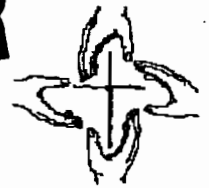


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2009

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 11

Happiness is a choice

Several years ago I watched the movie "Six Days, Seven Nights." A young couple took a romantic vacation at a fabulous resort in Tahiti. One evening a waiter came to their table to get their order, and he reminded them that Tahiti is an island. He said, if you didn't bring romance with you, you won't find it on the island.

Romance or happiness starts within, and you cannot buy it. Have you ever thought I would be happy if I just: Lost 20 pounds? Got a promotion? Bought a new car? Met the man or woman of your dreams?

Those goals, which are all worthy, cannot be the end of our search for happiness. Happiness is the way you feel when you pursue your worthy goals.

Einstein said "There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle." We should view our lives as a continuing miracle, when we consider all the gifts God has given us. We have to celebrate in our lives, even the small things. Find something to celebrate every day. Maybe you got your children off to school on time, homework done, notes signed, lunches packed, and everyone was in a happy mood. At the LWML retreat our speaker, Jan Struck, told how she used to work for a large insurance company creating spreadsheets from accumulated data. When one spreadsheet was finished, there were more waiting to be done. She plowed through a particularly tedious project, and when finished she stood up in her cubicle and did a "happy dance" around her chair. Her co-workers looked in, and wondered if she had lost her mind. BUT – the next day Jan received a call from a co-worker who had finished a similar project, who asked "Jan, will you come and do the happy dance with me?" Before long Jan and her co-workers did that happy dance just about every day to celebrate their successes and accomplishments. More work was done, and more smiles were visible.

What spoils a happy mood? Holding a grudge. It takes lots of energy to hold onto resentment and anger. Let it go! Forgive the people who have caused you pain, and look to the future. Think of it this way: Someone spoiled part of your past. Why would you let them spoil

your future by carrying the grudge with you? Forgive, and then try to forget.

Remember that you have value. God loves you, and that is no joke. If you have not achieved all that you wanted, think of what you have achieved. I went to law school part time, and worked full time. There were times when I felt overwhelmed, unable to understand concepts, and inferior to fellow students. Then, I would go back to work. I was a valuable employee, and my boss and co-workers respected by work. That was very uplifting and satisfying. No one can make you feel inferior except yourself.

Consider your environment, and make it beautiful. If you cannot redecorate, you can certainly make your home or workplace neat and orderly. And don't sit like a lump. Get up and do something! My Labrador retriever is the best exercise incentive anywhere! She makes me get out and enjoy the fresh air, and we walk every day. Trust me, the more you move, the happier you will be.

There is satisfaction from completing a task, especially one you may have put off. If we get those tasks accomplished (cleaning the garage or your car, putting away the laundry, returning phone calls from exasperating clients, etc. etc.), we will have the freedom to do more enjoyable things.

The old saying "It's better to give than to receive" is really true. Is there really anything nicer than seeing someone's face light up when you have done something thoughtful? Perhaps you poured them a cup of coffee, cooked a favorite meal, or brought flowers. It's not the monetary value, it is the gesture of affection that brings the smiles.

And, finally, give thanks. Think about what brings you joy and happiness. Then smile and let everyone around you know that you are happy. Peace and blessings for Thanksgiving.
Andrea



Annual Election Day
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner



Grace Lutheran Church

3965 Carter Rd., Canastota

(corner of Carter Rd. and Rt. 13)

November 3, 2009

4:30-7:00 p.m.

\$7.00 adults

\$5.00 small portion

4 and under - free

Eat-in / take out available

Questions: call 697-2128



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Mary-Martha Minute

“²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ...” Hebrews 10:24-25

On a recent trip to Pennsylvania to participate in the Anthracite LWML Fall Zone Rally, four of us “LWMLers”, otherwise known as the Grace Praise Team, had a discussion. The nature of this discussion was how do we get more ladies involved in the work of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)? We agreed that encouragement was a key motivator for all of us in our involvement in Mary-Martha LWML, the Central NY North Zone and the LWML Eastern District. I mentioned that I would try to put together some encouraging words and say something during our LWML Sunday Worship Service on October 11. God is awesome and does provide all our needs. Mark 13:11 says, *“¹¹... do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit”*.

The LWML is the official women’s organization of the LCMS. Organized in the 1930s, Lutheran Women all over the country have provided all sorts of ministry to people all over the world. This organization makes it possible for each and every woman to make a difference and to carry out the Great Commission. By placing your coins into the Mite Boxes you can bring the word of God to someone who does not know about the love of Jesus. By participating in our congregation’s Mary-Martha LWML Society, you have many opportunities to serve Him in our community. There are also opportunities to serve Him at the Zone level that covers the Central NY area (Auburn to Utica) and many of us have served Him at the District level covering most of NY, all of PA and a small portion of MD.

