



GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

“Today more than ever” Let your light shine!

The Stewardship Committee is launching the annual stewardship effort at Grace this month with a positive spirit and a great sense of gratitude for God’s blessings, confident about the future and the work of Grace in the year ahead.

At the same time, we are mindful of the economy, and that for some of us, just giving the same amount in the year ahead will represent a forward step. For each of us, the true guide to giving will not be found in any giving table, but by examining our own heart, for that is where the answer lies.

Stewardship means much more than the giving of our financial

resources. It means we must continually learn how we can best use our time, talent, and resources to grow, improve, and achieve greater joy in our lives of Christian faith.

The 2009 stewardship effort is planned to be low-key and very brief. Sunday, November 1, is Inspiration Sunday. Come let your light shine and be uplifted with inspiration. On Gratitude Sunday, November 8, we will have tables set up in the narthex. Please stop and pick up your Offering Card Packet. (Cards will be mailed to those who can not be at worship that day.) For your convenience, you can complete and turn in your offering card at

church right away, or on Consecration Sunday, November 15, a special day when offerings will be dedicated.

On Celebration Sunday, November 22, we will celebrate! Additional pledges that come in will be dedicated and, by popular request, the Celebration Meal will be a Famous Grace Pot-Luck and special program.

We hope you find our efforts this year a truly meaningful worship experience. We appreciate your fellowship at Grace.

*Stewardship
Committee
Barbara Van Fleet,
Chairperson*

November Volume 2009 Issue 11

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NOTICE

**Annual Congregational
Program Meeting
Review of Program
and Election of Council Members**

11 a.m. Sunday, November 1, 2009

A Note from Pastor

“For...there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all.” ¹ Timothy 2:3-6

Preparing for November

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the most fun things I do each month is to meet with Dale Eberhardt, Bodo Jahn, and Bruce Klotz to plan worship for the next several weeks. We sorely miss our late, beloved chairperson, Joyce Taylor, and have never chosen a new chairperson. Bodo ‘coordinates,’ and we feel Joyce is still very much part of our conversation.

We try hard to work well ahead, so that our musicians, Dale, Dorothea Glatte and Chad Thompson, have time to practice and even dig up interesting instrumental music to accompany the hymns. But the conversation keeps getting so interesting that we never get through all we hope to. You wouldn’t imagine how far-ranging a conversation can be, triggered simply by a line of a hymn, or a memory of a long-ago worship service, or an idea for something new to try.

A resource called *Sundays and Seasons* gives us brief summaries of the texts for each week, along with ideas for worship, and suggested hymns out of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, This Far by Faith*, and several other Lutheran songbooks, most of

which we have on our shelves. The hymns always reflect in some way at least one of the day’s texts (have you noticed this?), which helps us shape the entire sequence of Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending around the theme of the day. The Prayer of the Day is also worth looking at, since it is a concise summary of that theme.

Sundays and Seasons also has a page or two of ideas for the various church seasons – “Preparing for Advent,” “Preparing for Christmas,” and so on. There are a couple of pages about preparing for fall, but I was caught by surprise by the section, “Preparing for November.” I’ve never thought about preparing for November except for Thanksgiving dinner. (Who gets to make the pies this year?) November has always been the time when the leaves are gone but it’s not Advent yet. November is something to get through.

But we don’t want to miss November! It is about the culmination of God’s redemption. As the days in the northern hemisphere become darker and the seasonal dying of the earth

reminds us of our mortal nature, we ask the ultimate questions. What is God’s will for us? Will I be saved? Where is my hope?

The scriptures we will hear and talk about in November, especially in Hebrews and even more in Revelation, and the truth to which Jesus testifies, are a brilliant beacon of hope and promise. God provides for us now and in the last day. We are reminded that God’s home is with us mortals as Jesus Christ, who was, is, and shall be “making all things new.” (Rev. 21:5)

Thus saith *Sundays and Seasons*: “Christ ‘who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father’ (Rev. 1:5-6) is the one final, perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. He has freely given the ultimate sacrifice to grant us entry to the presence *and* service of God. His sacrifice brings ‘eternal redemption’ (Heb. 9:12) to all who believe. We are asked to respond with faith and trust based on this gift of grace.”

