



GRACE NEWS

#224780— May 18, 2010
Vol. 44, No. 42

The Day of Pentecost - May 23, 2010
Fellowship at 8:30 am - Congregational
Meeting and Confirmation Projects at 9 am
Affirmation of Faith:
Colin K & Clay V

God Is What God Does

The drama of the passage from Acts (Acts 2:1-21), with its rushing winds and tongues of flame, is the most familiar image associated with Pentecost. Where God once confused human language and scattered human communities across the face of the earth as a response to human pride and isolationism (Gen 11:1-9), at Pentecost we remember how God creates community while respecting diversity by speaking to each of us in ways we can understand.

Yet it is the passage from John (John 14:8-27) that hints best at what those gathered must have heard in their native languages. Jesus assures Philip, and the rest of us, that "whoever has seen me has seen the Father." This is the heart of the gospel and the content of our proclamation, that the nature of God is revealed in the nature of Jesus.

The notion that we can understand who God is by looking at what God has done in the person of Jesus and, by the power of the Holy Spirit poured out at Pentecost, through us as well is the foundation of our Trinitarian faith. In *God for Us: The Trinity and Christian Life*, Roman Catholic theologian Catherine LaCugna writes, "Theories about what God is apart from God's self-communication in salvation history remain unverifiable and ultimately untheological" (New York: HarperCollins, 1991, p. 231). We do not need to speculate about who God is because God has revealed God's love, justice, and mercy through the person of Christ Jesus.

At Pentecost we were drawn into the inner life of God, which is cracked open for the entire world to see. We were adopted into a family to which everyone belongs, where everyone is welcome. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are sent to do what Jesus did and even "greater works than these" (John 14:12), namely to proclaim God's reconciling love to people of every language and land.

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From the President

It has been a privilege to have served as council president for the past two years. Grace is continually blessed with a gifted group of people who lead the various ministry teams and compose the congregational council. This year was no exception, and I would like to thank the members of council for all of their time and talents offered during the past year.

Each month, in addition to its regular duties, council has considered ways to advance the recommendations of the Kairos Congregational Survey and Mission Development Plan conducted in 2008. At our congregational meetings and in the Nominating Committee Report mailed last week, you heard about two new teams being formed to address needs identified by the congregation as we look to advance the ministries at Grace Lutheran Church: a Communications Team and Young Adult Ministry Team. We look forward to these expanding areas of ministry in the coming years.

Don M, 2009-10 Council
President

Help Around the House

Have you ever wished that you could do minor plumbing repair? Electrical work? Easy carpentry? Computer troubleshooting? Car maintenance?

Do you have skills you would be willing to share with a small group of people?

We are forming a group made up of people who would like to learn how to do things around the house by themselves, rather than calling a repair person. We can take turns meeting in the homes of people who need the work, or at the church, so that we can all learn about the needed repairs. We are then hoping to have other members of the congregation with the appropriate skills come to teach these skills to those of us in need. This group is open to any-

one who feels home-repair-challenged. If you are interested in meeting with others for fellowship and learning minor home repair, please contact Kathy Good at 397-2748, or Kathy@GraceLutheranChurch.com.

Book Group

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman is the next selection. The group will meet Tuesday, June 8, at 7 pm in the Parlor to discuss this book which tells the courageous true story of Jan and Antonina Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo and his wife who smuggled Jews out of the ghetto into the zoo—some stayed in animal enclosures and others were transported into safer areas. The book explores the role of nature in both kindness and savagery. All are welcome to the Book Group. This is the last meeting until September.

Annual Golf Tournaments

LutherCare's 16th Annual Golf Tournament will take place Monday, June 7, at Royal Oaks Golf Club in Lebanon. Contact Pastor Verkouw if you are interested—the tournament raises funds for LutherCare's child care and early learning programs in five locations (Grace Place being one). In 2009 LutherCare served 637 children—59% of these received scholarships to assist with tuition costs. Since 1998 the tournament has raised \$352,000 to help with the child care programs.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation's 11th annual golf tournament will be held Monday, July 12, at Range End Golf Club, Dillsburg. For more information contact www.LutheranCamping.org or contact the Development Office at 677-8211, ext. 34. Money raised at this tournament goes toward camp scholarships for children in need—in 2009 more than \$29,000 was spent providing scholarships.



Our Church Family

“I wish to thank Pastors Verkouw & Weiss for their hospital visits and Lisa G for the prayer shawl to keep me warm!”

