

GRACE NOTES



August 2011

Grace Lutheran Church ELCA

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church, 312 Prospect, Howell, MI 48843 517-546-3350

SOCIAL MINISTRIES: Upcoming Events

The date for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Fund-Raiser Tea Party will be Sunday, August 7, right after church.

Come, one and all, no one is too young or too old to enjoy an afternoon tea! There will be a free will offering to support Team Grace in our efforts to raise money for Relay for Life. The wonderful puppets of Grace will be featured along with the always charmingMad Hatters!



Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

We will be supplying entertainment, a light lunch, sweets, cold drinks and of course tea!



Another great fund-raising opportunity coming September 10, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. is Strut Your Mutt. Registrations will be available on the narthex bulletin board. The registration fee before Saturday, August 20, will be \$10.00 and after that will be \$15.00.

The Social Ministries Committee is excited to be working closely with our youth in upcoming events. Our vision is Team Grace out in the community lead by our youth and supported by our congregation.

Go Team Grace..... Grace Filled Walkers!!

The Pastors will be on vacation beginning August 8. They will be available in the event of a Pastoral emergency. Please call the church office or call them at home at 517-552-1782.

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YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Save the date of Sunday, September 11, for Sunday School Rally Day! The fun will start at 9:45 a.m. to begin another wonderful year of Sunday School. See future announcements for more details.



Thanks to those who have already signed up to be a part of the Sunday School staff. Please see Superintendents Jennifer Byrd and Kathy Breidinger or Karen Warsop, if you would like to help in any way.

OLGA HEWETT MEMORIAL

A Memorial service for Olga Hewett, longtime member of Grace (recently living in Manistee, Michigan) will be held Saturday, August 27, at 11 a.m. here at Grace Lutheran.

“What a total transformation. What a gift,” said the new pastor/redeveloper of Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, Pastor Monica Villarreal, as she surveyed the work our workcampers had done. In July, seventeen different individuals from our congregation spent a week at Salem to paint, refurbish, and renew their building.



In a week's time we were able to paint their entry way, paint their fellowship hall, remove their old accordion dividers and tracks and repair the ceiling where these had been, completely refurbish two bathrooms which hadn't been updated since the building was built in 1952, install new lighting in the basement, remove overgrown landscaping, remove old sanctuary curtains, polish their brass candelabra, and clean and organize their

Sunday School area. We helped to give a small church a new start concurrent with the start of their new pastor, so that they might be able to move forward to do ministry in their community.

But Salem is not the only beneficiary from this project. I hope that their witness inspires us. Salem is impressive in that it has more outreach programs than most churches four times its size. Its members are involved in housing development programs, food and clothing giveaways, they provide a community meal each Sunday, they plant and maintain two urban gardens, growing vegetables to give away, and they have a loose change offering weekly to benefit groups such as Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and Thrivent Builds. All this from a church of 139 members, and an average attendance of 51. If such a small church can be committed to outreach, surely a church our size can also make a huge difference.

Thank you to those of you who supported the workcampers in any way, through donations, and supplying food and supplies. And thank you to Salem Lutheran for being a witness to Christ's light and to what a church can accomplish.

Pastor Sharon

HOMETOWN WORKCAMP 2011

I would like to thank all the members of Grace Lutheran Church for their support of the “Home Town Workcamp 2011”. It was an exceptional success and a terrific experience for all who participated at the work site. The support by GRACE and love shared gave hope to a struggling inner city Church.



We thank all who were up early preparing breakfasts: Daryl and Diane Sterzinger, Dave and Pat Isom, Barb Carter, Max Willmore and Bruce Richardson. We also thank all who provided lunch items: Larry and Pam Anderson, Dave and Pat Isom, Karen Warsop, Barb Carter and Max and Gladys Willmore.