May you rejoice in this gift of grace this whole November!

Pastor Steege

All Saints Day - Sunday, November 1, 2009

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ.

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah 25:6-9 and Revelation 21:1-6a look

forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel (21:1-6a), Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

On this day our congregation will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. If there is a loved one who has died in the past whom you would like remembered during worship on All Saints Day, please call Cathy Tomlinson in the office, 860-527-7792, or e-mail her at officeatgrace@sbcglobal.net no later than Wednesday, October 28. Make sure we have the correct spelling.

Thank you!

To **Rebecca Lewis and her assistants, Rudy Lewis, Mavis Smith, Irene Kirschner, and Nina Kretschmer**, for serving an outstanding luncheon to the clergy of the Greater Hartford Conference of the New England Synod on October 7. The pastors of our conference meet at a different church each month, and it's not surprising that Grace is their favorite church to visit!

To **Phyllis Thompson** and her whole team for organizing the festive pot-luck and sandwich brunch on October 11, and

To **Susan Carey** for inviting us to the Wadsworth Atheneum for a spectacular private tour that day. Between 20 and 30 people attended the luncheon and the tour. (Do you know what symbols Frederic Church used in his famous painting, *Hooker and Company*, that reflected the popular belief that God had ordained that the European white settlers were destined to rule this land? Do you know where Hooker and Company were headed?)

To **Mavis Smith** and her team, especially **Petre McAdams**, for the successful tag sale October 17 to benefit the Building Fund Campaign. And thank you to **all the members and friends of Grace** who contribute so much to sell, and who came to help. Over \$300 was earned October 17, and because there was so much material, a 'repeat performance' was scheduled for October 24.

Who is the
Angel of Grace?



November 29,
2009

Update: Hearing the Spirit's Call

The Visioning Steering Committee met on October 8. Gail Lindstrom, Mavis Smith, Pastor, and Sue Carey reported on meetings they attended in September: a New England Synod Latino Mission planning session, the Basic Human Needs Work Group organized by the United Way, and the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association. We are practicing Holy Listening in the community!

Participation in these meetings is giving us a broader view of the neighborhood and its residents. There are many social service organizations active in the area, but coordination of services and

awareness of them is a problem. Information from the New England Synod indicates that new residents in Hartford come from Puerto Rico where there is a strong Lutheran heritage. We need to find a way to connect with them. Local residents are active in the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association where quality of life issues such as education, public safety, housing, and recreation are dealt with on a monthly basis. They are eager to have more representation and we have been warmly welcomed to this group.

Could you take on one of these monthly committee

meetings? If you sense a lack of connection with our neighbors, this is a way to practice Holy Listening and strengthen our ties to the community. Some of the groups meet during the day, a time that is difficult for some committee members to attend. Please consider this calling and speak to Gail or Sue if you would serve as a representative for Grace.

The Visioning Steering Committee meets the second Thursday each month at 6 pm. The next meeting will be November 12 at the church.

Susan Carey

A Bunch of Guys offers concert November 15th to help youth raise hunger funds

"A Bunch of Guys" is helping the youth of the New England Synod answer the call of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal to all ELCA youth to raise collectively \$1 Million in 2009 to fight hunger. The Guys will be performing Sunday, Nov. 15, at 4 p.m. at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol

Ave., Hartford, Conn. The benefit concert is called "Change for Change 2009." Admission is one canned good per person for the local food pantry, and your congregation's noisy offerings (pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters) for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. For more

information, contact Knute Ogren at knute.ogren@elca.org or 860-524-1379. To see more about the particulars of A Bunch of Guys: Change for Change 2009, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OHnhTaw6uY>.

*By the grace of God, we are a Lutheran congregation,
diverse in worship, Christ-centered in fellowship,
committed to prayer, deepening of faith,
and the stewardship of the gospel and God's world.*

Rev. Michael Meier to be ELCA Key Leader for Building Fund campaign

At a special meeting on September 20, the Congregation voted to engage the services of the ELCA Stewardship Key Leader program to help us conduct our Building Fund Campaign. This program, which was suggested by the Stewardship Committee and recommended by the Council, is intended to help ensure a successful campaign by engaging as many members as possible.

