

Grace Lutheran Church

Under New Management

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 1-2

January
February **2012**

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From the Pastor

Well, we've almost made it. Another year is about to be written into the history books. It has been an interesting year, to say the least. It has been a year filled with joy and sorrow, a year of horrible, unspeakable tragedy and jubilant ecstasy. It has been the best of years; it has been the worst of years. Some would like to be able to relive the year, while for others it cannot be gone quickly enough. There are some statistics, however, which are uniform no matter how you feel about 2011. There were a total of 52 weeks, 365 days and 8,760 hours - sufficient time to accomplish many tasks.

Time, like our money, requires good management. We set priorities for the expenditure of our time just as we budget and prioritize the spending of our money. Yet, at the end of any given period of time, we mourn the lack of time to finish a specific task, just as we grieve our shortage of money. The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for everything under the sun."

We knew that, didn't we? But we still found ourselves "out of time" during parts of 2011.

Many thoughts run through our minds as we come to the end of this year, 2011. Perhaps the first and most pressing thought is the idea that this year has sped by so rapidly. "Why, it seems as if it were only a few weeks ago that we were in a similar position, looking at the last hours of 2010." How time flies in our society. Talk with anyone over the age of 50; they will tell you that time went by much slower "in the 'good' old days."

Truth of the matter is, when God created the day, He gave it a total of 24 hours. That has not changed over the millennia. What has changed, however, is how much we try to stuff into one 24-hour period. Somewhere along the line man decided he had to cram all of the "Times" of Ecclesiastes 3 into the smallest integer of time he could. The day seemed a likely and convenient period of time to use. Subsequently, time took on new attributes: the attributes of a world-class sprinter – speed and singleness of focus.

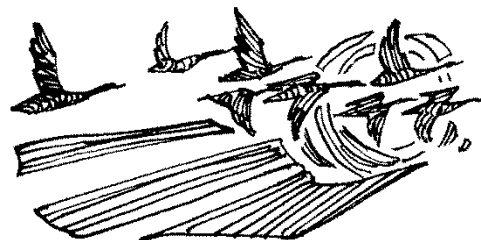
Solomon's thesis in Ecclesiastes 3 simply calls us back to the reality that no matter how much we attempt to rush it there is a time for everything. Many people rush through life at such a hectic pace that they do not have the opportunity to enjoy the time God has given them for their benefit and enjoyment. Some people go through life at such a fast pace that they think the only attribute a rose has is its thorns. If you are like that, I pray that God will grant you the grace to slow down in 2012, so that you can smell and enjoy the wonderful fragrance of the rose.

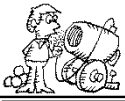
Take time this New Year – take time to enjoy God's creation; take time to enjoy the blessings He richly showers on you – the blessing of family and friends; take time to study His Word and grow in it; take time to worship and praise the God who made you, redeemed you and sanctifies you; take time to return to God a portion of the bounty He showers upon you.

I pray for you a blessed and prosperous New Year – The Year of Our Lord, 2012.

Shalom!

Pastor David Bernard





Paul Says...

Today's Advice: When a cop pulls you over and says "Your eyes look red, have you been drinking?" DO NOT SAY "Your eyes look glazed, have you been eating doughnuts?"

A New Beginning

Did you understand the Old Testament Lesson that was read in church last Sunday? I didn't. It came and went so quickly, how can anyone have time to think about it? Sure, it was a story from the Bible, and since it's from the Bible I suppose it's good for me to hear it. My mind didn't wander during the reading (this week), so I really did hear what was read, but to be truthful, an hour later all I could remember about the reading is how distant it had seemed to me. It was from a culture of thousands of years ago. I'm glad I didn't have to read the names of those places—I would never be able to say them without tripping over the syllables—and what does it matter anyway to people in 2012 central New York?

Actually, when I heard the Lessons read in church was not the only time I heard them this week. When I first read them during the week, I really did react like that. "Read it, it's good for you," sounds much like my mother's advice at the table so many years ago. The readings seemed distant and not really connected, not to each other, not to the hymns, and certainly not to me.