Harold E

Note: Harold & Betty will soon be moving to the Luther Acres campus.

Esther H wishes to thank everyone for the cards, visits, and prayers during her recent hospitalization and recuperation.

Betty B is in Lancaster General.

June F is at Hospice in Mt. Joy.

Marge S, now recovering at home from hip surgery, is grateful to all her friends at Grace who remembered her with cards, visits, and prayers.

Sympathy to Murray Foreman and family on the death of his mother, Grace Foreman. The funeral will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Wednesday, May 19.

Congratulations to Ingrid Z and Carl G who were married by Pastor Verkouw last Saturday at Raystown Lake.

Utensils Needed

Do you have more utensils than you could ever use in your kitchen drawer? We need additional knives, forks, and teaspoons (matched or not—doesn't matter) for the Wednesday community dinners. Put them in the food bin in the Narthex.

Our Church Gardens

You may have noticed **Pat & Harvey Stewart** or **Duane Weiss** and **Kathy Good** working in our gardens recently. Pat & Harvey tend the perennial strip at the wall beside the driveway and children's play area, and Duane & Kathy planted flowers in the small garden areas in the parking lot. Thanks to all for giving their time to make our church grounds a place of beauty. Murray Foreman, as “Garden Co-ordinator” spends many hours tending to the flower boxes and other areas that are in need of care. He is looking for people to help water throughout the coming summer months. To offer your help, contact him at the church office, 397-2748, or murrayforeman@gracelutheranchurch.com

For Your Calendar

Sunday, June 20, we will host missionary Richard Sarker, Global Mission Regional Representative for Development and Health in Bangladesh, who is supported by the Global Mission Committee & congregations of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. More details about his visit and his work in Bangladesh will follow. Tentative plans call for a presentation during our Sunday School hour at 9 am and a lunch following the 10:30 service.
—Joyce S

Date for your Calendar
Music at Grace
June 6 at 4 pm
Razzmatazz Concert
Barbershop Music

Church Office-397-2748—www.GraceLutheranChurch.com

Staff

The Rev. Stephen P. Verkouw, Pastor
Kathleen A. Good, Director of Christian Formation
The Rev. Nancy L. Weiss, Visitation Pastor
Murray J. Foreman, Director of Music
Barbara A. Slotter, Parish Secretary
Kathryn H. Verkouw, Director of Bell Choirs
Patrick L. Burke, Director of Youth Ministry
Dennis L. Maharg, Sexton
Robert D. Durand, Assistant Sexton

Published weekly except during July by GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 517 N. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. Barbara Slotter, Editor. Periodicals Postage Paid at Lancaster, PA. Postmaster: Send address changes to GRACE NEWS, 517 N. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

CALENDAR—MAY 21—27

- Fri.** Sunrise Bible Study—Parlor 6:30 a.m.
- Sat.** Suzuki—Auditorium 8:45 a.m.
- Holy Communion—Chapel 6:00 p.m.
- Sun. PENTECOST**
- Lessons: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-27
- Holy Communion—Nave 7:45 a.m.
- Refreshments— Fellowship Hall 8:30 a.m.
- Kyrie Bells—Balcony 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday School (Congregational Meeting—Fellowship Hall) 9:00 a.m.
- Holy Communion—Nave 10:30 a.m.
- Shepherds’ Picnic— 5:00 p.m.
- Narcotics Anonymous—Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.
- Umpires—Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- Mon.** Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.
- Mutual Ministry—Stafford Room 7:00 p.m.
- Christian Formation—Parlor 7:30 p.m.
- Tue.** HIV—AIDS Support Group—Stafford Room 6:00 p.m.
- Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.
- Mary Circle—Parlor 7:00 p.m.
- Wed.** Community Dinner—Fellowship Hall 5:30 p.m.
- Evangelism Team—Parlor 7:00 p.m.
- Sanctus Bell Choir—Balcony 6:45 p.m.
- Thu.** Grace Choir—Balcony 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCES, May 8/9 - 36 + 51 + 177 = 264 Sunday School—79
May 15/16: 30 + 47 + 173 = 250 Sunday School—89

WEB PAGE IS MAINTAINED BY ARLENE VOLK: www.GraceLutheranChurch.com - If you wish to have her list something on the web-page, e-mail her at: **ASV@AmishCountryLanes.com**.

GRACE NEWS is prepared by Barbara Slotter at the end of each week. Please e-mail, call, or send articles to Barbara by 9 a.m. Friday morning for inclusion in the next week’s issue.