Our Key Leader will be the Rev. Michael Meier, who has been a pastor for over forty years. He served as Lutheran Campus Pastor at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, Program Director for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Oregon, and then as parish pastor at Sitka Lutheran Church, Sitka, Alaska. In 1991 he was called to the ELCA Region 1 office in Seattle to serve as Stewardship Specialist for five synods in the Pacific Northwest. After seven years there he was called to serve at the ELCA Churchwide office in Chicago as Director for Leadership Development for the Stewardship Team. In that capacity he supervised

stewardship staff persons in the sixty-five synods of the ELCA. In 2004 he was asked to serve as the Coordinator for Mission Support in the ELCA.

Pastor Meier has authored a number of stewardship materials, including *Step by Step: Fostering Financial Stewardship in your Congregation*, which by coincidence was used as a primary resource when a Stewardship Committee was being formed at Grace.

Pastor Meier retired in 2007 and then began working for Stewardship Key Leader. He has conducted Programs in Holland, Michigan; Erie, Colorado; Wichita, Kansas; Eveleth, Minnesota; Vancouver, Washington; Duluth, Minnesota; Greeley, Colorado; Salem, Oregon; Lake Ann, Michigan; Cranford, New Jersey, Bend, Oregon; Alta, Iowa; Kenosha, Wisconsin and Minot, North Dakota.

Pastor Meier is committed to helping God's people grow in their relationship with their Lord through the stewardship of all that God has entrusted to his people. He is convinced that there is a direct connection between the use of

financial resources and growth in discipleship. Pastor Meier has a love for congregations and delights in helping them accomplish the vision God has for them.

The campaign at Grace will be launched with a special service on January 9, 2010, and conclude with a celebration six weeks later, on February 21, 2010. It is anticipated that pledges received during the campaign will be completed well within the five-year goal that was established at the Congregation's earlier special meeting last July. Additional gifts, pledges, and bequests will always be welcome, of course. The campaign will require fresh ideas and resources to help us share our excitement and unite us in pursuing a common goal. As we restore our steeple and tend to other building when funds become available, we know our spirits will be lifted with a new sense of the blessings of God and the joy of sharing those blessings. Our steeple will be a symbol of our commitment to God's ministry on Asylum Hill and in the world.

Disasters and devastation in Philippines and Indonesia - Lutheran World Relief Responds

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is responding to several major disasters that have wreaked havoc in Asia, destroying communities and leaving scores of casualties with many more people lacking shelter, food, or medical care.

On Saturday, September 26, Typhoon Ketsana slammed the Philippines, leaving hundreds dead and driving thousands more from their homes. In less than 24 hours, the storm brought a month's worth of rain to the capital city of Manila, washing away homes and crops. On October 3, a second typhoon, named Parma, struck, causing more flooding, claiming 17 more lives, and leaving a large portion of the northern Philippines without electricity. The two storms have caused significant damage to the agricultural infrastructure of the Philippines with officials predicting shortages of rice

and other essential crops in 2010.

On Wednesday, September 30, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck West Sumatra in Indonesia, toppling buildings and destroying homes and roads. The next day a 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck, causing more destruction and widespread panic but no additional casualties. Most recent reports put the death toll at over 700 people with 1,000 still missing. The total number of deaths may not be known for some time as efforts have shifted to focus on delivering aid to the survivors, many of whom are now homeless.

Lutheran World Relief is responding to these crises by working directly with partners on the ground and through its membership in the Action by Churches Together

(ACT) International global aid alliance. In the Philippines, LWR is working with partners to distribute food and supplies to 17,000 families in and around Manila. In Indonesia, LWR is also working with local partners to deliver food and supplies and will also provide psychological support to people who have been traumatized by the disasters.

Lutheran World Relief needs to raise \$300,000 to mount a full response to respond to these disasters. LWR is accepting donations for the "Asia Disasters" fund online at lwr.org, by phone at 800-LWR-LWR-2 or by mail at PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832. You may also write a check to Lutheran World Relief and put it in the offering plate, and we will be glad to forward it.

Who is LWR?