On a personal level, LWML has given me strength, completeness, and many ways that I can use my abilities to serve my Lord and Savior. How did I become involved? It was really from encouragement from other ladies in our church. About 15 years ago, I attended my first District Convention and my first Retreat. Since that time, I have only missed one or two of these events. I have been able to serve at the Society, Zone and District levels. It has really been the opportunities that have surfaced because of my involvement in LWML that have meant the most. Witnessing at the Canastota Community Fair, attending National Conventions with 7,000 other Lutheran Women, and even just recently speaking and singing praises at a PA Zone Rally.

I believe you can really appreciate how awesome God is when you get involved and I encourage each of you to become involved. There is an old saying, you can lead the horse to water, but you can’t make him drink. LWML is the water. Won’t you take a sip and see for yourself how awesome our God is?

In His Service,
Kathy Pavelock, President

OH, TO BE THANKFUL

As I watch the rain today, it gives me extra time to think about all the things that I could be thankful for, believe me when I say there are many. I could be sitting here complaining or gossiping over everything I think is wrong in my life or in anybody’s life or complaining about everything from A to Z! Instead, I choose to think how thankful I am with all that has ever happened in my life. I really came to know God later in my life after I married Karen. I knew about God and believed in God but never took it seriously, I can be thankful that finally I became a smarter person and found him or he found me. I also can be thankful for my family and how they have grown and all the grandchildren I have now. 40 years ago I wouldn’t have even thought that I would have such a wonderful life as this. We all can be thankful for the type of church we have, we aren’t perfect, but I believe we meld together quite well. This is the month to be thankful and we all should remember that when we want to complain about someone or get upset with whatever is going on that we all should just sit back and think about all the things we can be thankful for. No matter what occurs in your life you can be thankful God is on your side, to be with you through the bad and with you through the good and we should be thankful for that.

Thank you Lord!

In His Service
Elder Dave Devan

We Would Like To Hear From The Pew!

Your input is very important. You do not need to be Pastor or an officer of Grace to submit articles. Please consider submitting something that interests you from time to time. *Rebecca & Pat*

Evangelism News for November

We did meet after church on Oct. 4 to plan a calendar and organize our selves for the next year. Would you like to learn what we talked about, then come join us at our next one. This is committee that will work best with many people involved.

Our first event for this season is a wine trip on Saturday, November 7. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 9:30AM. Remember we will need some designated drivers, also. This will be an all day event, so clear your calendar that day and join in the fun. The Seneca and Cayuga Wine Trails are a great way to learn about wine and enjoy New York. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Indicate what kind of wine you enjoy (sweet, dry, red, white or fruit based.) This will help to know which places to stop and what to recommend for tasting.

Next, we're planning a cookie exchange, which will take place on Sunday, December 6 during fellowship time. We'd like to make bags for our shut-in's, so please remember them. The cookie exchange will be done like last year. You bring a bag of a 6 cookies for however many people signed up, for the shut-ins and some to sample during fellowship time. Also, bring the recipe. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the middle of November for this event. All those who participated last year came home with some great treats. This is a fun start to the Advent Season.

We certainly don't want the doldrums to set in, so in January we will have a game night. It's a little ways off to tell you what we will be playing but come the last Sunday afternoon in January to find out. Please put a note in my mailbox of your favorite game! What a great way to spend a probably cold and dreary afternoon! There will be more to come about this event so keep watching!

Enclosed in the newsletter you will find some help we need for upcoming events later in the spring. The Heart Run/Walk is on March 6. It's not too early to begin planning for it or the Relay for life. How can you help? Help be a part of the success of these important events for our community organizations.

Did you notice the labels on top of the take-out boxes from the chicken BBQ? That's evangelism in action. What a great idea that was so simple. Thanks go to all those who helped to make that possible.

Prayerfully consider how you can fit into this committee and pray for those who are in it to bring activities that would be pleasing to Jesus. We look at all ideas but

sometimes the wheels move slowly when there are only a few hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Devan

Evangelism Sub-Committees 2009-2010

A. Friendship Circle – working with guests and new members

B. Social Circle - planning monthly social events

C. Community Outreach – developing ways to reach out into the community

Relay for Life 2010

Chairman: _____

Co-Chairman: _____

Sign-up:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Money Collection:

1. _____
2. _____

Properities:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Theme/Decorating

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Selling:

1. _____
2. _____

Promotion:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Set-up:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Take-Down:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Food:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Heart Run/Walk 2010

Coordinator:

1. _____
2. _____

Fundraising:

1. _____
2. _____

Promotion:

1. _____
2. _____

Attire:

1. _____
2. _____

Sign-up:

1. _____
2. _____

On Stewardship

Thank goodness God is not a tither. God did not give us a tenth of what He had. God did not have ten sons from whom He gave in to the world for its salvation. God did not decide to give one tenth of His possessions for people to use in order to sustain life. He gave us 100 per cent because, “*God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). God is a God of love Who withholds nothing from us. “*He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*” (Romans 3:32). He also promises never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Even though He gives us 100 percent, He seeks only a partial return from us. How can we withhold gifts from our Heavenly Father Who gives and keeps on Giving?

