



June & July Gracevine

Volume 6 Issue 6 & 7

June & July 2009



Come Join Us for Worship!

- 7:30 AM Pancake Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 AM Traditional Worship

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LIVING GOD'S GRACE AND SHARING THE FAITH

Grace Vine

See You In Church...

By Pastor Roger A. Thompson

By the time you read this, I will not be gone, but I will be almost gone. June 14 will be my last Sunday with you, and bring to an end my time as your pastor, which began on December 1, 1999. Nine and a half years we have been together. For me it has been a *wonderful* nine and a half years!

I came to you as your Interim Pastor, following the retirement of beloved Pastor Bill Dowling. You were just completing a major renovation project that included three years of fundraising and planning. I was coming off of nine years spent in a parish out in Mesa that culminated in a relationship with an associate pastor that ended badly. I just didn't have the strength to push that person out and then spend the year or so necessary to clean up the mess. So, I came here instead, to cool my jets, regroup, pray, think, reflect, and plan my next move.

I had never experienced urban ministry before. I had never really gotten connected with the community surrounding parishes I had served. I had no idea how exciting church life in the downtown environment could be. On top of all that, all of you at Grace were great. Absolutely great! From day one, ministry here was a joy. And, from day one, ministry here was exciting because the unlimited possibilities were so clear, and the love that all of you have for Grace and her mission is so strong.

Long story short, somewhere along the line we fell in love with each other and then Bishop Howie Wennes bent the rules so that we could arrive at a permanent relationship together. Since then, we have seen the pancake breakfast go weekly; the contemporary worship service emerge; mission partner congregations and agencies blossom; the Grace Room become a major enterprise; children and youth come back; Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Ministry return and thrive; ASU's Breaking the Cycle Clinic move onto our campus; Grace become a leader of the Summer Heat Respite Movement and an example of what neighborhood outreach can look like; and too many other things to mention here and if by omitting something dear to your heart I hurt your feelings I am sorry. Suffice it to say, **Grace has become famous for being *Grace In The City! The Pancake Church!***

In fact, I am sorry for all of the ways in which I am sure that I have failed you: by what I have done and by what I have left undone, and whatever else you want to fill in the blanks. But, we live *by grace*, right? So, all of those things are covered by the blood of the lamb and we all move on. God has called me to Hope in Fresno, CA, and God will send you a new pastor at some point in the future, and you will get someone better than me to pastor you to your 100th Anniversary and beyond!

As for me, I am going to exactly the kind of congregation I was trying to avoid by *hiding out at Grace* back in December of 1999: a big church with a big staff and a big reputation and big challenges and so on. But now, I am ready for it. And, because of the nine and a half years I have spent at Grace, I know what a great church looks like, and I know what a healthy church feels like, and I know something about getting connected to whatever kind of community you are in and serving whatever kind of neighborhood you have. I owe it all to you. And, I could go on and on, but I will just close by saying, "I love you!" and,

See You In Church...





Summertime and the Living Is Easy

From the Diaconal Minister's Desk



Yes, it's time for life to slow down, time to take a tall glass of ice tea and go park yourself by a pool or under a shade tree and just take it easy. School is out and many of you have vacations planned. Does that mean Grace slows down to a screeching halt! I don't think so! It is true that summer time around Grace might have smaller numbers as families take off for cooler places around the state and beyond, but I can guarantee the energy is maintained here at Grace and if you are in town why not join us in these numerous activities.

In June our first big event is Vacation Bible School from June 15th - 19th. The whole family is invited to this five-day long, evening event that promises to be fun for all ages. Looking for a place to land on those warm summer evenings? Why not try a week stay on Crocodile Dock where our Grace kids will "Fearlessly shine the light of God for all to see". Kid friendly meals will be served every evening in Hope Hall from 5:15- 6:00PM. Grace will be a bustling place as children begin this fun filled evening with "Sing and Stomp" Bayou music in Hope Hall. Then the crews will move from station to station making crafts, playing games, watching Chadder's latest adventure, and learning about God and Jesus in the Bible story center.

In July you won't want to forget about the July 4th celebration on Sunday July 5th. What better way to celebrate our Independence Day than to enjoy some good home cooking and fellowship right here in Hope Hall. A great time is being planned and if you are in town you will not want to miss this event. Chill out Sunday after church in Hope Hall and I'm sure there are some great water games being planned for children and of course other activities for the more mature crowd.

The youth will continue to meet at least once a month over the summer for some fun activities like swimming, movies, and of course food. It's hard with all the different vacation schedules, but we invite any youth who is hanging around during the hot days of summer to jump into these activities cool down a bit! Watch for them to be advertised on the Youth Page of the GraceVine.

Of course our mission and ministry to our neighbors never takes a vacation! The "Pancake Breakfast" and "Grace Room" go on in the summer without skipping a beat. There will also be a need for some volunteers for the "Respite Program" that starts sometime around the first of July. If you are in town please consider offering to help at any one of these outreach programs this summer. Grace's "Pancake Breakfast" day is the 1st Sunday of the month and the Grace Room is open every Monday morning 9:00AM-11:00AM. Respite is every day from about 9AM-4PM.