But spending time in the Word began to change all that. There are resources available that help me understand how it fits together. How Isaiah and Matthew connect. How the full meaning of the original Hebrew or Greek is sometimes hard to capture in English without creating text that would be

clumsy to read. How "the way of peace" that Isaiah wrote about in 59:8 becomes the light that shines out of darkness in 60:1-3, and this Way, this Light, is fulfilled as explained in 2 Corinthians 4:6: "God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of

the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

It has been my privilege for nearly three years to study the Bible with adults who gather around the Word for an hour every Sunday morning. I have learned *so* much from the experience, and discussions with other participants have made it clear that they have benefited not only by what they have taken away from the class, but by what they have brought to it. Surely it pleases the Holy Spirit to bless us richly through the Word.

We are about to challenge ourselves in a new way. Beginning on January 15, Pastor Bernard will assume primary responsibility for teaching the Sunday morning adult Bible study, and I will be among those who are available to fill in whenever Pastor is not available. We are excited that he will be sharing his many years of education, experience, and insights with us in this new way. Thank you, Pastor Bernard, for taking on this additional task for our congregation.

It has been a great learning experience for me to serve Grace in this capacity over these past years, and I am grateful to the congregation for affording me the privilege. I also want to thank Andrea Dodge and Dave Devan, as well as Pastor, for your willingness to lead the class in my absence. When undertaking a task that must be done every week, it removes a significant burden to have ready and willing assistance. Finally, I thank everyone who has participated in the class over the years. You have made the class so interesting and enjoyable for me, and I have learned more from you than you might ever imagine.

I look forward to continuing to participate in the class in the future, and I offer a New Year's resolution that I know will be a blessing to each of us as God's children: "In 2012 I will open my heart to receive God's Word by participating with other Christians in Bible study. May God enable me to humbly make this promise and to keep it."



Glen Bahr

Explanation of God

The following was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

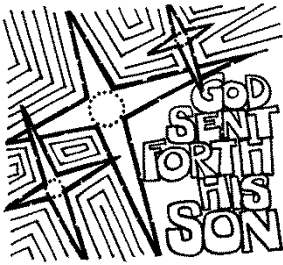
Submitted by Pat Clark from her sister Bonnie



Voice of the Shepherd

If you have a desire to sing, come along and join us as we rehearse each Tuesday, 6:00 PM.

All you need is a commitment of your time and talents. Please speak with the Choir Director, Karen Devan (761-4004) for more information. Holy Scripture tells us to rejoice with singing and to lift our voices to song.



The Kindness and Love of God Our Savior

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,¹

the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.²

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation [sacrifice of atonement] for our sins.³



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.⁴

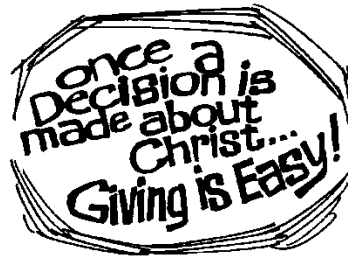
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.⁵

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.⁶

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.⁷

¹Titus 3:4; ²Jeremiah 31:3; ³1 John 4:9,10; ⁴Galatians 4:4,5; ⁵John 1:14; ⁶1 Timothy 3:16; ⁷Hebrews 2:14;

Submitted by Glen Bahr



On Stewardship

We have just approved a deficit budget for the year 2012. We all know what this means. We need more income. I realize that like

Paul & I, most of us older generations are on a fixed income and for the most part, we are giving as much as we can. We try to contribute in other ways, such as donating our time and talents.

If you are able, I know with God's help you will raise your giving. The days of a dollar or two in the plate each week have long been over. A loaf of bread is three dollars these days. Our utility bills have gone sky high. Unfortunately, this means that the expenses of Grace are also going up. One of the line items marked utilities is \$11,000.00 just by itself. This does not take into account our mortgage, repairs and upkeep, insurance and supplies.

Keep in mind, that as Treasurer Kathy Pavelock explained, the 2012 budget does not include the worker benefits for Pastor. That will come out of a fund we have designated. The expense of \$19,251.00 will wipe out this designated fund at the end of 2012.