The word “tithes” refers to our ongoing contributions. We may be giving less or more than the tithe, but our weekly contributions are necessary in order for our churches to minister to the church and the unchurched. The Apostle Paul clearly sets forth the New Testament principles regarding giving. He writes, “*On the first day of each week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income*” (1 Corinthians 16:2). The first principle is that of regular giving—Paul mentions weekly. God expects us to give on a regular basis from the incomes that we receive. When we commit to tithing, God’s check is the first check written from our incomes, whether it’s weekly, twice a month, or monthly.

A second principle is easily overlooked in Paul’s admonition. It is stated in these words: “*each one of you.*” No one is too poor to give something. Any gift given with the proper motive is valuable in God’s sight. “*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have*” (2 Corinthians 8:12). We are also directed to give proportionately of our earnings, which is a third principle. Paul’s words are “*a sum of money in keeping with his income.*”

In the coming months, I will be discussing different aspects of giving with you. As we get in to the winter months, we will be planning some cottage meetings and other parts of stewardship planning. No matter what the gift you give to God our Father, always make sure it is your best and give it with a joyous heart in thankfulness for all He has blessed us with.

Pat Clark, Stewardship Chairman

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**

“Voice of the Shepherd”

The next time you see a member of our choir, take a minute to tell them how great they sound and what a wonderful job they do singing and picking the songs.

It takes a lot of dedication to Christ and to our church. After listening to them on Sunday morning we leave the church with a happy heart and humming a tune. Personally, we think they should make a CD so that those outside our congregation might want to come to Grace Lutheran to hear for themselves how great they really are. Then maybe they will continue to come back to receive the Word of Christ with us. Thank you and keep up the wonderful work!
Jim and Velma

We Are Related

By : Joanne Lowe Submitted 2008-10-14 14:04:43

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2: 18 – 22 King James Version

Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote a beautiful song that I love so much. It is called “GETTING USED TO THE FAMILY OF GOD”. We need to spend more time getting used to our brothers and sisters in Christ because we are all one family. All of us who have asked Jesus to forgive us and come into our hearts to be our personal Saviour and have been cleansed by the atoning blood that Jesus shed

for our sins on the cross of Calvary are part of the family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. A pastor friend of mine back in Oklahoma said many years ago in one of his sermons "You'd better start being loving, kind, compassionate, understanding and forgiving to one another because all Christians are going to spend eternity together." The church had just finished a business meeting and there were a lot of disagreements over the finances of the church; how to spend the money. How that must have hurt our Heavenly Father to hear them quarreling in His house!

I have never forgotten what my pastor friend said that Sunday morning. Someone asked me if I ever get upset with anyone. The answer is yes. I am still in the flesh and as such it is only by the grace of God that I don't react in a way that would hurt Jesus. We need to realize that just because we are Christians doesn't mean that we are perfect and will never sin again or fail God. We are only sinners saved by grace. None of us are perfect. There was only one perfect person who ever lived or ever will live, and His name is Jesus! I fail Him just like you fail Him. The person who says that he or she never does anything wrong is calling God a liar because He said that there is none that doeth good.

I have heard this comment many times over the years and have even read it in articles discussing relationships in families "It's only natural for families to fight." That is a lie straight from the pits of hell. It is not natural. God did not create us to argue and fight. We are to love one another.

Author Resource:- God has given Joanne two ministries. One is doing Inspirational Writings, the other is Encouraging Pastors.

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You may contact Joanne by e-mail:joanelowe8@cox.net

Article From Christian Article Bank *submitted by Dave Devan*

Loving one another is not an option; it is a commandment from God! We had better start loving one another so that one day when we stand before a Holy God, we won't have to see the hurt look in His eyes.

Are you being kind and loving to your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you forgive them when they hurt you or do you keep an account of all the times they hurt you? Remember, you're not perfect either. You hurt them also. If you want them to forgive you, then you had better forgive them. What would happen if God kept an account of every time we hurt Him? We would all be in serious trouble. Let's start being loving, understanding, forgiving and kind to our brothers and sisters in Christ..

