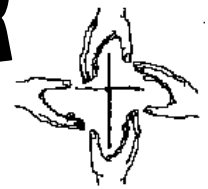

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



JULY & AUG 2011

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 7-8

On Saturday 18 June 2011 I did something I have never before done in my lifetime; I officiated at the funeral of a Fallen Hero. If you are reading this, you probably did not know her. Her name was SGT. Devin Ariel Snyder.

She was 20 years old, almost (in less than two months) a legal adult by our standards of age. She had been a member of the US Army since 11 August 2008, (when she was barely 18). She was deployed to Afghanistan in March 2011 and on 4 June 2011 she paid the ultimate sacrifice when her Humvee hit an IED and she along with three other MP's was killed instantly.

I have known Devin and her family for close to twenty years. She was a beautiful "All American Girl" who loved her family, friends, her job and her country.

At less than twenty-one years of age she knew the meaning of life and freedom and she knew at what cost life and freedom came in the United States. Devin took unto herself, as a motto for her life, a prayer written by noted American theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr. You might know this prayer as the serenity prayer. Many know the first part, but few are familiar with the entire prayer:

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,*

*If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.*

In addition, she took John 15: 12-17 as her guide. Devin was about higher things, of that I have become convinced in these past two weeks – L-O-V-E.

The Gospel reading recounts Jesus' words to His Disciples and us, His followers, about true love. Devin not only knew, but came to better understand in her all too short life the meaning of these words.

She willingly went, fulfilling a calling, and I firmly believe her service to her Country in the Army was a calling, fulfilling a calling that ultimately included her supreme sacrifice, laying her life down for "friends," people we admit she probably did not know, in a place thousands of miles from her home. And all of this out of this "great love"

Jesus speaks about in John chapter 15. In about two weeks (from the time I am writing this) our nation will celebrate its 235th birthday. We will gather as families and communities to celebrate and party, as we are wont to do. There will be much food and drink and the obligatory fireworks of our traditional 4th of July celebrations, in honor of those who have paid the price for our freedom.

It is by God's Grace that we are privileged to live in this "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave." It is by God's Grace that we, lost and condemned sinners are "Blessed to be a Blessing." It is by God's Grace that in the midst of the horror that is man's sinful nature in waging war, we too can live by the Words of Jesus:

John 15:12-17

12 'This is my commandment, that you **love one**

another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants* any longer, because the servant* does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may **love one another.**

May God continue to bless America as we place our faith and trust in Him. And may He allow His peace and mercy to flow across our great country that all who call this land home might live in His Peace and Blessing.

May God be with those, who, like SGT Devin Snyder, not only sign but willingly put their lives on the line for the cause of Peace and Freedom.

May God be with us and continue to bless us. May God be our peace and comfort. May His love and mercy surround and enfold us. May we grow in our faith in order that we may walk with Jesus and the Saints of God in His eternal presence.

“To the king of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be all honor and glory forever and ever.
Pastor David Bernard

One Nation Under God

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:10-22 ESV)



We the people of the United States of America celebrate the birth of our nation on Independence Day, July 4th. Amidst the solemn ceremonies in the morning, family picnics in the afternoon, and fireworks in the evening, shall we not think about what it is that enables this nation to be so special?

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance has since 1954 stated that we are “one nation under God.” A nation under God, is that who we are? Is that how we were founded?

Listening to modern rhetoric, one may be led to believe that the “one nation under God” phrase is a recent undertaking to inject religion where it never was and does not belong. “Keep your religion to yourself, in your family and your churches,” they say, “not in the public square.” They claim the nation was founded with a wall to keep you there.

There are many valid and compelling counters to this argument, and it is useful for Christians to be aware of some of them.

Do you know where “one nation under God” comes from? Was it coined by President Eisenhower when he was converted and baptized as a Presbyterian in 1953?

No, the Pledge was first spoken with these words by Louis Bowman, a chaplain of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, on February 12, 1948—Lincoln's birthday. Bowman explained that the words came from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (1863), “the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom.”

When I was learning the new pledge in Cub Scouts in the mid-1950s, we were carefully instructed to

say “one nation under God” (not “one nation, under God”). Over the years many have divided the phrase into two, as if “under God” is separate, almost an afterthought or even some type of creed, rather than integral with the nation itself.

One artist’s concept of “One Nation Under God” is the painting by that title by Jon McNaughton. If you have a computer, you’ll want to visit this work at: (type carefully)

http://www.mcnaughtonart.com/artwork/view_zoom/?artpiece_id=353

The painting depicts Christ bearing the U.S. Constitution. He is surrounded by figures from our founding to the present, and closest to Him is a young lad representing the future. As you roll your mouse over each figure, McNaughton explains how that person contributes to “One Nation Under God.” Beautifully done!

The Constitution(s)

One may argue that we are, more accurately, “fifty states under God,” rather than one nation under God, since the Constitution of the United States mentions God only in the context of prohibiting a religious test as a qualification for holding federal office. The constitutions of *all fifty states* give credit to God for their existence. Typical is that of New York State:

We The People of the State of New York,
grateful to Almighty God for our Freedom, in
order to secure its blessings, do establish this
constitution.

