to Kim or Monica, and then they can pick a surprise from the "Prize Well"! Congratulations to the children who have already done this!

Summer Musical Adventure Camp!

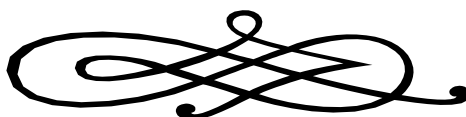
This year, our Summer Musical Adventure Camp will feature the Musical, **The Rockslinger and His Greatest Hit**. Mark your calendars to join us as we explore a story of David, a boy whose faith in God helped face Giants! Musical Camp is a 7 day adventure beginning Monday, July 29-Sunday, August 4. Registrations are now available. **Auditions** for speaking parts and solos will be Wed. June 19th. A signup sheet will be posted on the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board during VBS



May Baptism Workshop!



Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace, on Saturday, May 4 at 9:00am. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God. The next Baptism Workshop will be July 13 at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.



Children's Ministry cont'd:

Rockin Kids Club!



Thank you to all our families for the ice cream, malt supplies, and service project items, they donated all year long, to our volunteers who come each week and share with the kids, and to the kids who make RKBC an adventure! Please join us for our **RKBC Musical Revue** on Wednesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. The kids will share songs, poems, and scripture about our Bible Stories and time together. A reception of treats and lemonade will follow.

Children's Summer Bible Time!



While we enjoy the sunny days of summer, it is also an opportunity to worship with the children of Grace. Children will be in worship beginning May 26. For the Sunday morning services at 8:30 and 10 a.m., we offer a **Special Summer Bible Time**. Children will be in church with their families, come forward for the Children's Message with the pastors, and then they will be dismissed for a lesson in the Fellowship Hall. This summer, kids will explore the Lord's Prayer.

Children will return to worship after the Sermon. We need many enthusiastic, willing hearts and hands to help with this adventure. Materials and ideas will be provided to help you prepare for the 15 minutes with the children. See Monica Allen, monicaa@graceandover.org or Kim DeVries at kimd@graceandover.org, if you have questions. You may sign upon the blue sheets or on the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board.



Summer Nursery Sign up!

This Summer, our nursery will be offered at all services, 5pm on Saturday, 8:30 and 10am on Sunday. We have a fantastic group of volunteers who have served so faithfully all school year. Please show your appreciation of our volunteers by signing up for a service. If families could sign up for one worship service this summer, what a blessing that would be! To be a blessing, sign up on the blue sheets or the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board.

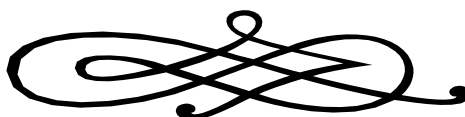


SONday School is almost finished!

We have had a great year exploring God's Word and making new friends. The last Sunday of SONday School will be May 19.



5th Grade Graduation on May 18 and 19! We would like to recognize and celebrate our 5th Graders as they move from SONday School/Rockin' Kids Bible Club to Catechism. The 5th Graders attending on Saturday night will begin in worship as they normally would and come forward when it is time. Sunday morning 5th Graders will begin in their classrooms as they normally would. All 5th Grade children from SONday School and Rockin' Kids Bible Club are invited to be a part of this moment in worship.



Children's Continued:



June 10th – 14th, 2013, 9:30am –Noon
Ages 3- 5th Grade (completed)

We are headed to the mountains this year at Grace!

Tell It on the Mountain VBS will take us on an expedition to the top of five mountains and will teach us more about God's might and grace and His Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord! Start getting excited to sing some fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn all about Jesus so that you can go TELL everyone about Him! Can't wait to see you there! So put on your hiking boots and get ready for a mountaintop experience! We're going to set out on an expedition to learn about our one true God.

Registration starts now! Please register your child(ren) for this exciting event as soon as possible!

Cost is only \$20.00 per child for the entire week and includes a T-shirt if you register by May 31st.

Registrations are available on line or, you can pick one up at the Welcome Center at church.

We Need Your Help!

Our *Tell It on the Mountain* Vacation Bible School needs great volunteers, and we're hoping you will help. Please help children know and grow in belief in Jesus by serving this year! You can sign up on the opportunity sheets in the bulletins or contact Kim DeVries at 763-421-6520 or email kimd@graceandover.org. We provide all the resources and training you need!

- VBS Training Date: May 29th 6:30-8:00pm
(Small Group & Pre-School Leaders only)
- VBS Training Date: May 30th 6:30-8:00pm
(All other VBS Volunteers)



Grace Music Academy:

Saying "Goodbye" and "Hello!"