Joanne Lowe
October 13, 2007

Birthdays

- 5 Robert Harrington
- 8 Myah Harrington
- 8 Hannah Harrington
- 12 Mark Antl
- 16 Craig Hedgecock
- 17 Adam Moran
- 18 Glen Dappen
- 19 Charlene Kirk
- 21 Roger Warren
- 28 Steve Devan

Baptismal Birthday's

- 7 Glen Bahr
- 15 Jeanne Griffin
- 16 Jane Gualtieri
- 20 Aaron Bahr
- ? David Kirk

Anniversaries

- 29 David & Jane Gualtieri

"Musings of An Old Man"

(excerpts from an article by
C.A. McCain, written in May, 1992)

"...We seem to act as though there was something wrong with being old. We never want to be called old, Senior citizens, Mature adults, Aging adults (dumb, dumb, dumb, everyone is aging from the time they are born), anything but old. If we don't think that "old" deserves respect, why should younger people?"

Old age has a lot going for it, if you approach it with the right attitude. The media talks about "fixed income," and how hard it is to live on it. I call it "Guaranteed Income!" and how great it is to live on it. It is the first time anyone guaranteed to pay me no matter what I did or how I did it. For the first time in my life I don't have to worry about losing my job!

Old age is an accomplishment to be proud of and if we are not as wise as we should be, no one will know it, if we don't talk too much! We can talk about the past, the hard times and the good times but don't talk about how easy young people have things now. It is not any easier for them than it was for us but they will muddle through, just the way we did. My wife and I take great pleasure in watching the success of our children. Perhaps I should say, sharing in their success because they are very generous.

In old age we are more patient, more forgiving and take more pleasure in the simple things of life that we never had time for. Strangely enough, although we know our remaining earthly days are few, we have more patience than we did when we were young.

We have made our peace with God and, although we enjoy this earthly existence more than ever, we are not afraid to die when we get the call."

"When do you think one is old?
Is it the years or is it attitude?
Why do you treasure inanimate objects
and disdain the animate ones?
A grandfather clock sits proudly in the foyer
revered by all.
A grandfather sits pitifully in his rocker
waiting for the call.

Weep not for me, I am not old
at least not in the way you think of it.
The years are spent. Some well, some not
but nothing gained in basking
nor in bemoaning them.
What did I learn that you can hear?

The ears are deafened by the mind
The wisdom of old age is nebulous I fear.

As a child I feared both death and old age.
(Although I did not dwell on it)
Like most things feared, 'twas foolish
waste.
Death no longer feared is imminent.
If judged by moments past
just moments away.
Its proximity admitted, yet ignored.
Praise God! I have another day!":



Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark

- One:** Don't miss the boat.
- Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Six:** Build your future on high ground.
- Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- Nine:** When you'r stressed, float a while.
- Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
- Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Kids' Answers to Bible Questions

"Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night."
"Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony."

November

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|--|---|---|---|------------|------------|
| 1 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship W/Holy communion All Saints Day 11:00 AM:FS | 2 | 3 ELECTION DAY CHICKEN/ N BISCUITS DINNER 4:30-7:00 PM | 4 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship 11:00 AM: FS | 9 7:00 PM: CNY North LWML Exectuve Committee meeting St. John's, Rome | 10 6:00 PM: Choir 7:30 PM: Mary Martha LWML | 11 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship W/Holy communion 11:00 AM:FS 11:00 AM:Deacons | 16 | 17 6:00 PM: Choir 7:30 PM:Quarterly Voters Meeting | 18 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship 11:00 AM:FS | 23 | 24 6:00 PM: Choir | 25 6:30 PM: Praise Team Practice 7:00 PM: Thanksgiving Eve Worship/H comm | 26 THANKSGIVING We give thee but Thine own.... | 27 | 28 |
| 29 8:45 AM:SS/BS 10:00 AM:Worship 11:00 AM:FS | 30 | | | | | |

2009

Come Join Hands With Us!

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

Hours of Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM
Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 AM
Women's Bible Study-Tuesday 10:00 AM



If you have articles that you would like to see published please contact Rebecca Harrington with the information. In order to make inclusion easier, please submit an electronic version of the material in Microsoft format.

Newsletter deadline for articles is the 18th of each month.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Elder David Devan | 762-4222 |
| Deacon David Snyder | 829-5256 |
| Deacon Andrea Dodge | 336-4198 |
| Deacon Patricia Clark | 762-5654 |
| Director of Christian Education Beth Scholl | 762-1403 |
| President Paul House | 280-4115 |
| Vice President Charles Flay | 829-3962 |
| Treasurer Kathy Pavelock | 245-1590 |
| Financial Secretary Dana Smith | 697-9450 |
| Secretary Charlene Kirk | 339-2180 |
| Evangelism Chairman Teri Devan | 734-1372 |
| Stewardship Chairman Pat Clark | 762-5654 |
| Property Care Chairman Bob Smith | 697-9450 |
| Publicity (PR) Karen Devan | 762-4222 |