Lutheran World Relief, an international nonprofit organization, works to end poverty and injustice by empowering some of the world's most impoverished communities to help themselves. With partners in 35 countries, LWR seeks to promote sustainable development with justice and

dignity by helping communities bring about change for healthy, safe and secure lives; engage in Fair Trade; promote peace and reconciliation; and respond to emergencies. LWR is headquartered in Baltimore, Md. and has worked in international development and relief since 1945.

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility.

Do you like to travel?

Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan Jan. 5-20, 2010

Pastor Michael Thomas, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hanover, N.H., who served as a pastor in Jerusalem, has agreed to co-lead an ecumenical pilgrimage to the Holy Land Jan. 5-20, 2010, which will include Egypt and Jordan. This trip is sponsored by First Congregational Church and Society (UCC), Rindge, N.H., who asked Thomas to help guide the tour. He most recently led a group to the Holy Land in 2007. Co-leader is Dr. Anja Stuckenberg, a cultural anthropologist who taught at Dartmouth College and who is now in the Master of Divinity program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. This pilgrimage offers opportunities to hear Palestinians share stories of their faith and hope in a difficult situation, as well as to meet with Israelis who long for peace in this troubled land. Cost is \$3,250 and includes air travel, accommodations and most meals. For further information, contact Thomas at michael.p.thomas@dartmouth.edu or 603.643.3703 or visit <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~lutheran/> as soon as possible.

Honduras, Feb. 1-7 and Feb. 15-22, 2010 - sponsored by the Global Mission Team of the New England Synod

Two mission work trips to Honduras, sponsored by the Global Mission Team of the New England Synod, are planned for February 2010. Work projects will include construction of outdoor sinks, latrines and energy efficient stoves, and construction and repairs to a church building and local elementary school. The group also will build friendships by helping at vacation bible school. (Summer vacation for Honduran children is during our winter.) Feb. 1-7, the trip will be led by Ed and Nancy Martin, members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Hingham, Mass., who have led two previous trips. Feb. 15-22, the trip will be led by Pastors Jim and Lisa Hazelwood, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Charlestown, R.I., who have led five previous trips. Estimated cost is \$645, plus airfare. For more information, contact Pastor Jim Hazelwood at jim@standrewri.org or 401.322.0088.

Holy Land, May 4-18, 2010 - sponsored by the Global Mission Team of the New England Synod

"A New Jerusalem," the 2010 mission trip of the New England Synod to its companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), is planned for May 4-18, 2010. The synod's Global Mission Team and Bishop Margaret G. Payne invite you to be transformed by the "living stones" of the Holy Land, to pray and learn as pilgrims, and to be companions for our brothers and sisters who seek peace with justice. The tour leader is Pr. Tim Keyl, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Nashua, N.H. Keyl spent the first part of his sabbatical in 2006 at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. He has returned with groups in 2007 and 2008. Approximate cost is \$3,200. Space is limited. The first deposit of \$500 is due Jan. 1, 2010. For more information, contact Keyl at 603.882.6142 or tkeyl@ctknashua.org or visit www.ctknashua.org.

Holy Land Youth Mission, July 8-22, 2010 - sponsored by the ELCA Global Mission Team

The Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA Global Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land invite young people entering their sophomore year in high school through age 22 to participate in the Holy Land Youth Mission being planned for July 8-22, 2010. This new initiative is designed to deepen faith, build awareness, develop relationships and equip participants with peace building, leadership and advocacy skills to be incorporated into their lives when they return home. Cost is about \$2,000 plus airfare. Space is limited. Deadline to apply is Dec. 14. For more information and an application email peacenotwalls@elca.org or visit www.elca.org/HLYouth.

“Acceptance, Forgiveness, and Love”

My favorite Woody Allen comedy is “Broadway Danny Rose” (1984) with Mia Farrow and guest star spots by New York City comedians, veterans of the Borscht Belt. Allen made this film after three introspective films that were not fan favorites. He decided to go back to his roots as a former comedian on the Catskills circuit. What does this movie have to do with our Christian lives, especially during Thanksgiving?

To tell you the movie’s whole story which would take a couple pages. For those of you who have access to the Internet, Googling the movie’s title will bring several reviews and comments by those who have seen the movie. For those of you who have seen the movie, I apologize, but I think you will understand.