Sometimes it's challenging to say "Goodbye" to dear friends and longtime neighbors. We realize that over the years they have become such an important part of our lives, we can't imagine what our lives might be like without them close by. Nonetheless, situations change, jobs end, retirements come, and we find it necessary to say, "Goodbye."

While a "Goodbye" might be difficult, often it is followed by a wonderful "Hello" as we welcome new neighbors, co-workers, new hires, and circumstances in our lives! Surprisingly we can find our lives don't diminish with loss, but become richer with the changes! Such is life at our church as we say "Goodbye" to the Grace Music Academy and "Hello" to our new Parish Nurse Ministry.

We find it challenging to say "Goodbye" to the music ministry we developed and tried to sustain for nearly eight years. In the Fall of 2005, the music academy began as a way for Grace to enrich its overall music ministries, grow our community outreach by providing musical lessons and special music events, and be a way to grow faith in our students, as teachers shared how their faith empowered their playing. We knew the first couple of years the church would financially support this emerging ministry 100 percent, but it was our hope that after a few years, the Academy would be strong and financially stable with a projected 90 students. (We based our original business model on the success of Grace's Golden Rule Daycare and other church music academies in the twin cities.) However, we have not seen this happen, and as a result the Vision Board and leadership came to the difficult decision to close the academy.

As we say "Goodbye" to this wonderful music ministry, we must pause and give thanks for all the many blessings we have received! We appreciate the wonderful administrators and staff members who helped lead this ministry: Marcelo and Margareth Urias, Scott Stivers, Denise Redman, and Jonathan Orwig. We are grateful for the many teachers who have served faithfully and touched the lives of students. And we are thankful for the many parents who partnered with us to bring their children weekly to lessons. Finally, we celebrate all the students whose lives were enriched and whose musical gifts have grown through this endeavor.

Continued on next page.....

New Parish Nurse Ministry:



As we say “good bye” to our Music academy, we welcome the Parish Nurse Ministry led by Lily Tunby and Lori Ackerson. For those who are unfamiliar with this ministry, parish nursing can be part of the overall spiritual formation within a local congregation. In order for a person to be spiritually fit, they have to be mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically healthy. A parish nurse is called and committed to promote abundant life - a balance between all four needs. This ministry is grounded in the tradition of the church, “to preach the kingdom of God and to heal” (Luke 9:2).

What will our Parish Nurse Ministry at Grace look like? A Parish nurse works with members of a church in many ways:

- Visits members in homes, care centers or hospitals
- Talks with members on health-related issues
- Assists in obtaining needed health services
- Helps members understand the relationship between body, mind and spirit
- Assists in adapting important lifestyle changes
- Promotes wellness through education and activities
- Provides basic health screenings
- Develops support groups within the faith community
- Coordinates congregational volunteers

We are grateful that both Lily and Lori have stepped forward to volunteer their time to begin this ministry. They plan to work 25 hours a month on an unpaid basis because they are so passionate about growing healthy and spiritually fit people at Grace. One of their first steps will be to find people who would like to serve on a Wellness Ministry Team and help develop the programs. If you are interested, please call the church office to volunteer.

This is an exciting new ministry at Grace. It will bring a whole new dimension to spiritual growth at our church. God is good and continues to grow us as a ministry of Grace. Once again we have reason to celebrate - As we say “Goodbye” we also say, “Hello!”

Grace 2Haiti:

Grace2Haiti Mission Trip Living out Acts Chapter 29!

We ask the Grace family to continue praying for our Grace2Haiti Mission Team as they serve with World Wide Village ministries in Haiti May 2 – 9. This team of twelve adults has been praying and planning for months. And now they are ready to go and live out Acts chapter 29, being the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. They will be building relationships with the people in Haiti while constructing a home, repairing play grounds, working in gardens and creating crafts with children.

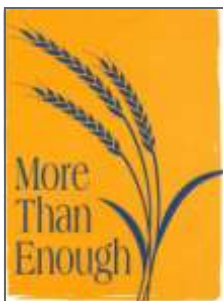
Please keep praying for this Grace2Haiti mission team which includes Diane Phillips, Tom Baker, Linda Matson, Brad Hadsall, Beth Tobiason, Stacy Wiegert, Harold Zupon, Chrissy Petersen, Pete Weikle, Lily Tunby and team leaders, Anne & Scott DeFoe.

