

# the church Messenger



**Grace and peace to you, people of Grace!**

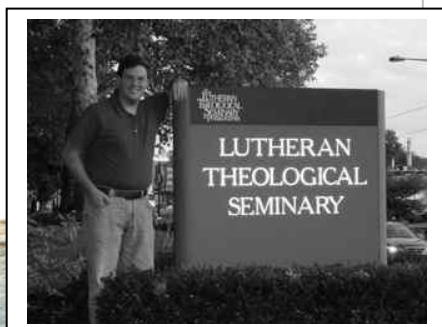
## Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 3  
Service/Potluck at Lutheran  
Lakeside Camp Dining Hall

Wednesday, September 7  
CONNECT @ 6:00 pm  
Each Wednesday

Sunday, September 11  
Choir 8:30-9:30

Wednesday, September 14  
Martha Bible@9:30  
Youth Choir@5:30



Greetings to you all from Allentown, Pennsylvania! I will be here now until August of 2012, serving my year of internship. I will be halftime with St. John's Lutheran Church in inner-city Allentown, and halftime with the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, a compendium of 155 congregations that works on societal concerns in the Lehigh Valley, mostly related to homelessness and hunger. I am also situated about an hour from New York, not too far from Shanksville, PA, and about three hours from DC – all sites impacted ten years ago on that fateful September morning. "Have you forgotten?" rang out the words of a song written shortly after 9/11/01. Have you forgotten where you were when the towers went down, as you saw the destruction wreaked upon our most powerful places, as you watched thousands rally to respond? Of course you haven't. Neither has anyone else old enough to remember that day clearly.

And, at the end, we recognize that we will all meet again before the same all-seeing God, the master who says, "Have you forgotten that September morning? Of course you haven't. But neither have I forgotten you. And I am a God who gave my life to pay a debt for you, all of you. I was there on that day a decade ago, and all the days since then, weeping with those who wept, walking alongside all who battled fear, strengthening those who worked to help others. I was there when they raised you from the waters of baptism and will be there when they lower you into your grave. Where I am, you too shall be; with me, you shall all rise again. Have you forgotten? No. Nor will I ever forget you."

As we pause on that September day to grieve, to rage, to remember, and to reconcile, we pray for God's mercy on ourselves, as well as those who have sinned against us. Let us pray for God's blessing, using these words:  
*Out of the darkness we cry to you, O God. Enable us to find in Christ the faith to trust your care, even in the midst of pain, so that we may not walk alone through the valley of the shadow of death, through Christ our Lord. Amen.* [ELW, Recovery from trauma]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your friend and pilgrim,  
Carl P. Rabbe  
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

# The Future of the Adult Choir



## Sunday Hymn Selection Change

The Sunday Hymn Selection Group has changed its date and time of meeting. We will now meet on the **third Monday of the Month at 6:30pm** in the Fireside Room. This month will be September 19, 2011.

## Join us for Youth Choir!

Rehearsals for our first musical: "Luther and His Reformation" will begin on September 14 at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary. All students in second grade and above are welcome!

Let me first say a big "Thank You" to all the choir members who were able to meet with me this summer to discuss the changes and ideas about choir this upcoming year. I was very pleased to hear of the commitment of those involved to keep the Adult Choir going. I am writing to inform the congregation of the bottom line and why these decisions and changes have been made.

So here is the reality of our situation. Grace has been incredibly fortunate to have a strong core of volunteers in the choir. But it has been unfortunate that when a conflict arises for one of those core members, we have no new members who step-up to help. As you might recall, the winter performances of the choir were cancelled due to such small numbers. So some very big decisions were made about how to proceed forward.

This year we are changing up the role of the choir to see if there is still enough interest to keep the choir going. The new schedule will be the test-run for whether or not the choir will continue to exist at Grace.

Adult Choir will now meet from 8:30-9:30am on Sunday mornings before church services for rehearsals. We will perform as a group at special services and, in smaller groups, as cantors for Saturday and Sunday services once a month. These performances will all have sign-up sheets. I ask that if you plan on performing with the choir, you put your name down. This will help eliminate cancellations of choir performances. Our first rehearsal will be **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 at 8:30am.**

So I ask you, what do you want? Do you want to continue the tradition of a volunteer adult choir here at Grace? The purpose of the choir is to sing praises and thanksgiving to God. Is the reason you are not involved a valid reason, or an excuse? Is it because of the time commitment, clapping after a performance, a fear of new or different music, the time the church service takes place, where the choir stands, if the choir wears robes, or maybe just a lack of faith in the program? As much enthusiasm as I have for this congregation, I cannot do it alone. It is up to you to decide whether or not the choir (and all other programs here for that matter) grow or fall to the wayside.