Please go over the budget you approved at the Voters meeting and prayerfully consider where you can help.

I know some things that you can do already that are not monetary. You can volunteer!! We need you to sign up to Usher, help with Altar Care, and be part of a cleaning team. We are in need of new blood. I think yours is just the one we are looking for.

May God bless and keep all of you, my church family with a bountiful New Year 2012. With God's help all things are possible and we can make our budget with His help and our commitment.

As of January 1, 2012, I will no longer be Stewardship Chairman, if you are interested in this position, please speak with Paul House.

*Thanks be to God
Pat Clark*

Sunday School Corner

Wow!! Wasn't the Children's Christmas Service on Sunday, December 18th, terrific? Not only could the animals talk, they could also sing! What a creative way to tell the story of our Lord and Savior's birth. Thank you so much, children, for the wonderful job you did in telling the message of the birth of Jesus. We are all very proud of you.

Our Sunday School and adult Bible Class will take a recess on Christmas and New Year's Day and our lessons will continue on Sunday, January 8, at 8:45 a.m. Please come prepared to hear more great news from God's Holy Word.

During the month of February we will concentrate on learning the books of the Bible, the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments and the 23rd Psalm. We will also begin a memory verse program. Cookies and crafts will round out our activities and then we will return to our professionally prepared curriculum. There should be some fun for all.

Pastor Bernard will be leading the Adult Bible Class on Sundays at 8:45 beginning on January 15th. We thank Mr. Glen Bahr and other deacons for leading this class over the past few years. They will continue to fill in when Pastor cannot be with us.

Please join me in welcoming Rebecca Harrington, Karen Devan, and Charlene Kirk who will be working with me on a Nursery/Cradle Roll for our baptized children. Mailings of materials will be sent out very soon.

Please continue to pray for our Sunday School programs and bring your children and grandchildren to join in the fun.

Thank You!

*Submitted by Linda Bahr,
Chairman of Christian Education*



The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all,

Dear God,

I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.

Amen

Author Known To God



Paul Says...

Some nights I drive to a cliff, stare blankly out into the ocean and think really hard about my life, just in case I'm part of a montage.

'Twas the night before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
 in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
 I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
 and to see just who in this home did live.
 I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
 no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
 and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
 With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
 a sobering thought came to my mind.
 For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
 the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
 curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
 The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
 not how I pictured a United States soldier.
 Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
 Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
 owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
 Soon round the world, the children would play,
 and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
 They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
 because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
 on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
 The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
 I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
 The soldier wakened and I hear a rough voice,
 "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice;

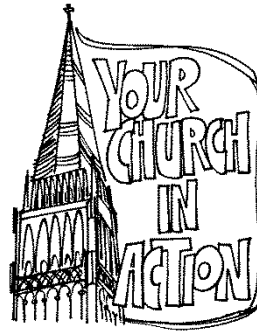
"I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
 my life is my God, my country, my corps."
 The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
 I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
 I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
 and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
 this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
 Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
 whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is
 secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
 "Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

*By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt
 Submitted by Pat Clark*

Evangelism/Outreach



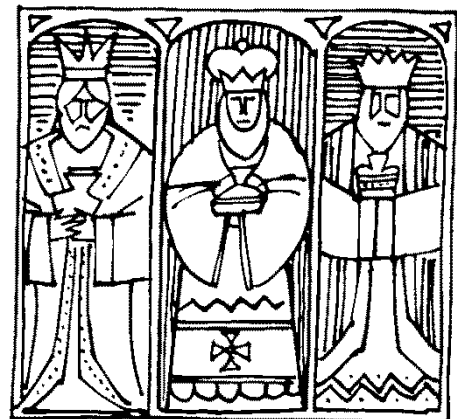
Happy New Year to all! It's time to refocus our efforts on living a Christ centered life. Prayerfully consider how to do that for your life and just maybe it will be something involving outreach.

