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**The Newsletter
for members of
Grace Lutheran Church
422 Valhi Blvd.**

Houma, LA 70360

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October, 2011



The Pipeliner

If you are interested in helping with future editions, please contact Pr Rich, Donna in the office, or Gordon Fitzgerald. This is your newsletter and we need your help to make it a success. Also, if you would like to receive it by e-mail, please let us know.



Pastor's Corner

Be the Parent

"You never stop being a parent." I've heard that said many times. A bestseller of that name was published last year. I've seen a number of heartwarming movies with a moment where a child of any age seeks the wisdom of Mom or Dad. In our culture "You never stop being a parent" almost rises to the level of indisputable fact. I'm not so sure.

"As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his

household"—That's how Martin Luther prefaces each section of the Small Catechism. He properly places the burden of Christian instruction where it should be; with the parents. Why the parents? Because more than any other person, children learn from their parents. From infancy babies mimic what their parents do. Nearly from their first word children are asking questions of their parents. Kids look to their mother and father as models for what a woman and man are supposed to be in life. The lessons learned from parents are the lessons that stick. Proverbs 22:6 catches nobody by surprise; *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Yet so many fathers and mothers today who claim the title of Christian seem to jettison the title of parent when it comes to modeling the faith.

Churchgoing is a big part of the faith, but churchgoing is something learned. When a parent doesn't attend church their actions speak volumes about where God stands as a priority in life. Conversely, when the family is in church even when it's inconvenient, that tells kids God ranks high in the grand scheme of things.

I've heard lots of excuses and they really don't wash.

- "It's such a hassle. My kids don't want to go and they raise a stink." So when they don't want to wake up and go to school you leave them in bed? If they don't want to visit Grandma, that's that—we're staying home? No. The parents are the parents and see that the children do what is required of them. Church is no different.

- "My kids don't get a lot out of the service." Just because they can't fully grasp 'justification by grace through faith' does not mean they aren't learning. The example of scores of people gathering for worship is profound to show Christian reverence of God Almighty. The hymns, prayers, liturgy and sermon all speak of God's love, forgiveness and mercy in Jesus Christ. Kids are sponges; they'll suck some of it up.

- "I'm embarrassed when they don't behave and they disturb others during the service." I've got a sound system. The congregation has a unified, if sometimes off key, singing voice. We aren't disturbed. We want your kids to know Jesus and we want them in church always. You can't teach them how to behave in church if they aren't in church. We have a training room in the

back and a nursery just for this purpose. (And let me take this opportunity to remind the congregation—it is a children's training room—NOT A SKYBOX FOR ADULTS. If you are not watching a child, move into the sanctuary with the rest of the grown ups!)

Folks may read this and think I'm upset about lack of church attendance. OK, maybe a bit. But my worry is much more serious than that because of another proverb—23:13-14: *"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol."*

I'm not saying to beat your kids. I am urging you to save them. Parents, your job is to protect your children from harm and evil and from hell itself. Your job is to protect their eternal soul from condemnation. It's that simple. Do your job.

I was ecstatic on a recent Sunday when more than a dozen kids came forward during my children's sermon. I can't help wondering why so many Sundays there are only one or two. Please prayerfully consider the lessons your example is teaching your children. Consider

the eternal risk involved. Don't make excuses. Do what a parent should.

Jesus Christ died for you and for your children. The forgiveness He won is available every day to those who call on His name; the name into which you had them baptized. They need to be taught what that name means. Your job as parent is to teach them through both your words, and more importantly and impressively, your actions. Be the parent. Teach your children the lesson that lasts more than a lifetime.

Confirmation/Communion

The Elders Committee and Pastor are discussing making changes to confirmation and eligibility for communion. Please check your mail boxes for updates and information.

Christian Education

Jeannie Thalheim, Chmn

With summertime behind us, our Fall quarter has begun and Sunday school for all ages is underway. Thank you to Donna Boger, Ann Perryman, Cindy Deane, Lola Ledet, Kristen Schwausch, and Pastor Rich for their commitments to teach this past year. Our kids (and adults!) were enriched by

their faithful preparation and presentation of our Lord's word.

