

grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Lord, Help Us... A Look at Our Summer Sermon Series

This summer we take a break from telling the big story of the Bible. The big story of God's redemptive love for the world is powerful and incredibly important of course, but not every part of the Bible is part of the story line. That's why we are going to take the summer and look at three different parts of scripture that are off the beaten path of the story.

Part One: Lord, Teach Us to Pray

One of the core pieces of our Christian identity is found in *the Lord's Prayer*, especially as it is found in Matthew 6:9-13. It is one of those things that unites all Christians

around the globe. We say it every week here at Grace. The problem with something that is so familiar is that it can become rote and lose its meaning. We will spend five weeks (May 25/26 – June 22/23) looking closely at these familiar words, and see that there are deep riches buried in them that we might miss in its familiarity. Get ready for your prayer life to be ignited!

Part Two: Lord, Give Us Wisdom

There is buried treasure in the Old Testament. If you open your Bible to the exact middle you will find a group of books that are a collection of Hebrew poetry. These books are known as the Wisdom Books. They don't tell a story, instead they are the collection of Israel's greatest hits of songs and poems.

This summer we will spend six weeks (June 29/30 – August 3/4) looking at nuggets of wisdom from two of the Wisdom books: the book *Proverbs* and the book of *Ecclesiastes*. Both of these books show us how one generation passes wisdom to the next generation. Proverbs records the wisdom of a young father to his young son. It is full of bright-eyed, optimistic wisdom that is important for young people who are starting out in life. Ecclesiastes, on the other hand, records the wisdom of an old, world-worn father who gives deep wisdom to his middle-aged son. It might seem depressing at times, but it shows us deep truths about how the world really is. In both cases, you will be encouraged to deepen your faith in God's wisdom for your everyday life.

Part Three: Lord, Make us the Church

We will finish out the summer by spending four weeks (August 10/11 – August 31/September 1) in *Paul's letter to the Ephesians*. This letter talks about what it means to be the church and how to become a vital, healthy community. It is packed full of practical advice for how we can break down the barriers that stand between us and become the unified body of Christ, in the power of God's Spirit that God intends for us to be.

Yes, it is summer. Yes, you might be gone for many of these weeks. That's OK. Make sure you attend worship when you are here so that we can all learn and grow together. Remember, if you have to miss a week, you can always catch the sermons online at www.graceandover.org/messages.html

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Pastor Mark's Remarks:



Savor the Summer!

The bulletin board near the Worship Center is a great reminder..."Savor the Summer!" I don't know how you're feeling, but after such a long cold winter, I want summer to linger! I want it to continue and hang around for awhile! I want to **SAVOR** the slow, relaxed, and less-hectic pace!



Unfortunately, summer is going by much too quickly at Grace! Vacation Bible School is almost over and we had a great week of "climbing to the top of God's mountains!" Next on the schedule is Walk4Water with Prairie Oak Community Church. Before we know it, it will be time to send off our kids to Luther Dell or on the Wind River Youth Mission Trip.

So, how do we savor the summer here at Grace? One of the ways is to come to worship as much as you can. (whether you're home or on vacation!) Why does worship help you "savor" the summer? I have found that the weekly routine of worship helps slow us down and refocus. Everyone needs to do that! And here at Grace, we will be focusing on The Lord's Prayer, the Wisdom Literature of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, and the New Testament Letter to the Ephesians. There will plenty of spiritual food for everyone!

Another way to "savor" summer is to try a new type of ministry to shake things up a bit. For instance, I'm going to try a new ministry called "Walk4Water" to discover the challenge many people in the world face, while walking miles to get safe drinking water. To be honest, I'm not sure how well I'll do carrying a bucket of water for 2 miles, but I think it's going to make me appreciate the ease of going to my kitchen faucet for a cup of water! Furthermore, I hope it will give me a deeper compassion for the difficulty so many people in our world face living in poverty.

I hope to find some other ministry opportunities to help me "savor" the summer. Perhaps a few sessions at Feed My Starving Children or a couple evenings with the Garden Ministry will get me out of the rut of everyday life to focus beyond myself. As I've learned in the past, when I do take the time to serve others, life always "tastes" better.

So join me! Take a walk down the hallway and look at the bulletin board. Spend a few moments there to consider the ministry opportunities we have this summer at Grace. Are there any there which will help you "savor" and enjoy the summer a bit differently? Think it over. Pray about it. Try it!