Youth Volunteers

I give a heartfelt thanks to all who did an outstanding job representing Grace at Salem Lutheran, your efforts have given hope to a struggling congregation:
Craig Huff, Michael Lane, Scott Huff, Danny Sutela, Ryan Lane, Michael Peplinski, Denny Chiesa, Tammy Lane, Joe (the plumber) Wilson, Michael Miller, Dave Bird, Barb Carter, Pastor Sharon Huff, Pastor Tom Huff, Reggie Hasenbush, Dave Isom and Bob Clise.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bob Clise
Youth Support Chairman
Grace Lutheran Church

ON-GOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

VG's receipts—Continue to save your VG's receipts. Remember, you now need a VG's Yes Rewards card to continue to receive Community Share Points. Bring in the part of receipt with the Community Share Points and put them in the green box in narthex. Thanks to the Love Day Ladies that total the receipts and take them to VG's, so our youth programming gets some extra money. We received a check for \$115 in late June that went towards Hometown Workcamp.

Meijer Rewards—Sign up on-line or see Karen Warsop for a brochure to sign up. Use code number 772497. You will receive a Meijer 1 Card to use every time you check out at Meijer. Grace's youth programming gets a check for a percentage of purchases made with this card.

ULTIMATE COMFORT

“For each of us the time is surely coming when we shall have nothing but God. Health and wealth and friends and hiding places will all be swept away. ... To the man of pseudo faith that is a terrifying thought, but to real faith it is one of the most comforting thoughts the heart can entertain.”

—A.W. Tozer

I would like to thank everyone for the rides to U of M hospital, the delicious meals, the cards and all the prayers. You've helped make a difficult time easier.

A NOTE OF



God bless, Michelle Hebert

Thank you to Ken Althouse and Emily Childers, who chaperoned 11 teens at Confirmation camp in July. You helped make a great week for those teens.

Thank you to all that helped make VBS Pandamania a success! You make a big difference in the lives of many children.

Dear Luncheon Committee,

Our family wanted to thank you for doing such a wonderful job for my mom's funeral luncheon. Everything was handled beautifully and we appreciated all your hard work serving and cleaning up. Thank you again for your kindness.

Sincerely, Gary & Mary Losey and the Jenks Family

Dear Pastor Sharon,

Our family wishes to thank you for the wonderful service you did for Shirley. Your special attention to detail was very comforting to our family. Dad was very pleased with the service and said that "it was like you knew her." Shirley (mom) was very special to us—we'll miss her but are thankful she's resting peacefully with Jesus. Thank you again for everything.

Sincerely, Gary & Mary Losey and the Jenks Family





YOU ARE INVITED TO: AN EVENING OF MUSIC, INSPIRATION & FAITH

The Great Lakes Region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is once again sponsoring the Summer Contemporary Christian Concert series at DTE Energy Music Theatre. This sponsorship means that Thrivent members can purchase tickets to either, or both concerts remaining in this year's series—for themselves and their guests at discounted prices!

The Concert Series Includes:

STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN
JARS OF CLAY / CALEB
/ FRANCESCA BATTISTELLI
Sunday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m.

MICHAEL W. SMITH
THIRD DAY / CHRIS AUGUST
Sunday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m.

TOBYMAC
PETER FURLER / MANDISA
JAMIE GRACE
Sunday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Discounted Ticket Price Options are:

\$32.00 Pavilion Tickets (\$7.50 off of the regular price of \$39.50)

or

\$20.00 Pavilion Tickets (\$5.00 off of the regular price of \$25.00)

or

\$10.00 Lawn Tickets

**All Ticket Prices include Parking Fees*

Tickets can be ordered on-line at: RedeemOnlineNow.com

Event ID: Thrivent

Password: GreatLakes

Invite your friends and family!



Great Faith in a Corrupt System: The Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44)

Grace Duddy

The story of the widow's mite has always fascinated me because it reminds me how just a few small coins can demonstrate such great faith. Throughout my study of stewardship, I have continued to be on the lookout for the "widow's mite gifts" or relatively small gifts that are proportionately very large. I am discovering that this story, however, is about so much more than simply the widow's gift. This passage also exposes the corrupt system of giving in which both the widow and the rich are a part.

