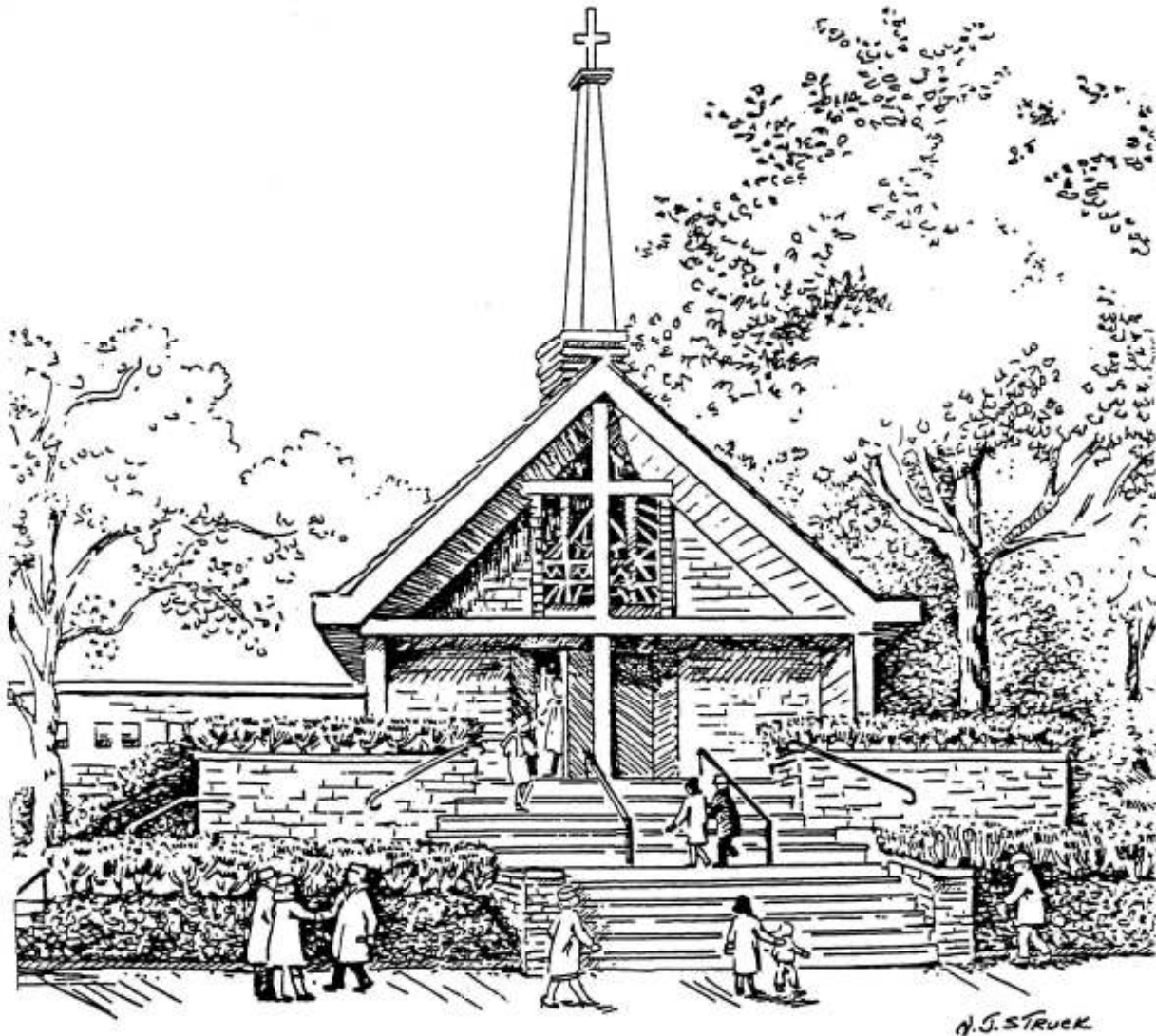

GraceGrams

March 2009

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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Stephen E. Sweet, Pastor