And just in case you haven’t noticed, there is no Acts Chapter 29 in your Bible. The book of Acts has only 28 chapters, making Acts 29 the ‘next chapter’ in the mission of the church, as we strive to live by the Spirit, and be God’s loving servants. You may follow the activity and adventures of this mission team at <http://grace2haiti2013.tumblr.com/>



Stewardship: By Jerry Hoffman

More than Enough!



Paul asks the Christians at Corinth to give an offering for the Christian people in Jerusalem who are living in extreme poverty. In this portion of the appeal he makes a case for a generous response.

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (CAV)

"Remember that the person who

sows few seeds will have a small crop; the one who sows many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scripture says: "He gives generously to the needy; his kindness lasts forever."

I was on a basketball team in Junior High. During one game, Howard Anderson who at 5'5" (our big man) was in the game as our center. During a timeout the coach said, "Strock, you take Howard's place." Duane Strock, 4'4", was astonished and said, "Who me, take Howard's place?"

When people are asked to stretch in their giving, there are voices that cry out:

"Who me?"

"Who us?"

"We are not talented enough."

"We are too poor."

"We do not have the leadership."

"We are too old or too young."

"We can't meet the budget we have."

"If only we had more people."

"If only we have more youth."

"If only we could get some rich and talented members in our congregation."

I have heard these response and many similar ones in congregations that worship 30 and in those who worship 5,000. These are the voices of those whose mindset has bought into the myth of scarcity. This myth generates fear and defines people as deficient.

In response to this, here is what I believe. First, regardless of your size or your context, God has given you and your church opportunities to join

Jesus in loving the world. You are called to continue the work that Jesus began. God expects that the church will love mercy, do justly and walk humbly. Jesus states that we are to "love God" and to "love our neighbor" as ourselves and Jesus commissions us to make disciples.

Every person is called by God to enter into mission locally and globally. If you don't know what that might be for you, you need to prayerfully identify it, write it down, pray about it, talk about it and intentionally commit yourselves to meet it. In Paul's letter, he offers the opportunity to respond to the needs of the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem.

Second, God provides all you need to do what God calls you to do. You have more than enough talent, leadership, imagination and money available. Make an effort to encourage, discover and identify the assets God has entrusted to your care. God is extravagant with you. You can do far more than you ask or imagine.

A more than enough perspective is biblical. It is rooted in the confidence that God will provide. A missional congregation trusts God and generously sows seeds of love in the world.

Recall what Paul wrote:

1.The more seeds you sow the greater the harvest. That is common sense.

2.God desires you to be a joyful giver. How do you know the joy of giving unless you give? God who is the ultimate giver finds great joy in giving.

3.And here is the clincher: "God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause".

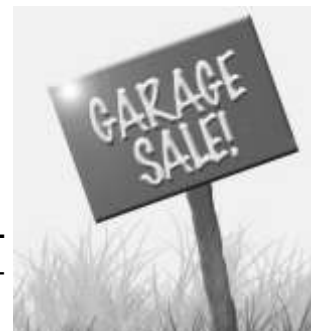
I invite you to live in God's promises. I invite you to choose a ministry which calls upon the use of the gifts that have been entrusted to you. See yourselves from God's perspective not your own.

When the coach put Duane Strock into the game, the coach was confident that Duane had the ability to do what needed to be done. The more you trust God and join Jesus in being the hands, feet and voice that God employs to bring God's love, hope, joy, peace and justice to the world, the more you will be living into the church you are called to be.

Youth Happenings:



Grace Garage Sale June 20 – 22, 2013



As you begin your spring cleaning, don't forget to put aside some items for the **Grace Garage Sale** to be held **June 20th-22nd**. This year's sale will benefit our Wind River Mission Team and the children and youth who are going to Luther Dell Bible Camp in June.

We will begin accepting clothing and household donations on Monday, May 20th, in Portable #1 (the portable closest to the church building). Items can be dropped off during normal, weekday business hours (M-F, 8:30-4:00pm) and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:30-noon.

Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition. We would appreciate NOT receiving any of the following items as they are hard to sell and are expensive to dispose of: **NO computers, monitors, printers, TV's, appliances, electronics, mattresses, or exercise equipment.**

All furniture donations must be in good condition and must be "approved for sale" before you leave it at the church. You may contact Tom Baker tomb@graceandover.org concerning questions on items, or to arrange pick up of bulky items, after June 2nd.



Wind River Mission Team Fundraising News:

We have 22 youth who need to raise funds so that they can serve in Wyoming on the Wind River Reservation this July. Check out how you can support their mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus:

Need some help with Spring Cleaning? Sign up on the blue sheets or contact Tom Baker to request help for your spring home projects. This can include anything from yard

work to garage cleaning, washing windows, or even providing childcare so that you can get your home projects done. We will match you up with one (or more) of our youth team members, and they will contact you concerning the details of what you need done, and when.