Looking at the context of the book of Mark, widows are only mentioned twice. In this passage (Mark 12:42,43) and the passage preceding it (Mark 12:40), Jesus warns his disciples about the teachers of the law who "devour widows' houses." In the story of the widow's mite, Jesus provides the disciples with a concrete example of how these scribes are devouring widows' houses. As Craig Evans wrote, "Unlike the wealthy, whose gifts would not be missed and would not cause for them any hardship or discomfort, the widow's gift took food right out of her mouth."

Jesus does not affirm the system that reinforces this woman's poverty, a system that provides for a luxurious sanctuary and comfortable priestly lifestyle at the expense of the poorest of society. Rather, Jesus unmask the hypocrisy of the religious leaders by exposing the proportions of their giving. The widow stands in stark contrast to the religious leaders, "For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on," (Mark 12:17) even at the expense of her own life.

Even though her two small coins were only worth 1/128th of a denarius, or about six minutes of an average daily wage, this gift itself is a priceless example of wholehearted trust in God in the face of a corrupt system.



LEFT BEHIND

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city," he said, "but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

The boy asked, "What happened to the flea?"

August Birthdays*and Anniversaries*

1 Joshua Revitzer	Michael Miller	16 Olivia Davis	27 Alan Blight
2 Greg Geisler	8 David Miller	Donald (Chip) Rembert, Jr	Gary Honaker
3 Dana Zurvalec	9 Becky Sellers	18 Carol Blight	30 Russ Evens
5 Tom Schallhorn	Jessica McIntyre	19 Olivia Fortner	Kaylea Jones
Debbie Evens	10 Tom Elias	21 Larry Jones III	31 Hannah Huff
6 Diane Sterzinger	13 Jennifer Byrd	22 Jacob Tiihonen	
Palmer Vandeven	14 Gerri Hager	25 James Evens	
7 Joan Hartwick	Tom Carter		

Special Birthday wishes to:

Kathie Keith celebrating her 80th birthday on August 7th.
 Howie Miilu celebrating his 71st birthday on August 7th.
 Joyce Klann celebrating her 74th birthday on August 8th.
 Mary Cobb celebrating her 78th birthday on August 9th.
 Wilma Mason celebrating her 89th birthday on August 13th.
 Gladys Willmore celebrating her 71st birthday on August 13th.
 Lois Rose celebrating her 85th birthday on August 16th.
 Nancy Clark celebrating her 78th birthday on August 16th.
 Hildegard Jahnke celebrating her 84th birthday on August 18th.
 Richard Wilkinson celebrating his 74th birthday on August 21st.
 Jim Merians celebrating his 75th birthday on August 26th.
 Donald Yax celebrating his 86th birthday on August 28th.

August Anniversaries:

2 Tom & Lisa Elias	21 Tom & Kathy Trader	26 Ken & Kathie Keith
10 Wilbur & Joyce Klann	Kevin & Lori Jennings	John & Karen Warsop
12 Don & Jennifer Atkins	22 Matt & Julie Evens	28 Bert & Jean Hensick
20 Alan & Carol Blight	25 Ed & Laura Estep	Darrel & Diane Sterzinger
Ken & Aimee Althouse		

Memorial Gifts

MEMORIAL FUND**Birthdays & Anniversaries****Jane Halliday****Tom & Nancy O'Brien****Darrel Sterzinger**