Several states have religious freedom clauses, such as Michigan’s “Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.” A number of states even deny public office to a person who “denies the being of God.”

The Great Seal

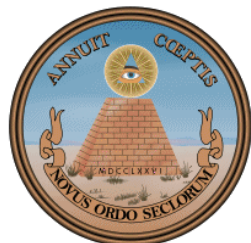
It’s on the back of every \$1 bill, so you’ve seen it before. You recognize on the obverse *E pluribus unum*, “out of many, one.”

One what, perhaps one nation under God? In 1782, when the seal was adopted, did it depict “one nation under God? Yes, it did.

On the reverse, the pyramid, strong and enduring, is unfinished.

Where the top of the pyramid should be, the Eye of Providence (God) watches over it. Over the

Great Seal of the United States



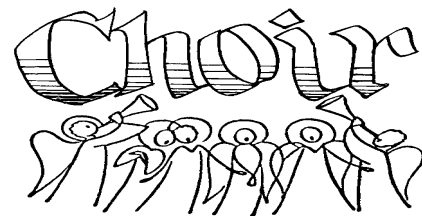
Eye appear the Latin words *ANNUIT* (he nods, or approves) *CŒPTIS* (undertaking)—“He approves our undertaking.”

The motto below the Roman numeral 1776 at the base of the pyramid is *NOVUS* (new) *ORDO* (order) *SECLORUM* (of the ages). Indeed this nation was a “new order” in many respects, not least of which were its founding with blessings and guidance provided by God, and its firm protection of individual conscience with respect to belief in God. We are not told how to worship, or even that we must worship. And we are certainly not told to hide our worship. Divine guidance is at least as useful in the public square and in Albany and in Washington as it is on Carter Road. May we and our leaders listen to the voice of God, and heed it.

As we celebrate and enjoy our nation this summer, let us keep in mind the importance of being “One Nation Under God.” May our Independence Day become also a Day of Thanksgiving.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:22)

Glen Bahr



Voice of the Shepherd

Do you have a desire to sing? If so, come join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. as we celebrate God’s love through music. We usually rehearse for approximately 1 ½ hours each week. We would love to add your voices to our group. All you need is a commitment of your time and talents. Sing unto the Lord a new song...Psalm 98:1; I will sing and make music...Psalm 108:1; Sing and make music in your heart...Eph. 5:19. Holy Scripture tells us to rejoice with singing and to lift our voices in song.

If you have questions please call Karen Devan 762-4222.



fast and needs to be mowed every few days, could I do that?

Have you taken a walk around the church acreage lately? If you have not, take a few minutes to explore the beauty of our property. This is just a small part of the blessings bestowed on us by the Lord who loves us.

We have had beautiful spruce trees donated to take the place of some that died, the new bell house and newly sanded and painted bell are in place, the garden around the crosses is being redesigned and enlarged. The Rose of Sharon that George & Alice House donated are flourishing around the propane tank to disguise it.

Two beautiful benches sit beside the doors for comfort along side the lovely plants there.

Have you ever taken a look at the storage barn? It is pretty neat. It has an upstairs for storage with a great stairway just made for climbing. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have something like that for our church building to make access to our huge attic possible? Did you even know we had a huge attic?

Work will continue in August on the mouldings and shelves inside the sanctuary. This is finishing work and will streamline the area behind the organ. The mouldings will go along the wall behind the altar as well as behind the organ to give them a more polished look.

In the future, we hope to have a white cross on the Carter Road end of the building with back lighting that will be visible at night for miles along Rte 13.

All these additions to our church did not magically appear. They are the result of hard work and dedication by members of our congregation. Their love for our Lord and Savior truly shines through these efforts.

Our Lord does not need these gifts from us, but we need to give them. What can I give? Yes, I give my weekly offering. That is just the beginning of what I can give. I can give my time to clean, serve on the altar, be an usher, an acolyte, teach in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Could I sing in the choir or play an instrument? There are all kinds of ways to serve Him. There is a lot of opportunity just taking care of our lawns. The grass grows very

Could I serve in an office? There are all kinds of committees that need my help. For example, Stewardship, Outreach (Evangelism), Prayer Chain, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Altar Care, Deacon Board. Am I suited for any of these jobs? Oh, wait a minute! What have I been taught? If I give my best and do my best to please my Lord, then He will be satisfied.

We all have different gifts and it is up to us with the help of the Lord, to figure out how to use these gifts for the furtherance of our mission here on Carter Road.

May our Lord and Savior, who continues to guard and keep us bless our mission and inspire us to go and tell what our faith means to us. *Pat Clark*



The Lord Is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Editor's Notes

Attention: It takes about seven days to put together the newsletter once the articles are in. Then we need about three days for mailing time to reach some who live in other states. Please help us meet our deadline by having your articles to Rebecca Harrington by the 18th of the month. rharri9@twcny.rr.com

Thank You , Rebecca Harrington

The Bible

Did you know that... When you carry the Bible, Satan has a headache. When you open it, he collapses. When he sees you reading it, he faints. Let's read the Bible every day so he keeps on fainting. Maybe one day he'll have a stroke and never wake up.