Classes started this month in K-3 and 4-6 with the fresh new faces of Michelle and Mike Wallace. Michelle and Donna teach our littlest ones and Mike leads the 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Richard Thalheim and Pastor Rich and I will alternate teaching the upper grades, and Lola and Pastor will continue to lead the adult class. I speak for all of the teachers when I say that we would all love to see more of our membership attend Sunday school on a regular basis. Thank you to the Wallaces and to all of the returning SS teachers for your commitments to serve.

Third graders Cade Kyzar and Shelby Giroir received new bibles with a special blessing and dedication offered by Pastor Rich during the children's sermon on September 18th.

Speaking of the children's sermon, we had a remarkable 15 kids come up to hear Pastor's talk! I was happy that most of them stayed for Sunday school class after the service. It really does make for a much more lively and fun experience for the kids when there are several other children in the classes. And the

teachers always love it when there are lots of kids! Do invite the children in your lives to Sunday school and let them bring friends. I know many adults with stories of having been brought to church and Sunday school as children, by a caring adult other than their parents. A favorite aunt of mine is one. Born in the depression and dealing with divorcing parents and scattered siblings, my mother's sister tells her story of having nothing to look forward to except a weekly opportunity to attend worship and Sunday school with a neighbor. She is 84 now and continues to live her life as a witness to our salvation in Christ. You don't ever know what wonders the Lord is going to work in young lives. How awesome is it that a simple invitation can be the beginning of a life of living in God's love!

Stewardship

Christian stewardship is the **free and joyous activity** of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Many people may argue that Christian stewardship is more about following laws, rules and instructions than it is about **free and joyous activity**.

Historically, believing and living as Christians has also been more about laws, rules and instructions than it has been about a **free and joyous way of living**. On October 31 we will join with Christians around the world in celebrating the 494th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. In the years leading up to the reformation some serious false teachings had crept into the basics of the Christian life and faith so that people felt like they were **slaves** to all kinds of rules and regulations. Christianity was not very **free and joyous**. The good news of being saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our salvation, was in danger of being hidden from God's people. Jesus died so that we might have life and have it abundantly and joyfully. One of the key passages that opened Martin Luther's eyes to the true way of salvation was, of all things, from an Old Testament book. He found it in Habakkuk 2:4a: "***The just [righteous] shall live by faith!***" [NIV]

This discovery led to a new and refreshing way to look at the contents of the Bible. It is easy to find all kinds of laws, rules and commandments and get the idea that if you want to be right with God you must obey all of these

laws, rules and commandments. The problem is that because of our sinful natures we are not able to keep all these laws, rules and commandments and are pretty much left with the options of either trying harder or giving up. Neither of these options leads to a life that is **free and joyous**.

The Bible contains all kinds of laws, rules and instructions for our Christian living, but these laws, rules and instructions are not written for the purpose of saving us. Rather, they drive us to the good news of salvation through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Forgiveness of our sins frees us from past failures and opens up a new way of living. ***“Don’t you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” [Romans 6:3-4 NIV]***

Through Christ we are freed from ***“have to living”*** to move toward ***“get to living .”*** What a refreshing freedom for us to live godly lives not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.

Truly, God’s redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

Grace’s voters passed a deficit budget for 2011, but I’m happy to report that the congregation responded in their giving. However, we did not anticipate the 52 percent increase in our property insurance premiums which resulted in an increase of more than \$8,000. Primarily due to this expense we have been operating in the red.

Grace’s Board of Directors approved limited borrowing (\$10,000) from the congregation’s capital improvement fund to meet expenses. That fund was designated by the voters for large scale building maintenance and expansion projects, not daily operational expenses. As of mid-September, \$6,000 has been borrowed and not repaid.

It is our hope that giving will increase and allow these funds to

be returned and GLC can finish the year in the black. We know times are tough, but we are also very blessed. Please prayerfully consider how you might increase your tithe or gifts to Grace's general fund.