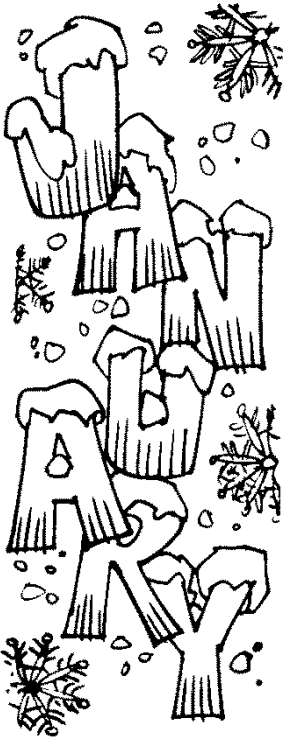
I've watched so many prayer shawls go out of our church to destinations near and far. Thank you so very much for knitting and crocheting the shawls. We have some very talented ladies who can really whip them up sometimes quickly. We appreciate all that you do to this keep this ministry going. I'm quite sure that we are well on our way to 100! Also, the donations of yarn have been a blessing for the knitters and crocheters. Thank you to those who contributed.

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for information about a Relay for Life Meeting. We are ready to get into gear with 2012 plans. We will keep the congregation posted as to when our project will be ready to support the team. Also, please consider becoming part of it. We will be looking for people to do specific jobs in the near future.

The committee will be meeting sometime in January to evaluate what their goals for 2012 will be. So, make an effort to support our events. We will need to be creative to find those links to our community.

*Feri Devan
 Committee Chairman*





Birthdays

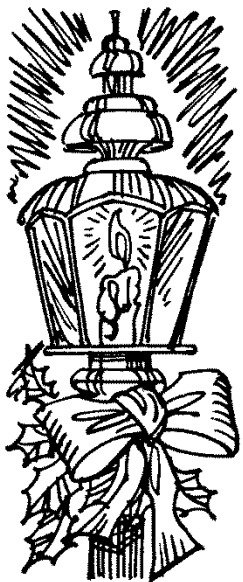
- 1/5 Joshua Harrington
Steven Minor
- 1/7 Linda Dishlaccoff
Andrea Dodge
- 1/9 Sandra O'Connor
Robert Smith
- 1/14 Kendall Seybert
- 1/15 Linda Bahr
- 1/16 Terry Hartman
- 1/18 Lorraine Warren
- 1/21 Tonya Everitt
Anna Gilbert
- 1/22 Christopher Devan
- 1/23 Jean Case
- 1/26 Toree Gilbert
Paul House
- 1/28 Kathy Pavelock
- 1/30 Tammy Moran
Derek Thomas

Baptismal Birthdays

- 1/1 Phillip Neumiller
- 1/7 Emilee' Gilbert
- 1/8 Dylan Napolis
Robert Smith
- 1/19 Lauren Warren
- 1/20 Joshua Harrington
Adam Moran
- 1/22 Mason Moran
- 1/23 Jean Case
Paul Clark Jr.
Kimberly Medley

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1/5 Fred & Dolly Fowler

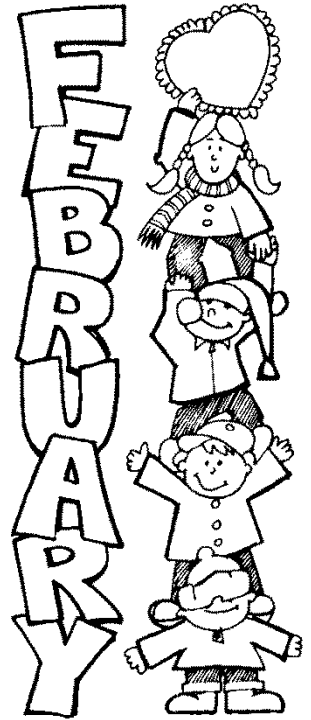


Birthdays

- 2/1 Dontai Burton
Daniel Harrington
- 2/2 John Richmond
- 2/3 Jo Clemens
- 2/4 Jennifer Smith
- 2/6 James Clark
- 2/14 Noah Devan
Charles (Chuck) Flay
- 2/15 Ashley Croy
- 2/18 Bianca Brinck
Chad Brinck
- 2/23 Dana Napolis
- 2/26 Howard Jones
- 2/28 Bailee Underwood

Baptismal Birthdays

- 2/9 Mark Antl
Marie Romano
- 2/13 Melissa Varacalli
- 2/14 Noah Devan
Pearl Romano
Kendall Seybert
- 2/18 Lorraine Warren
- 2/22 Daniel Harrington
- 2/28 Marie Romano
- 2/? Tabitha Minor



Help Keep Our Records Accurate!