Here's to a savory summer!

Pastor Mark





Vision Board Member: Pat Walters

The end of the school year is upon us, as well as summer, and for many that means vacations and trips to the cabin, causing attendance and giving to decline. Unfortunately, Grace's bills and expenses do not take vacations.

The Vision Board is promoting Simply Giving which would enable you to schedule one-time or recurring donations. In addition, you are able to designate which fund you want your donation directed to, i.e. Current Fund, Building Fund or Free 2B Grace.

The process is very easy. Go to Grace's home page at www.graceandover.org and click on "Online Giving at Grace" under Simply Giving and follow the easy, simple directions or simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! Should you have any questions, contact Bonnie Trembath at 612-421-6520.



Grace 2 Haiti 2014



Recently, I read an article that states that our vocation is to be in service to others. While I have heard the message to serve others over and over again, I had never heard it put in quite that way. It gave me a new understanding of just how important our calling to serve is. Grace has always

been a place of service to others, and here is your next opportunity to find a "career" you never dreamed yourself in!

We are already planning our third mission trip to Haiti in March of 2014. The Haiti trips taken so far have been an amazing blessing to those who have gone. Not only have we accomplished things that have a lasting impact on the lives of the people we serve, but we come back changed as well. It is an amazing experience that you will never forget. This third trip will be our first inter-generational trip to Haiti. We are very excited about this opportunity to travel with our children and enrich their lives in a way that is not possible at home. Kids are welcome to come with us, along with one or both parents. Adults without kids are also welcome to come. The more the merrier. If you are interested in learning more, please email Greg and Lori Ackerson at: Lori.Ackerson@allina.com or GregA@Apex-Co.us.



Church Administrator: Ralph Holbrook

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the volunteers who are assisting on the Mowing and Grace Gardens teams this summer. They are working hard to keep the grounds looking beautiful. If you see them working outside, please take a moment to thank them for all their efforts.

Last spring following the Vision Board and Leadership Retreat where we reflected on the Focus 20/20 Vision, a team was established to research the potential for a fund drive. One year later in association with the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Campaign, we have held eighteen Focus Group Meetings, completed a successful Campaign Kickoff Event, published monthly Grace Notes articles, sent weekly Grace At A Glance emails, shared numerous worship service updates, made several hundred phone calls, and presented the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Vision to 250+ Grace families. Wow! What an eventful year!

Twenty-five committed, dedicated, and incredible volunteers, have worked on our core values "weEquip, weServe" & "weConnect" with every family here at Grace. There have been many wonderful relationships established, stories shared, and lives impacted during this journey. The team will continue to work on connecting with the remainder of the families over the summer. When you receive a call from the team, please be willing to meet with them to hear the vision *of being a ministry of Grace in the Heart of Andover and Beyond!*

While this is a **five year** stewardship campaign, we have started to address a few deterioration issues with our property. New sidewalks have been poured in front of the Worship Center with plans to replace more sections in front of the Education entrance. In the parking lot, pot holes have been repaired, the parking lot has been swept, and the lines repainted with two additional handicap parking spots. We will continue to save money to address the worship center roof and brick tuck pointing.

So far this year in our Capital fund, each month we have been short of making our mortgage payment by \$2,200 on average. However, the good news is the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Campaign has helped us meet this monthly shortfall. We also expect to make our first "additional" mortgage principle payment later this month. We have been wonderfully blessed in the first months of the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Campaign to begin working on the top issues discussed in the Focus Group Meeting and the personal visits! Our prayer is that more of the Grace family will come alongside us as we continue to move forward with the Campaign. Blessings to you and your families this summer!

New Parish Nurse Ministry:



As Pastor Mark mentioned in last month's Grace Notes, we are embarking on a new ministry here at Grace: Parish Nursing. It's an exciting opportunity to explore our faith in a new way. This program has been carefully and prayerfully prepared and planned by Lori Ackerson and myself. Although, you may be wondering

what parish nursing is.

Holistic care or nursing has been around since the earliest civilizations and focused on treating a person's mind, body and spirit, integrating each culture's belief system as a way to heal. Along the way, medicine has separated into the secular realm, which focused on treating the body or disease, but left the person alone to find meaning. Flash forward to 1984, when Rev. Granger Westberg had the vision to plan and implement institutional-based parish nursing programs. This formalized the role of the nurse within the church, and created support networks between parish nurses. With this support and guidance, the parish nurse became an established and invaluable asset to the church for which they serve.