Church News

- **Bob and Susan Vesey have agreed to be our new GG coordinators** and will be working with Liz Campbell in an effort to better the communication of the church.
- John Horstmann is **exploring the possibility of a new phone system** or the cost of repairing this one.
- **We continue to explore a leader for our new bell choir to be established as well as starting an instrumental group with our children and adults.**
- Pastor is meeting with all the council members and **expanding their committee and exploring new ministries.**
- **Our receipts were down by 10 percent**, hopefully due to the snow and ice storms in January. Please make every effort to catch up on your giving.
- **Charlie Myers has been appointed by the Council to be our new treasurer.** Charlie will have voice but no vote, thus he can remain as treasurer beyond the six-year limitation.
- The Finance Committee, with the approval of the Council, has selected **Mike Sparago from Morgan Stanley as our investment advisor.** Mike will work with the Investment Committee. Gary Wilhelm has agreed to be part of the investment committee.
- There is going to be a stronger effort in getting **the youth to sell the Shop Rite certificates in the narthex and the Fellowship Hall to defray the expense of their trip to the National Youth Assembly** in New Orleans this July.
- **The carillon is working.**
- **Gilda's Club received a check for \$265.25 from our "Change for Change"** for November and December.
- This wintery weather is a great opportunity to declutter your home and recycle. **The Church Fair Committee is awaiting your contributions:** Jewelry in the Treasure Chest in the Narthex and the Church Office for housewares, linens, knick-knacks, etc. Folks will be looking for good bargains on Saturday, May 2, and our church will appreciate the profits derived from our Fair.
- To remember a loved one, **you can have a name plate made and placed on the large bronze plaque in the Garden of Memories.** The cost is \$300 for church members.
- Pick up an order form or information at the office.
- Your church has a group who will pray for you and loved ones when the need arises and you feel the prayers of others will bring comfort. We also share in happy, grateful news, as well. The information is only forwarded with your permission, and Pastor will begin the Prayer Chain. **If you would like to be a part of this Prayer Chain, receiving a call then passing on the request,** please call Ruth Petermann at (201) 261-0320 or Norma Dittrich at (201) 261-4336. When the new list is completed, you will be notified of your place in the call system. Any questions, please call us. "GOD IS ONLY A PRAYER AWAY."
- **A personal thank you letter was received from Ruth Kay** for the altar flowers and the poinsettia plant at Christmas. Ruth suffered a stroke and recovered in a local rehab center. She is back in her home in Oradell, doing well. She got so much pleasure from these gifts from the church.
- **A thank you was received from Ray Buttenbaum** for all the prayers, cards and phone calls from church members after his recent surgery.

Sweet Notes

Little Philip, born with Down's syndrome, attended a third-grade Sunday School class with several 8-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences. The biggest problem being, at that age, they just couldn't understand. But because of a creative teacher, they began to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group, though not fully.

The Sunday after Easter the teacher brought Leggs pantyhose containers, the kind that look like large eggs. Each receiving one, the children were told to go outside on that lovely spring day, find some symbol for new life, and put it in the egg-like container. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the containers one by one in surprise fashion.

After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. After each one, whether flower, butterfly, or leaf, the class would ooh and aah. Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside.

The children exclaimed, "That's stupid. That's not fair. Somebody didn't do their assignment."

Philip spoke up, "That's mine."

"Philip, you don't ever do things right!" the student



retorted. "There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb was empty!" Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class.

He died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral this class of 8-year-olds marched up to the altar not with flowers, but with their Sunday school teacher, each to lay on it an empty pantyhose egg.

May we remember the empty tomb like an 8-year-old. In these uncertain times, for some, if not many, life may look empty. Your days may feel and look like Good Friday. But the tomb is empty! Christ won and is with us every moment. We are not, and never will be, alone. The German theologian Jurgen Moltmann expresses in a single sentence the great span from Good Friday to Easter. It is, in fact, a summary of human history, past, present, and future: "God weeps with us so that we may someday laugh with him." May the Easter victory embrace you everyday with the joy and hope the resurrection promises.

Pastor Sweet+

Sunday Brunch

Come to our Annual Brunch at the Paramus Golf Course on Paramus Road in the "9 Iron Grill" (which is the old Walker House)

Date: March 22, 2009
Time: Right after church

Admission: \$18.00 for Adults
\$10.00 for 12 and under
Kids 2 and under are free

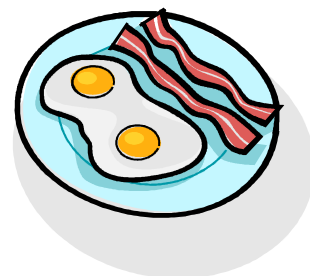
Admission includes the buffet, 1 free mamosa, bloody mary or screw driver, coffee, juice, & soda, And all gratuities

All additional drinks will be at Happy Hour prices (\$4.00)

Please call the church office so that we can give them a count. Feel free to bring guests.

Be sure to ask for directions if you need them.

HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!!!!



For Laughs

Two men crashed in their private plane on a South Pacific Island. Both survived. One of the men brushed himself off and then proceeded to run all over the island to see if they had any chance of survival.

When he returned, he rushed up to the other man and screamed, "This island is uninhabited, there is no food, there is no water. We are going to die!"

The other man leaned back against the fuselage of the wrecked plane, folded his arms and responded, "No we're not. I make over \$250,000 a week."

The first man grabbed his friend and shook him. "Listen, we are on an uninhabited island. There is no food, no water. We are going to die!"

The other man, unruffled, again responded. "No, I make over \$250,000 a week."