I hope to see you all at a service soon. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have about the music here at Grace. I take seriously everyone's opinion who is involved with the continued growth of music within the church.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Hardy Pedersen  
[jhardypedersen@gmail.com](mailto:jhardypedersen@gmail.com)  
605 351 6156

# Grace Lutheran Women

## September 14, Wednesday 9:30 AM

Martha Circle

Hostess.....Linda Hopkins

Bible Study Leader...Earline Blahauvietz

## September 20, Tuesday 2:00PM

Bingo at Hilltop – Cookies and Prizes

## September 24, Saturday 12:30 PM

Regional Leadership Training

First Lutheran Church, Algona

This training is for all congregational and cluster officers.

## September 27 and 28, Tue. and Wed. 9:30 AM

Sew and Fun

At the August Martha Circle meeting, it was decided to have coffee fellowship first. Carl Rabbe was presented with a Sixtieth Anniversary Memory Book and a Grace Lutheran Church Cookbook.

Lutheran women have a long history of gathering for Bible study, prayer, service, and advocacy. Now our heritage has a "new" magazine with the name **GATHER** which carries on the award-winning Bible study and delivers the same great articles which inform, challenge, and encourage. Martha Circle now has copies of this magazine available for anyone in the front foyer of the church. August begins a new Bible Study which follows the Gospel of Mark. Here Mark has written not only to record stories about Jesus, but to allow the revelation of God in Jesus Christ to speak to us as the living, life-defining Word of God. This study will continue for several months.

## Confirmation Changes

Improvements for students include content upgrades such as new curriculum that adds more structure to learning opportunities and more guidance for conversations with Pastor Martin and Amanda on the application of biblical and catechetical concepts in everyday life.

Improvements for parents include new provisions for their involvement (a necessity if faith really is caught rather than taught) such as forming parent-teams to provide Wednesday night meals, setting up and putting away for Holy Communion at the same worship service that your student acolytes, and participating in an interactive learning experience with your student on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October. Improvements for the congregation include the New Life that comes with student sermon note requirements (fifteen during the program year), service requirements in all three of the mission group areas of Grace, and also the opportunity to support and be supported by students by participating on Wednesday nights with them –

**it is for everyone!**

## Other Changes

We are going to try to receive Holy Communion more often by intinction. We are going to trust and encourage our mission groups to make more of the decisions that affect congregational life – the farther down the chain of command most things are handled the better off we all tend to be (next meeting for groups is Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>). We are going to try to (semi-) organize a social hour Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM: the coffee, tea, etc. will be provided – Would you like to bring a treat?

*The "Hope Room" is open and accepting items for next year's garage sale.*

### *Congratulations to:*

- *John & Char Salewske on their 7<sup>th</sup> grandchild, Adalia Charlotte Salewske, born to Ty & Elaine.*
- *Jim & Carolyn Johnson, on their grandson.*
- *Ernie & Elaine Wilcke on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*



# CHOICE DOLLARS

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members of Grace Lutheran Church for participating in the Thrivent Choice Dollars program of charitable giving. Over \$3,000 has been distributed to the Oaxaca Mission Project, several Dickinson County non-profit organizations, and various Minnesota projects.

## FAITH LIFE

An e-mail from Joe Rabbe to his son, Carl. 8/8/11

Carl,  
Your friend Father Nick made the ink in the Rochester Post Bulletin on Saturday, July 30. I'm forwarding it to you, because I think you will find it most interesting. As you and I have both experienced, Father Nick has a most unique way of not only thinking outside the box, but implementing his thoughts to the busy streets of Rochester/Mayo world.  
<http://www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1462573> – in the article, Father Nick, blesses the hospitals and staff of the Rochester, MN region.

As I read this article, I couldn't help but think about Grace, and Martin's desire to move Grace to the streets and shorelines of the greater Spirit Lake area. The lakes region has, as we've learned, a very respected health care service and hospital. Share this article with Martin. Maybe his innate vision will move a similar experience to Spirit Lake, I don't know. As you know, I'm experienced in agriculture, not religion. But regardless, opportunities are opportunities.

Thanks for your message and worship leadership today. I think you did an outstanding job. Also, the way Martin tied the setting into the message, as we looked to the water, made it ever so real, as we imagined what feeding the 5000 might have been like.