The parish nurse performs seven functions within the church: integrator of faith and health, personal health counselor, referral agent, health educator, health advisor, coordinator of volunteers, and developer of support groups. This allows for a wide range of possibilities of practice for the parish nurse, and many ways to care for the wellness of the congregation.

Lori has been a registered nurse for 13 years and in health care for 20 years. She became a nurse after her family's first-hand experience with the health care system when her younger brother had a kidney transplant at the age of 8. She has been in a variety of roles at the bedside and in administration in hospitals, but her true love is educating and supporting people through the complex world of health care.

Likewise, I became a nurse 9 years ago to care for the people in my life, as well as the patients who I worked with. Originally, I started working as a nurse in direct patient care, but grew to love public health nursing and specifically parish nursing as a way to care for the entire person and teach preventive health.

Our vision for a parish nursing program at Grace is to be a resource, to encourage the holistic well-being of its congregants, and to lead them as followers of Jesus Christ.

Lori and I feel truly blessed to have been called to serve as parish nurses at Grace and look forward to working with

the congregation to support, encourage and maintain a feeling of wellness in mind, body, and spirit!

Please contact us at: 763-421-6520 ext. 100 or via email at parishnurse@graceandover.org
Blessings, Lily Tunby

Senior Moments:



The senior men have planned a fishing outing on June 20th at Lake Mille Lacs. If you would like more information, please contact Kent Swedberg at 612-889-9378.

During one of the Spring like moments in April, the Property Team finished removing the Christmas lights from the trees. They replaced the burned out bulbs and stored them away in the garage. The Nativity scene was stored away in its proper place and the whole garage was cleaned and reorganized for easier access to the summer yard equipment.

The Graceful Seniors hosted the Graduate Breakfast, a breakfast for the immediate families of Grace's graduating high school seniors. It was a pleasure to recognize their accomplishment. This is a continuation of the Seniors' commitment to our youth at Grace, as evidenced previously by financial support to youth camp participation and other activities.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Pastor Gene Heglund leads the "breakfast" seniors 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 8:30 and is usually completed by 9:45 (because the seniors have other commitments!).

Reservations need to be made for the breakfast and there is a calling committee who does this each month. In addition, this group attends occasional plays at Lyric Arts as a group and usually meets at Billy's for brunch on the Sunday of the play. "Hairspray" is on the schedule for August.

If you are a senior who would like to know more about "The Graceful Seniors" at Grace, please call the church office at 763-421-6520 ext. 101.



Upcoming Events:



Summer Softball

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 June-Aug against other local church teams. Cost is approx. \$30. All practices & games are 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.

Walk 4 Water:



Every day, millions of people around the world are forced to journey several miles in search of water. Without access to clean water in their immediate environment, it falls largely to women and children to journey to the nearest river

or ground water hole. Often that water is infected with disease, parasites and malaria-carrying-mosquitoes. But it's all they have, so they carry it home - an average of 40 pounds on each person's head.

We'd like to do something about this, and we need your help. On Sunday June 23rd, Grace will join Prairie Oak Community Church for the 4th Annual Walk4Water Event. We are invited to rally with them around the poor by carrying buckets of water for two miles.

- Walk4Water - Sunday - June 23rd
- Registration - 5p.m. at Sunshine Park in Andover
- Cost - \$30 per person, with a \$75 family maximum
- Start Time - 6 p.m. (Free hot dogs and water will be provided after the event.)

Each participant will receive a t-shirt, and each family will get to take home a bucket to serve as a reminder and symbol of hope. All proceeds will go to help build wells through the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. If you can't attend, plan to support a friend from Grace and give for our Noisy Offering on June 22/23.

Habitat for Humanity 2013



Alas, it feels like summer and the outdoors are calling your name! Wouldn't it be great to spend the day outdoors AND help someone in the Twin Cities community? If you said yes, I have an opportunity for you!

Grace Lutheran has once again teamed up with Thrivent Financial and Habitat for Humanity to help with the construction of a home in Crystal, MN. Our Build day has been scheduled for Monday July 29th, 2013 and we are looking for volunteers! We will be onsite from approx. 8:30a - 4:30p and lunch will be provided.