Mystified, the first man, taken aback with such an answer again repeated, "For the last time, I'm telling you we ARE doomed. There is NO one else on this island. There is NO food. There is NO water. We are, I repeat, going to die a slow death."

Still unfazed, the first man looked the other in the eyes and said, "Do not make me say this again. I make over \$250,000 per week, I am a Baptist, and I tithe. MY PASTOR WILL FIND US!"

GraceGrams is the newsletter for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in River Edge, N.J.

Layout and editing is completed by Liz Campbell; Carol Horstmann and Lorraine Myers prepare content.

All submissions for the April issue are due on March 15.

Please send content via e-mail: lizcampbell@mail.com.

GraceGrams Classified

Need something? Why not check with a member of our church first? Have something to offer? Just call the church office if you would like to be added. All numbers are area code (201).

Babysitting: Vika Stubblebine, 599-2966; Amanda Hare, 599-0365

Carpenter: Charles DeSalvo, 843-2884

Carpet Cleaning: Peter Daly, 391-5777

Chiropractor: Dr. Donna Nicolich, 226-0700

Desktop Publishing and Photography (including weddings): Ray Stubblebine, 599-2966

Financial Planning (insurance, estate and retirement planning): David J. Chiusano, 489-8885

Insurance (auto, home, business): Nancy Sweet, 445-1600

Legal (wills, etc.): Mark Winkler, 891-6500

Mary Kay Cosmetics: Nancy Sweet, 674-8162

Massage Therapy: Billie Hagen, 967-8429

PC Upgrades (free estimates): Gilbert Taibot, 599-9617

Painting: Mike Harte, 599-2175 or 446-1330 (cell)

Pedicures/Manicures at home: Catherine Bello, 527-0547

Real Estate: Gloria Heyden-Binder, 599-1863

Real Estate and Mary Kay Cosmetics: Dale Black, 666-4588

Web Design and Site Maintenance: Steve Black, 666-4588

March Birthdays!

March 2 Gerry Frank
 Allison DeNoble
 March 3 Susanne Michelini
 March 4 Vincenzo Michelini
 March 5 Paul Tina
 Marina Weismann
 March 6 Keith Nicolich-DeBartolo
 Ashley Dembeck
 Luna Faustini
 March 7 Bob Nyman
 Zulma Cartelli
 March 8 Drew Douma
 Meghan Kempf
 March 9 Pat Smith
 Christopher Harley
 Danielle Sharples
 March 10 Catherine Bello
 March 11 Janice Dooley
 Kate Duggan
 Stephanie Smith
 March 13 Stephen Cooke
 March 14 Mike Duggan
 Quinn Scherer
 March 15 Leonard Nicolosi
 March 16 Rose Suarez
 March 17 Carlie Korzelius
 March 18 Faust Faustini
 Harlin Reese
 Erin Duggan
 Scott Garcia
 March 20 Bryan Whitney



March 22 Michael Lubben
 Jacqueline Warren
 March 23 Marion Cummings
 Brittany Taylor
 March 24 Drew Kaider
 March 25 Graydon Scherer
 March 26 Ray Buttenbaum
 Gilberto Taibot
 Sean Bandfield
 Austin Berninger
 March 27 Janet McGovern
 March 28 Chad McCullough
 March 29 Margaret Arfsten
 Dave Bandfield
 Susan Grover
 Erik Nyman
 March 30 Billy Braun
 March 31 Eric Schultz



March Anniversaries!

March 11 Helen and James McIlwain
 March 25 Adrienne and George Schmitt
 March 31 Shannon and John Hassett

Scout Sunday



Pastor poses with children who received special scouting awards at the 10:30 a.m. service on Feb. 15: Jillian Buller, Bobby Garcia, Christina Nyman, Ryan Dollbaum, Ryan Mason, Erik Nyman and Dylan Tomney.

Sunday School News

March is full of busy days for the Sunday School. Beginning March 1, you will notice that the Sunday bulletins for the Lenten season will bear the artwork of our classes. They will interpret the lessons for each Sunday as the children understand them. Refreshing views! Many thanks to Charlie Myers for making the color copies for us.

Sunday, March 15, the children in Preschool through Grade 3 will be singing at the 10:30 a.m. church service. Following the worship service, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for the annual treat of soda bread and Irish coffee prepared by the Duggan and Chack families in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. In addition, also in the Fellowship Hall at the same time, all members are invited to participate in a Card-A-Thon to send greetings to our soldiers in Iraq. Children will be making their cards, and adults who feel creative may do so, too. Blank notes will be available for those who would like to use them.