Mission Guild

We wish to remember in our prayers, the family of our dear sister in Christ, Jean Frey who passed on last month. Jean gave tirelessly of her time and talents in the work of our Lord's Mission Fields.

MITES: Mites are collected the 2nd Sunday of each month, however you can put your offerings in the large mite box in the back of the church any time and we thank you.

Please remember to sign up for our Grace Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29th; several areas need your help, including our LWML/Mission Guild table. All baked goods sold at this table during the Fall Festival goes toward the Rummage Sale treasury.

For those who want an update, all Mite monies are forwarded to LWML for mission projects, and all monies collected for baked

goods, dish cloths, etc. are used for local projects.

Joelle is looking for a volunteer to assist her with the baked goods table on the second Sunday of each month. Thank you to all of the "bakers and partakers" of our goodies. All monies raised are used for our own mission projects at Grace.

Please mark your calendars for our annual visit to Heritage Manor Nursing Home on Saturday, December 17.

We will call bingo games and sing Christmas Carols with the residents. Everyone is invited to participate.

Dish cloths are still available for a \$2.00 donation each; and Christian key rings for \$6.00. We also have covers for our Portals of Prayer/Devotion booklets for \$5.00 each, plus other assorted items. See Joelle, Jerrie or Donna if there is anything you wish to purchase.

All ladies of Grace are invited to join us at our next quarterly meeting in December (date to be scheduled) - immediately following service in the Conference Room.

Blessings,



Building One Body in Christ Through Worship, Witness,
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center 422 Valhi Boulevard Houma, LA. 70360 985-879-1865 / 1833 (fax)			
Pentecost XVI 2 Worship 9am/Food Bank Youth Biscuits follow SS 10:30am/Confirmation 12pm Southern Plainsman 6pm Butch Henderson & Kelly Kyzar BD J. & I. Kohls W Hebrews 11-13	3 Susan Songe BA Deuteronomy 4-6	4 Rummage Sale Pricing 12-3pm Ian Navarre BD Jack Hansen BA L. & K. Garner W II Chronicles 25-28	Bible Study Potluck Fellowship Prayer & Praise Thrivent Worship Lakyn B Dave G Psalms
Pentecost XVII 9 Worship 9am/LWML Sunday MG Baked Goods follow SS for all ages 10:30am Confirmation 12pm Audrey Cavalier, Gabriella Crawford & Jack Pellegrin BA James 1-3	Columbus Day, 10 Observed Dale Boger BD Joy Stegall BA Deuteronomy 7-9	11 Rummage Sale Pricing 12-3pm BOD Mtg. 7pm Victoria Thelheim BD Vern Hall BA II Chronicles 29-32	Bible Study Potluck Fellowship Prayer & Praise Psalms
Pentecost XVIII 16 Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:30am Confirmation 12pm Rummage Pre-Sale 12-2pm Lisa Ledet BD & Cade Kyzar BA James 4-5	17 Michael Shroyer, Sr. BD Billie Bohannon BA Deuteronomy 10-12	St. Luke, 18 Evangelist Rummage Sale Pricing 12-3pm II Chronicles 33-36	Bible Study Potluck Fellowship Prayer & Praise Fall Fest M J. & C. Psalms
Pentecost IXX 23 Worship 9am Fall Fest Muffins follow SS for all ages 10:30am Confirmation 12pm Rummage Pre-Sale 12-2pm Ross Reeves BD 1 Peter 1-3	24 Dennis Armstrong BA Ian Navarre BA Cody Pugh BA Deuteronomy 13-15	25 Rummage Sale Pricing 12-3pm Alyssa Dalgle BD Thelma Krohn BD DeAnn Barrios BA Ezra 1-5	Bible Study Potluck Fellowship Prayer & Praise R. & E. R. & R. Psalms
Pentecost XX 30 Worship 9am Youth Biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:30am Confirmation 12pm Fall Fest Clean Up 1pm 1 Peter 4-5	Reformation Day 31 Fall Fest Clean Up 9am A. & K. Plaisance Deuteronomy 18-19	Fall October 9A	