"Miles to Go" Team Sponsorship

You can support our team by picking up one of the **Miles to Go pledge envelopes** in the narthex and pledging to support one of our youth or adults. Beginning on April 27th and for the first two weekends of May, we will be gathering support from our congregation. Please consider how you can support our youth or help to defray the costs for one of our 5 adults.



Luther Dell Camp June 23 – 28 - for completed 4th through 12th graders!

Pick up your Lutheran Dell Camp Brochure for all the details and options for children and youth this summer. Registrations this year are done directly with the camp online and we will again be having our **Annual Grace Garage Sale on June 20-22** as a fundraiser for our campers and mission team youth. Contact Tom Baker if you have questions.

Congratulations Grace 2013 Confirmands!

Corey Adrian
 Jacob Brandner
 Anne Christensen
 Paige Dahlberg
 Samantha Danielson
 Gina Doyle
 Joe Haubner
 Hannah Heath
 Hannah Hirt
 Jadie Johnson
 Erin Johnson
 Kendra Krebsbach
 Breanna Lecy
 Eva Lindberg
 Hannah Lukkason
 James Mitlyng
 Christopher O'Keefe
 Brianna Plumbo
 Connor Schaaf
 Mckenzie Schewe
 Sydney Seim
 Aubrey Shepard
 Brianna Szymanski
 Anna Thomason
 Logan Thompson
 Caleb Volk
 Will Weikle
 Nick Weisenberger
 Jack Wiles
 Nena Yochim
 Natalie Yochim
 Maria Zak



Service Opportunities at Grace:



Communion Set-Up Volunteers!

We are in great need of people to help set up and clean up communion between each of our worship services. This is an easy, behind the scenes opportunity that is vital to each of our worship services. If you are interested, we would love to add you to the team. Please sign up on the blue sheet.

Ushers Needed!

We are in great need of ushers at our 5:00pm, Saturday night service, as well as our services on Sunday morning. Our ushers help our services to “flow” by handing out bulletins, helping people find their seats, taking up offering and ushering people out of the pews for communion. If you would like to serve one time each month, please sign up on the blue sheet.

Counters Needed!

If you are detail orientated, enjoy working with numbers and want to be part of a ministry team here at Grace, please consider being part of the counting team. Counters must be adults and be able to count during or after the 10:20 service every other month. If you are interested please sign up on the blue sheet or contact Bonnie Trembath at 763-421-6520 or email bonniet@graceandover.org in the church office, with any questions.

Sound & Media Techs!

If you are interested in assisting with Power Point or the sound board during any of our Worship Services, please contact Carroll Potter at 763-241-6520 or email her at carrollp@graceandover.org.

Thank You:

To the Grace Staff and all who have been so kind through Sante's journey the last few months. Thank you! Also, thank you to the ladies on the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the Prayer Shawl and lap robe. A special thanks to all who helped prepare for, and serve the wonderful luncheon after Sante's Memorial Service. And above all, thank you to all those who cared and lifted us up in prayer during these many months that Sante was ill. No words can ever express our gratitude enough.

Marge Davidson
Daniel Davidson



To all of the wonderful volunteers who so graciously gave of their time to come and clean the kitchen at Grace, THANK YOU! It is a wonderful blessing to open the cabinets and see all of the hard work and dedication that was given to God's kitchen. You are a wonderful blessing!

The Grace Staff!

THANK
YOU

Thank you for the prayers and other comforting acts of sympathy given to us when my brother died. God bless you for caring.

George Cowman and family



The food shelf ministry would like to thank everyone who has donated and responded to our needs over the last several months.



Please take a moment to thank our fantastic teams of youth and adult volunteers for the nursery, SONday School, Rockin' Kids Bible Club, and Faith Explorers. They share their time, energy, and love with the children each week. They are the heart of everything we do with children at Grace. So we encourage you to take a moment and thank a volunteer. We are so very blessed to work with these dedicated teams. Sincerely, Kim DeVries and Monica Allen

Grace Lutheran Church

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*A Ministry of Grace
in the heart of Andover and beyond!
www.graceandover.org*

Address Service Requested



**Register by:
May 31st!**

**Don't miss this years
"MOUNTAIN TOP"
VBS Experience
at Grace!
June 10th-14th,
9:30am-Noon
Ages 3 years-5th Grade**

*Register and pay online at
www.graceandover.org
and click on "Children."*