Elsewhere in this issue of *GraceGrams*, you will read an article requesting items much needed by our military personnel and greatly appreciated by them. The entire congregation is invited to donate any of these items. Collection boxes will be in the narthex and education building entranceway. Sunday School teachers Gina and Andy Kaider will be directing the Card-A-Thon and will take care of seeing that the cards and articles collected are shipped to the soldiers. It is a small act of thanks to those who are securing our freedom. Let's do it in a BIG way.

Hope you have added your puzzle piece to the eighth-grade bulletin board display in the hallway of our education building. We are an active church with lots of opportunities for helping in worship, education, fellowship get-togethers, and mission outreach projects. Every person's effort is important to make Grace Lutheran a complete picture.

—Gerry Frank, Sunday School Superintendent

Please Help the Sunday School
Honor our U.S. Soldiers serving in Iraq



By donating the following items:

Apple I Tunes cards (to download music)

DVDs

Phone cards (any kind)

Personal care items for male/female soldiers: Qtips, shampoo, razors, soap,
toothbrushes, deodorant, powder, wipes

Current magazines (any kind): sports, entertainment, business, fashion

Packaged cookies, power bars, trail mix, breath mints, gum

The items will be collected in a box located in the narthex and one in the Sunday School office
each week until March 29, 2009

In addition, please join the Sunday School children
at the brunch after church
on Sunday, March 15, 2009

To make inspirational cards to send to the troops.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Gina Kaider at (201) 694-8924

March Volunteers



NURSERY

March 1 Nilsa Lubben
March 8 Helidi Weismann
March 15 Liz Campbell
March 22 Janice Harley
March 29 Susan Grover

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

March 1 Donna Chiusano
March 8 Peter Hare
March 15 Mike Gonnerman
March 22 Barbara Radomski
March 29 Deanna Dollbaum

ACOLYTES

	#1	#2
March 1	John Buller	Kelly Lindenau
March 8	Tyler Coyle	Brittany Taylor
March 15	Dylan Tomney	Aleah Dotson
March 22	Gunther Starost	Stephen Grover
March 29	John Bernard	Erik Nyman

LECTORS

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
March 1	Jean Hagen	Peter Hare
March 8	Frank Quara	Bill Campbell
March 15	Bob Nyman	Jane Anne Tomney
March 22	Jill Coyle	Bill Cochran
March 29	Jean Hagen	Christine Chiaramonte

USHERS

March 1 John Buller, Dave Chiusano, Steve Black
March 8 Lorraine and Charlie Myers, Barbara Rautenberg
March 15 Diane and Matt Lehto, Ray Buttenbaum
March 22 Nancy Sweet, Bob DeValue, Joanne Chack
March 29 Brad Petermann, Inge Benkowitsch, Chrisma Klippel

TELLERS

March 1 Al Hein
March 8 Lorraine and Charlie Myers
March 15 Ray Buttenbaum
March 22 Bob DeValue
March 29 Brad Petermann

COMMUNION SET-UP

Norma Dittrich

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP

March 1 Barbara Rautenberg, Marge Amundsen, Rose Suarez
March 8 Kate Duggan, Joanne Chack
March 15 Alice Backhaus, Debbie Richardt
March 22 Inez Ortiz, Audrey Hawley, Lorraine McCann
March 29 Arlene Blocklin, Suzanne Mormino, Carol Bucceri

April Volunteers

NURSERY

April 5 Amy Kempf
April 12 Linda Taibot
April 19 Any Starost
April 26 Nilsa Lubben

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

April 5 Donna Chiusano
April 12 Peter Hare
April 19 Mike Gonnerman
April 26 Barbara Radomski

ACOLYTES

	#1	#2
April 5 - Palm Sun.	Tyler Coyle	Brittany Taylor
April 12 - Easter	Frankie Garcia	Erik Nyman
April 19	Michele Kim	Emily Chack
April 26	Ryan Dollbaum	Marisa Malwitz

LECTORS

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
April 5 - Palm Sun.	One Service	Ray Stubblebine
April 12 - Easter	One Service	Harriette Schultz
April 19	Frank Quara	Joanne Chack
April 26	Bob Nyman	Dave Bandfield

USHERS

April 5 - Palm Sun. Terrie and Bill Clark, Peter and James Hare
April 12 - Easter Al Hein, Frank Garcia, Janice Harley, Ula Ilnytzky
April 19 Norma and Walter Struck, Arlene Blocklin
April 26 Eileen and Greg Winkler, Mike Gonnerman

TELLERS

April 5 Al Hein
April 12 Ray Buttenbaum, Bill Ditrich
April 19 Carol Horstmann
April 26 Marge & Ray Amundsen

COMMUNION SET-UP

Gail Buttenbaum

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP

April 5 Ula Ilnytzky, Vike Stubblebine
April 12 Marge Amundsen, Rose Suarez, Barbara Rautenberg
April 19 J oanne Chack, Kate Duggan
April 26 Debbie Richardt, Alice Backhaus