Joelle Gerken & Donna Boger

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Anita Harper, Ashland Bergeron, Ashley LeBlanc, Betty Carpenter, Cherie Delaney, Chloe Zulcowsky, David Mack, Dennis & Lynda Kelley, Donna St. Amant, George Swindel, Glenn Meyer, Jerry Barnard, Jim & Iva Kohls, Joelle Gerken, John Bagert, Josie Lapeyrouse, Kathryn Fauble, Kim Landry, Lisa Ledet, Mary Dawson, Mike Brunette, Mitch Basco, Mona LaCour, Nancy Ogle, Nikki Hebert, Norman Johansen, Pearl Greve, Sandy Waalk, Stephanie Dahl, Tina Stropolo, Vanessa Dupre, William Cape & William Thalheim

ELDERLY: Barbara Hillman, Gertrud Weidmann & Stella Gilbert

EXPECTANT MOTHERS & BABIES: Kristan Plaisance

NEW MOTHERS & BABIES: Alyce & Jonah Eschete; Wendy & Jacob Hardin; Laura & Madison Schmitt

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of Edwin Gilbert, Jean Frey, Jeffrey Paul Arthur, Jr., Lori Van Alstine , Lorraine Kuehnert & Tyreik Gregoire

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Brandon & Heather Darce, Caleb Dufrene, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Mark St.

Romain, Matt Babin, Matthew Spolarich, Stephen Darce and Todd Mueller

VIETNAM MISSIONARY FAMILY : J.P., Aimee, Celeste & Bella Cima

Prayer Listings in Bulletin

September 30th marked the end of the quarter and we are attempting to clean up the prayer request list in the bulletin. If you wish a request to remain in the bulletin, please let the office know via email to secretary@gracehouma.org or by dropping a note at the church office or by calling (985) 879-1865. On behalf of all those who benefit from your faithful prayers, thank you and thanks be to God

Biscuit Makers

October 2 - Jared Moise
16 - Billie Bohannon
30 - Connor & Hannah Cuneo

Fall Festival Rummage Sale

We will price in the fellowship hall every Tuesday and Thursday from 12-3 p.m. We are still in need of volunteers and items to sell. We will have two presales for members to purchase items from our Rummage Sale, Sunday, October 16 & 23 from 12-2 p.m.

There will be NO buying of items before then and NO IOUs. Any questions, please see or call Michele Wallace at 985-262-4568.

SILENT AUCTION

We are starting to collect articles for the Silent Auction. We ask that these be new items only. You may bring your donations to the fellowship hall clearly marked "Silent Auction". Call Gordon Fitzgerald at 879-1913 or the church office if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Fall Festival Raffle Tickets

The raffle tickets for Fall Fest are here! These may be picked up from Glenn or Donna in the narthex on Sunday mornings or from the church office during the week. We are asking each family to take some tickets to sell to your extended family, friends and coworkers. Let's get out and sell as many tickets as we can to help benefit this year's festival.

Raffle prizes are: 40" Digital Flat Screen TV, Deluxe Barbecue Grill and Kindle Electronic Reader.

Please join us for our monthly Fall Festival Meeting, Wed-

nesday, October 19th after Prayer & Praise (approximately 7:15 p.m.) in the fellowship hall.

2012 Board of Directors and Elders

Now is the time to start thinking about serving as a member of the Board of Directors or elder for 2012. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself. Grace needs you! Please prayerfully consider how you can help the Lord's work by volunteering to serve as a candidate for an elected position.

BUILDING SECURITY & STEWARDSHIP

If you're among the last to leave the church building at any time, please be sure **all** doors are locked **and** closed completely. Also, please make sure all thermostats are returned to vacant-building settings.

Thank you to GLC's Youth Group for serving as our acolyte, scripture reader, greeters and ushers on the third Sunday of every month and for the biscuits during our fellowship time.