See anything incorrect or missing on this page? Is your name misspelled? Did we get a date wrong? Let us know! Please send a quick email to the editor, aaronbahr@gmail.com, or call Aaron at 271-5932 to make any corrections.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45A BS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00A FS, Deacon Bd meet.	2 6:30P <i>Financial Peace University</i> w/ Dave Ramsey "From Fruition To Tuition"	3 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice	4	5	6	7
8 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship 11:00A FS	9 6:30P <i>Financial Peace University</i> w/ Dave Ramsey "Working In Your Strengths"	10 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice 7:30P MMLWML	11	12	13	14
15 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00A FS	16 6:30P <i>Financial Peace University</i> w/ Dave Ramsey "Real Estate and Mortgages"	17 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice 7:30P Council	18	19	20	21
22 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00 AM FS	23 6:30P <i>Financial Peace University</i> w/ Dave Ramsey "The Great Misunderstanding"	24 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice	25	26	27	28 TBA <i>Financial Peace University</i> w/ Dave Ramsey Review & Recap (Tentative)
29 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00A FS	30	31 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice				

2012

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3	4
5 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00A FS, Deacon Bd meet.	6	7 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice	8	9	10	11
12 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship 11:00A FS	13	14 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice 7:30P MMLWML	15	16	17	18
19 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00A FS, Voters Meeting	20	21 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice	22	23	24	25
26 8:45A BS/SS 10:00A Worship Holy Communion 11:00A FS	27	28 10:00A Women's Bible Study 6:00P Choir Practice	29			

2012

Come Join Hands With Us!

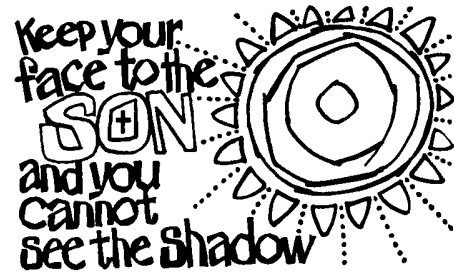
Grace Lutheran Church

3965 Carter Road
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-2128

Rev. David Bernard, Pastor
(585) 329-5575

Hours of Worship

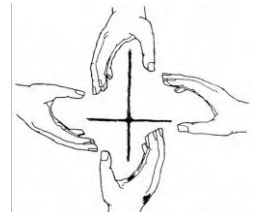
Sunday 10:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM
Women's Bible Study Tuesdays 10:00 AM



Grace Lutheran Church Officers:

- David Snyder, *Elder*..... 829-5256
- David Devan, *Deacon*..... 761-4004
- Andrea Dodge, *Deacon*..... 336-4198
- Glen Bahr, *Deacon*..... 339-1979
- Paul House, *Deacon*..... 280-4115
- Dana Smith, *Altar Care Chairman*..... 697-9450
- Linda Bahr, *Dir. of Christian Education*..... 339-1979
- Paul House, *President*..... 280-4115
- Steven Devan, *Vice President*..... 734-1372
- Kathy Pavelock, *Treasurer*..... 245-1590
- Jeanne Griffin, *Financial Secretary*..... 633-1141
- Patricia Clark, *Secretary*..... 762-5654
- Teri Devan, *Outreach Chairman*..... 734-1372
- Dana Smith, *Property Care Chairman*..... 697-9450
- Karen Devan, *Publicity (PR)*..... 761-4004
- David Kirk, *Head Usber*..... 339-2180

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