Relay For Life (Outreach Report)

Thank you to all who supported the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life held on Saturday, June 11th. Much hard work, discussion and effort was put in to make this year's event the success that is was!

Our first official team GRACE meeting was at Teri Devan's home where she served us a fabulous breakfast which helped get the relay discussion ball rolling with great ideas.

In March, our team held a pie sale and wow these ladies can bake! Apple, meringue, blueberry and peanut butter pies were baked and every last one was sold! In April, the women were croqueting necklaces and selling them to friends relatives, relatives were selling them to friends and so on. The luminary forms were given out and sold as well. May 14th was our fundraising garage sale. Many items were donated and we made \$429!

Relay Weekend!

On Friday, June 10th, we started the prep work for the event. Dana, Bob and Sandy loaded the truck with tables, chairs, tents, coolers and a banner.

Saturday morning we all drove to Oneida High School and unloaded the items in the parking lot. Some items we carried, some were transported by the relay helpers committee. Set up went fast and the weather looked promising for awhile.

The opening ceremony was quite nice and the sun was shining. The survivors' walk was the first event and Barb Hartman and Pat Clark walked together. Pat's husband Paul stayed with us and cheered them on. The caregivers walk was next and Terry Hartman walked with Barb. It was beautiful.

Many booths were at the event and at ours, Sandy and Dana's family helped sell croqueted necklaces, raffle tickets, soda and water.

Later in the day, the weather had stated to turn and the rain came. Needless to say, we all got soaked, but being troopers, we stuck it out. Little Lisa and her mom (Sandy daughter/granddaughter) walked 11 miles. The little one finally sat down and told me her feet hurt.

In the evening, the rain continued and we were not sure if the luminaries would be able to be lit & set out. We put them out once and had to bring them back to the tent, due to the rain. By 9:30pm the weather cleared enough that the luminaries were set out again. The bag piper played "Amazing Grace" and we all walked the track in silence. So many luminaries make you realize that we are here only by HIS grace.

Thank you to all the members of GRACE for the help and support. Thank you to all who gave generous donations. Over \$2600.00 was realized. We had a great year! *Jeanne Griffin*

Hi, my name is Elizabeth and I'm 7 years old. I wanted to help raise money to fight cancer. So I walked in the Relay for Life on June 11, 2011 with my Grammy and the *Go with Grace* team. I know what it feels like to have somebody die of cancer. My Grandpa Butch died of cancer and the mother of my mom's friend, Mrs. Coon. Two people donated money if I walked. It didn't take me long before I walked 10 miles, plus it only took me 5 ½ hours. By this time my feet were as red as the poison apple the witch gave to Snow White. But I kept telling my mom I was "determined." Now, I know that cancer hurts more than my feet.

-Elizabeth Larli

"Blessed is the man who can sit on a hard pew in church as he can on a hard bleacher at a ball game."



Vacation Bible School,
July 18-22, 6:8:30 PM.

We're having our own beach bash at Grace Lutheran Church, 3965 Carter Rd. Come, register and be prepared to have a great time. Kids ages 5-13 are welcome to join the fun! See you in the SON!

Birthdays

July 3 Joe Underwood
4 Kurt Medley
7 Charles Flay Jr
10 Annie Whitney
11 Hoyt Hedgecock
11 Dionne Underwood
11 Millie Weismuller
16 Lyle Stevenson
19 David Thomas
22 Karen Devan
26 Jason Flay
26 Krystal Burton
26 Devin McCormick
27 Mackenzie Eaton
27 Jane Gualtieri
27 Tim House
27 Mackenna Narolis

Baptismal Birthday's

4 Tonya Everitt
11 Adam DelaRoche
11 Danielle DelaRoche
14 Ann Eldred
15 Betsy Dodge

Anniversaries

2 David & Darlene Kirk
12 Glen & Linda Bahr
16 Lyle & Nelda Stevenson

18 Adam & Tammy Moran

19 Pastor & Ruth Bernard

Birthdays

Aug 1 Benjamin Scholl
4 Anita Thomas
7 Summer Wall
9 Susan Dodge
11 Aaron Thomas
14 Rev. Ben Bahr
15 Greg Scholl
18 Gale Hedgecock
22 Paul Clark Jr
24 Ashlee Gilbert
28 Dana Smith
30 Darlene House
31 Rose Fidler

Baptismal Birthday's

10 Devin McCormick
14 Jason Flay
18 Summer Wall
23 Floyd Whitney Jr
25 John Flay
31 Kate Hurrle
? Krystal Burton
? Joe Underwood

Anniversaries

12 David & Karen Devan
19 Chris & Kate Hurrle
22 David & Katie Devan
30 John & Barbara Richmond