LWML Zone Fall Rally

"Being With Jesus - Living On The Edge"

Saturday, October 1, 2011
At Mount Zion Lutheran Church
1401 Simon Bolivar Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70125

In-Gathering Items Needed

For Children's Hospital in NOLA
(Girls & Boys ages 2-21 yr. olds)

(List of items on narthex table)

Items will be distributed on
Saturday, October 8th or 15th,
2011.

Items may be left in the In-
Gathering basket in the narthex.

GLC 12th Annual Fall Festival
Saturday, October 29, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Food, Games, Space Walks,
Mechanical Bull, Silent Auction,
Rummage and Bake Sale, Hayride,
Live Music, Crafts and a Raffle -
\$2.00 tickets**

(Raffle Prizes include 40" Digital
Flat Screen TV, Deluxe BBQ Grill &
Kindle Electronic Reader)

Proceeds to benefit:
*The Bunk House, Terrebonne
Churches United Food Bank,
Project Learn LaTerre, and St.
Vincent de Paul Pharmacy*

**FALL FEST CLEAN UP WILL
CONTINUE SUNDAY, OCTOBER
30TH AT 1:00 P.M. AND
MONDAY AT 9:00 A.M.
ALL ABLED PERSONS ARE ASKED
TO HELP!**

Prayer Meeting

Last month's meeting was
cancelled due to in climate
weather and we're believing this
month's weather will be better.
The prayer group will meet
Friday, October 7th at 7pm.
All are invited to join us!

FOOD BANK GIVING SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who
participated with Food Bank
Sunday last month. \$75.00 in
cash and groceries were donated.
Our next collection will be
Sunday, October 2, 2011.

MEMBER BOXES

-
Please remember to check your
member box while at church. If
you don't see your name on the
list, please contact Donna by
calling or emailing the church
office at:

secretary@gracehouma.org

Fund.

Altar Flowers

The beautiful altar flowers we enjoy every Sunday are donated by Gloria Ashley. She continues to bless Grace with this gift of love. If you would like to send Gloria a "thank you" note, her address is: 226 Hampton, Houma, LA. 70364.

If you would still like to contribute to the "Service Flowers Fund" on your designated week, these monies will be added to the General

WORSHIP SERVICE DVDs

AVAILABLE

Sunday services are recorded and put on DVD. If you or someone you know would like to receive these, please contact the church office. Extra DVDs are placed on top of the congregational mailbox cabinet and are free for the taking. DVDs are usually available for pick up by Tuesday.



October is Clergy Appreciation Month

This is a time we show our love to Pastor Rich and encourage his ministry with us at Grace. He is a gift from God to our congregation and our community. Simple acts that feed a shepherd... you may want to consider the following as we care for and show our appreciation to Pastor Rich for the important work he does:

pray for our pastor; express appreciation, spoken and written; celebrate with a special meal; encourage his personal interests.

Blessings,

The Ladies of Grace's L'WMLA

Acolytes

October 2	Jared Moise
9	Ross Reaves
16	Karly Kyzar
23	Annie Reaves
30	Victoria Thalheim

Ushers

October 2	Dale Boger/Joe Deane//Richard LaCour
9	Dave Akins/Dennis Armstrong/Gordon Fitzgerald/Joey Souther
16	Youth Group
23	Jim Kohls/Glenn Meyer/Ricky Reaves/Michael Thalheim
30	Dale Boger//Joe Deane//Richard LaCour

Altar Guild

October 2	Marilyn - Penny
9	Kendra - Ann—Addie
16	Marly Lou—Kristen—Lorie
23	John—Patsy—Ellen
30	Marilyn - Penny

Scripture Readers

October 2	Joe Deane
9	Jeannie Thalheim
16	Youth Group
23	Gordon Fitzgerald
30	Bonnie Dupre

Offering Stewards

October 2	Burt and Marilyn Beach
9	Donna Boger & Glenn Meyer
16	Rana DaSilva and Brigitte Kinsella
23	Joe and Cindy Deane
30	Burt and Marilyn Beach

Greeters

October 2	Gordon & Jerrie Fitzgerald
9	Mary Lou Johnston
16	Youth Group
23	Dave & Gail Akins
30	Ellen DeSoto & Jean Frey

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