### In Our Prayers:

**For health reasons:** Dwane Netsch, Ruth Heller, Julie Lande, Loren Hovland, Andy Conway, (Jan & Laura Coon's son-in-law), Bert Baldwin, (Ruth Heller's brother), Karen Beuhler, (Ruth Heller's friend), Julaine Hill, (Barb Ingwersen's daughter), Marian Brunsvold, (Carla Jones, mother), Harold Tegtmeier (Han's brother), Frank & Lorraine Masad, Trudy "Sevatson" Carlton, Mindy Rutledge, Lynn Davis (Cynthia Maffin's brother), Erma Werner, Bonnie Albertson, and Pat Notestine.

**Members & Friends in the Military:** Kyle Roach, (Christina Hanson's fiancée), Cody Duhn, (Rocky & Evonne Duhn's great grandson), Doug Johnson, (Mike & Jo Megill's son, TJ's brother), Tyler Hemingson, (Dallas & JoAnn Brown's nephew), Cory & Jason Bruch, (Vernice Wahl's nephews), Joe Bayne, (Vernice Wahl's nephew), Joel Greer, (Scott's brother), Steven Lemke (Scott Lemke's nephew), Rolf & Layne Place (Lucille Place's grandson & wife).

**Persons in Mission:**  
Carly Kruse (Connie Tryon's niece) in Kurdistan.

**Persons in Ministry:** Carl Rabbe, Seminary Student

### Contact us:

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**Weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters available on the website: [gracelutheranspiritlake.org](http://gracelutheranspiritlake.org)**

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email let us know.



# The Grace Connection

Something for Everyone at Grace Lutheran and Beyond!

September, 2011

## Wednesday CONNECT

Kick-off September 7th 6:00 p.m.

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**Sunday School** has moved to Wednesday **CONNECT** from 6:00-7:30.

### *Confirmation: New and Improved*

*This year the confirmation program will begin to take a new shape. There will be 2 years of confirmation: year 1 (9th grade) of instruction and year 2 (10th grade) of implementation. Students will participate in sermon notes, participate in the life of the church, attend classes, and acolyte, to name a few additions. Parents will play a major role in their child's experience in confirmation by participating in communion preparation and clean-up, class experience, and conversations. The goal of the confirmation program is to attend a mission trip to put our learning into practice. We are excited for these changes and to see how God uses these young adults to further His mission.*

## Parent Pause - Ephesians 4: 22-24

"I don't like your attitude, mister." "Somebody needs an attitude adjustment." "Come back and join us when you have a better attitude." Many times the person who really needs the attitude adjustment is the one asking for one, which is probably why I am frustrated in that moment.

We all know that we have to deal with circumstances we would not choose if we had the options - that's life. We also know, or at least have heard enough times that maybe we should know by now, that our reactions to life's ups and downs, our attitudes about those ups and downs, are a choice. I conveniently forget sometimes, and I act purely as if my behavior is an inevitable, uncontrollable result of something that happened to me. When I'm feeling down, I have to work through the corruption of my old self and make the decision to be made new. The decision is harder than the transaction itself, because God does all the heavy lifting after I finally decide to go His way. He renews my mind and the attitude within, and He helps me inhabit my new self.

I repeat this to myself, out loud or in my head, when I'm feeling stuck: "I will be made new in the attitude of my mind." This has kept me on the high road more than once.

- taken from [Heart of My Heart](#)

**Don't forget to  
CONNECT**



**September 7th @ 6:00**



**MINUTE 2 WIN IT**

**COMING TO GRACE LUTHERAN THIS FALL FOR COUPLES. KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR MORE INFO!**



**Learn  
&  
Grow**

Sun

1

4

10:00 Worship  
Holy Communion

11

8:30 Adult Choir  
10:00 Worship  
Holy Communion  
11:00 Church Council

18

8:30 Adult Choir  
10:00 Worship  
Holy Communion

25

8:30 Adult Choir  
10:00 Worship  
Holy Communion  
11:00 Mutual Ministry

Mon

5

12

5:00 pm Book Group

19

6:30 pm  
Hymn Selection Group

26

W I Synod Fall  
Convocation  
Sep 25—27

Tue

2

6

13

20

2:00 Bingo @ Hilltop

27

9:30 Sew N' Fun  
In honor of Trisha & Isaiah's  
3rd Anniversary  
Peggy Rick

Wed

7

10:30 Staff Time  
6:00 **CONNECT**

14

9:30 Martha Bible  
10:30 Staff Time  
5:30 Youth Choir  
6:00 **CONNECT**

21

10:30 Staff Time  
5:30 Youth Choir  
6:00 **CONNECT**

Thu

8

15

22

28

9:30 Sew N' Fun  
10:30 Staff Time  
5:30 Youth Choir  
6:00 **CONNECT**

Fri

3

5:45 pm Worship/P

9

16

23

29