Danny Rose is the nebbish character that Allen has perfected during his brilliant career. He has a soul as big as one’s can get. He is a talent agent for acts that no one wants to book such as a lady who plays tunes on different size glasses, a one-legged tap dancer, and the worst ventriloquist in the world, so bad that when he appears at children’s parties, they boo him. The list of show-biz losers goes on and on. However, being at the lowest rungs of the entertainment industry in New York City does not deter him. Danny Rose sees talent in everyone, even when no one else sees it, and he predicts a bright future for them. He cares for them. For instance, he manages a large has-been tenor by getting him to gigs even when the singer is drunk. Rose calls it his personal service. The problem is that whenever his acts start to get billings, they abandon him and choose more prestigious talent agents with better connections. Rose accepts these betrayals, telling the leading lady of the film that his uncle once told him that only three things mattered, “Acceptance, Forgiveness, and Love.”

Rose’s soused tenor is married but in love with a Mafia moll from New Jersey. (Yes, Allen does have a great sense of humor.) The affair almost gets the Allen and the moll killed during an adventure-filled, chaotic day. Mia Farrow plays the moll as a gum-chewing, independent woman who takes “guff” from no one. She tells Danny Rose her philosophy of life: Life is short, so grab what you want and do it to the other guy before he does it to you.

In yet another betrayal, Rose’s tenor philanderer and the Mafia moll tell him that the singer is moving on to another talent agent. Rose is crushed and leaves. Next we see Rose in his one-room New York City flat serving frozen turkey T.V. dinners to his clients on Thanksgiving. It is a well-known event every year in the City. These people whom the world ridicules or passes over find room in Rose’s crowded apartment and Danny Rose finds room in his heart for them.

The doorbell rings and Rose opens the door to see the moll standing there. It is one of the most remarkable scenes in movies I can remember. You can see the hurt and anger inside Rose expressed in his face as he stares back at her. She apologizes for taking the tenor away from him and then quotes the uncle, “Acceptance, Forgiveness, and Love.” Rose turns away and she leaves.

Then we see Rose thinking to himself as his company asks who she is and next we see him running along a city street, presumably outside of his apartment. The two meet and start to talk. Though we hear no dialogue during the entire scene, we can assume that Danny Rose tells her that he forgives her and the two walk back to his apartment. The nebbish and Mafia gal have found love.

At Thanksgiving, we are probably not going to have the equivalent of Danny Rose’s frozen T.V. dinners in his flat, but we all can remember someone forgiving us. Of course, as Lutherans we praise God for His forgiveness of us, but I suggest that we also remember a time when someone we had wronged forgave us.”

People of Grace

David Eberly will be the featured opening performance and will also play during intermission on piano before the start of the program and during intermission at the **Insurance City Barbershop Chorus** concert performing Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 7 p.m., at Newington High School. General Admission:

\$15.00 each; Seniors and children under 10 years of age: \$10.00.

Diana St. Onge reports that her son, Barrett, and daughter-in-law Mariela had a baby girl, Bree Emma St. Onge, September 25, all healthy, 7# 14oz. She has long dark hair!

Tom Larsen and Sue Larsen have moved with their mother, Rev. Martha Klein Larsen, to a new address: 831 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, CT 06010. Martha is serving at St John's Episcopal Church, Bristol.

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US
I JOHN 4:19

TOGETHER WITH OUR FAMILIES

Gail Jordan
AND
John Prosen

REQUEST THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THEIR MARRIAGE

SATURDAY, THE TWENTY FIRST OF NOVEMBER
TWO THOUSAND AND NINE
THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
REFORMATION
77 FRANKLIN SQUARE
NEW BRITAIN. CONNECTICUT



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Church Staff Directory

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Dale Eberhardt, Organist
Catherine Tomlinson, Parish Administrator
Marilyn Flaherty, Financial Assistant
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Miriam Miller, Sexton

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Bruce Klotz, Secretary
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Barbara Calogero, Assistant Treasurer
Sally Nolen, Grace Notes Editor

PLEASE NOTE:

The submission deadline for the December 2009 edition of Grace Notes is November 15th. Please forward information to Sally Nolen (sallynolen@live.com) by this date. Thank you.

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