Earlene Grubaugh

Memorials**Ruth Owens**

Ron & Connie Peterson

August Servant Schedule

	August 7		August 14		August 21		August 28	
	8:30	10:00	8:30	10:00	8:30	10:00	8:30	10:00
Lay Asst	John Warsop		John Warsop	Karen Warsop	Barb Carter		Trudy Esch	Dale Salewsky
Lay Rdr	Kim Richardson		Kim Richardson	Linda Oumedian	Barb Carter	Greg Stiles	Trudy Esch	Dale Salewsky
Comm Asst	Earlene Grubaugh & Pat Isom	Karen Chiesa	Tom O'Brien & Nancy O'Brien	Karen Chiesa	Pat Isom & Judy Walsh	Beth Baker & Kevin Jennings	Judy Hanner & Joan Hartwick	Linda Oumedian & Beth Baker
Acolytes	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending
Ushers	John Reid & Max Willmore	John Warsop & Dennis Chiesa	John Reid & Max Willmore	John Warsop & Dennis Chiesa	John Reid & Max Willmore	John Warsop & Dennis Chiesa	John Reid & Max Willmore	John Warsop & Dennis Chiesa
Altar Care (Clean Up)			Joan Hartwick (Joan Hartwick)	Joan Hartwick (Joan Hartwick)				
Greeters	Robert & Judy Clise, Tom & Nancy O'Brien, Darrel & Diane Sterzinger	Jane Thompson	Al & Jane Halliday, Tom & Kathy Trader, Don & Betty Yax	Jeanette Vlahos	Dave & Pat Isom, Keith & Kathy Boyes	Matt & Julie Evens	Bill & Chris Manuel, Dave & Gerri Hager	Gary & Darcy Honaker

Sign up for next month on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please call the church office to sign up to fill empty slots.

The deadline for articles or items for the September Grace Notes is:

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 23, 2011**

Please be sure to submit any items for the September newsletter prior to this date. You may send submissions to the church office, or email to: grace312@sbcglobal.net



Lutheran World Relief
requested items for August: Personal Care Kits

Bath Soap in wrapper

Donation basket located in the narthex

WOMEN OF JOY BIBLE STUDY

We invite all women to join us for the monthly Bible studies. We will meet on Monday, August 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference room. Currently we are using *The Thoughtful Christian*. These studies produce thought provoking ideas that make for interesting discussions. Right now we are looking at the Seven Deadly Sins. In August, we will be studying Envy.

For an off hours medical or pastoral emergency, please call the Pastors at home at 517-552-1782.

August 2011		August 2011							September 2011						
		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Jul 31	Sunday	Aug 1	Monday	2	Tuesday	3	Wednesday	4	Thursday	5	Friday	6	Saturday		
		7:30pm Alanon		9:30am T.O.P.S	5:30pm Praise Team					6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)		7:47am Grace Men's Group 9:00am Private Event (Sanctuary)			
7	8:30am Trad. Worship 10:00am Cont. Worship 11:00am Social Ministries Tea Party & Puppet Show	8	7:30pm Alanon	9	9:30am T.O.P.S 10:30am Cancer Support	10	12:00pm Circle Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team	11		12	6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	13			
14	8:30am Trad. Worship 10:00am Cont. Worship	15	7:30pm Alanon	16	9:30am T.O.P.S	17	5:30pm Praise Team	18		19	6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	20			
21	8:30am Trad. Worship 9:30am Blood Pressure Clinic 10:00am Cont. Worship	22	7:30pm Alanon	23	8:00am Grace Notes Newsletter deadline 9:30am T.O.P.S	24	5:30pm Praise Team	25		26	6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	27	11:00am Memorial Service for Olga Hewett		
28	8:30am Trad. Worship 10:00am Cont. Worship	29	7:00pm Women of Joy 7:30pm Alanon	30	9:30am T.O.P.S	31	5:30pm Praise Team	Sep 1		2		3			

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
312 PROSPECT STREET
HOWELL MI 48843

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

Nursery provided all morning.

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastors

Early Learning Center Administrator

Office Manager

Youth Director

Administrative Liaison for Youth

Director of Music

Rev. Tom & Rev. Sharon Huff

Michelle Tatara

Lisa Pristas

Mike Capra

Karen Warsop

Brooke Pierson

Office Phone: (517) 546-3350

e-mail: grace312@sbcglobal.net

Web site: www.gracelutheranhowell.org

Early Learning Center: 545-5640

M-F am & pm preschool sessions for 3 & 4 year olds

2-year olds playgroup on Fridays

In session September through May

For information, please call Michelle Tatara (517-545-5640)