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY! There will be a site supervisor available to answer questions and help with projects. If you are eager to help, we would love to have you share in the rewarding day of work, fun, and fellowship. You may also want to check with your employer to see if they offer paid volunteer days. Want to help but can't join us on site, please consider donating items to help feed the hungry work crew.

If you would like more information on joining the build crew or helping with lunch, please contact Steve Daum at 763-331-0703 or stevendaum@gmail.com. You can also access more information about Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity at www.tchabitat.org.



Feed My Starving Children:

Volunteers are urgently needed at **Feed My Starving Children** (FMSC) this summer. Please help keep this ministry running at full tilt in June, July and August! We've got to get promised meals out to children in 70 countries. Shifts are open 6 days a week at FMSC in Coon Rapids... and there's an opening for **YOU!** Invite some folks and reserve your time/date online to serve at Feed My Starving Children!

- ◆ Plan an outing with your relatives
- ◆ Invite classmates for a summer reunion
- ◆ Gather the neighbors for a day activity
- ◆ Round up your friends for a night out

YOU will make a difference, especially in the life of a starving child! Register online at www.fmsc.org or call Jeannie Hellmann at Grace and she will register your group of volunteers! 763 421-6520, Ext. 122.

Grace will send a group of volunteers to pack meals at FMSC on **Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6-7:30 pm**. Register online or call the church office, 421-6520 to sign-up. **YOU will make a difference!**

Youth Ministry Happenings:



Congratulations to all of our Graduating Seniors and 2013 Confirmands!



Summer Dojo begins June 26th

Middle School AND High School students, there is a place for you every Wednesday night in the summer, beginning on June 26.

Our summer interns this year are **Micki Thomason** and **Doug Donaldson**. Micki is a student at St. Catherine’s University and Doug is a recent graduate of St. John’s University and a swimming coach at Andover High School. Micki and Doug will be leading the Dojo and are looking for a team of students to help them plan the activities and studies throughout the summer. Contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in working with them. Look for more information on the **Grace Andover Youth** Facebook page.

Activities for the Summer Dojo include:



Tuesday, July 9th
Admission: \$25
Times and transportation TBD



Twins vs. Kansas City Royals
Thursday, August 1
Admission & Train ticket: TBD
Game Time: 12:10pm
Food is on your own



Scavenger Hunt at State Fair
Monday, August 26
Admission: \$9 in advance
Times and transportation TBD
Food is on your own



For all MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL Youth!

Garage Sale - June 20-22nd!

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 are accepting clothing and household items in Portable #2 (the portable closest to the church building). Items can be dropped off during normal, weekday business hours 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 at tomb@graceandover.org concerning questions on items, or to arrange pick up of bulky items, after June 2nd.



Children's Ministry Happenings:



SONday School Kids Rock!

Each week, kids brought their silver coins for their Birthday Offering. Teachers also brought many silver coins for their birthdays too! Together, we collected **\$164.34**. Our \$164.34 will purchase over 8 flocks of chicks or approximately 400 Chicks! Together we will help families from all over the world. Check out heifer.org to see how your birthday money is helping so many families.



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. No auditions will be done after June 19. **Registrations received after July 15 will include an additional fee of \$20 to cover extra shipping and handling.**



July 13 - 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, July 13 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 September 14 at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.



Children's Summer Worship Bible Time!

While we enjoy the sunny days of summer, it is also an opportunity to worship with the children of Grace. During 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. Contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or Kim DeVries at kimd@graceandover.org if you have questions. You may sign up on the blue sheets or on the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board.



Summer Nursery Help is Needed!

Nursery, this summer, 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, what a blessing that would be! To be a blessing, sign up on the blue sheets, or the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board.



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped make VBS an amazing success! So many people gave in so many ways, from donating craft and snack supplies to spending the week volunteering! Thank you to everyone for helping us "Tell it on the Mountain that Jesus Christ is Lord!"



Grace Lutheran Church

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in the heart of Andover and beyond!*
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***Grace Garage Sale
June 20-22nd, 2013***



DONATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

***ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE GRACE YOUTH
ATTENDING LUTHER DELL BIBLE CAMP AND THE WIND RIVER
MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER.***

*Now taking all Home goods, clothing, accessories, toys,
holiday items and more...*

No mattresses, computer equipment, printers, exercise equipment, TV's or appliances please!