Summertime and the living is easy! Not if you are a part of an energetic 95-year-old downtown church like Grace. Discipleship and ministry are fulltime jobs in our mission field! So we encourage you take some time away and enjoy your vacation, but when you're in town how about jumping right back in to the flurry of activity at Grace. It's a good place to grow and glow in the light of Christ!

In Christ's Service,
Ardie





Calling all Adventurers!

Join us for another Vacation Bible School Adventure at Grace!

Travel with us to Crocodile Dock deep in the Bayou

Where Fearless Kids shine God's light !

If you are you ready for another GREAT Vacation Bible School Adventure at Grace then be sure to plan on joining us on *June 15th-19th in the evenings* as we go on an unforgettable adventure to Crocodile Dock - "Where fearless kids shine God's light. "

There will be Bible learning, singing, crawfish crafts, delicious bayou snacks, and gator games. Of course we can't forget to mention that your favorite from last year - "Chadder Chipmunk" who will be back with some great bayou adventures and interesting facts about nature. **Tell your parents that there will be a dinner served between 5:15PM and 6:00PM every evening right before your adventure begins.** I'm sure this will make it easier for them to get you to Grace for VBS!

We need lots of energetic, young adventurers. How can you sign up?

Registration begins in June so watch for the registration table that will be set up after church each Sunday! The cost per child is \$5 for VBS Materials and \$1.50 per meal or \$7 for all five meals. What a deal!

While your waiting why not mark your calendar with big letters
CROCODILE DOCK BAYOU ADVENTURE—JUNE 15TH-19TH.

The Street View

By Jeff Jirak MA, C.P.C.

I want to Well, I just found out another client has passed away which again was no real surprise. I don't want to sound calloused but that is the nature of the business or field. I met him 4 years ago straight out of prison after doing 3 years on a drug charge. He went to CASS had numerous health issues but had a desire to remain clean and sober. The problem was he was in his mid 50's, a felon, poor history of employment (but was a great car detailer), a history of substance abuse and a bad back. His chance of going back to work was very poor and was distant from family. I met him weekly for counseling and was able to make progress recognizing his obstacles and learning how to adapt to his situation. After about a year he was able to get into a housing program but was starting to get hooked on pain medication for his back. People with chronic pain, especially back pain, are referred to pain management who monitor the narcotics provided. He was able to get back with his family, be an active grandparent (which he loved) and receive disability. As our counseling sessions were being slowly dissolved, I could see he was starting to abuse his pain medication. Now, since day one we always discussed his past abuse of drugs and the dangers of addiction. He always felt he "could handle it", but never accepted a 12 step program and had a difficult time with a higher power. Often I would do my best without dragging him to a meeting to really try to get involved. He wasn't interested in any other programs as well and had a tendency to just remain in his apartment. Well, at the last couple of visits he was strongly encouraged to get into some type of activities or programs to get out of the apartment. I remember him stating "Why I have everything I need here, but I get out buying food and going to my appointments". I could tell he was self medicating more and more which he denied. I remember also telling him I don't want to come back and find you dead which he laughed and said that would never happen. He never did follow up on the referrals I gave him, the counselors provided and meetings strongly encouraged. Since he was housed I had to close him. I



I act with
steadfast

love,

justice, and

RIGHTEOUSNESS

in the earth,

for in these

things I delight,

says the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:24

guess why I'm writing is this that many homeless people are in pain physically, emotionally, psychologically and especially spiritually. They are in some type of pain constantly and removing the pain is almost impossible unless they take responsibility for themselves. These are the areas I focus on and try to let the people know that pain is always going to be a part of life, but learning how to cope with the pain is the challenge but also the answer. If we learn how to deal with the pain, our journey in life becomes more meaning full and peaceful. We all have pain but many of us have a healthy support system, have a rational coping system and understand the pain will eventually go away.

Unfortunately, most of the people I work with fail to make that type of investment because they are afraid, don't have a support system and the work involved is too intense. Granted many will be able to live a life which they can manage but certain dreams will never be fulfilled. Just like the person I talked about, he managed life but wasn't able to see his grandchildren grow, wasn't able to meet other interesting people, have a spiritual relationship with a higher power or find a hobby which ignited passion or peace. I don't know exactly how he died or if he was able to be happy or fulfill any dreams. All I know is people who lived in his complex stated they didn't see him much, that he stayed in his room most of the time, didn't have any family over and was mainly non existent. How sad.

To leave you on a positive note, you are all blessed, take care of each other.

Peace,

Jeff



Dear Members of Grace,

We pray that you all had a most blessed Easter time. Our Trinity family joined you and countless other Christians around the world as we celebrated our Risen Lord.

I suppose Easter at Trinity in Frankfurt, Germany is much like you celebrate this day at Grace. I have found that in spite of all of the diverse backgrounds in our church, the Easter traditions are very similar. In fact a few years ago Cindy and I had the opportunity to be in Tbilisi, Georgia during the Orthodox day of Easter. We worshipped with our sister church the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Georgia in the Caucasus. As different as they are in many ways, they unite with all of us in the wonderful faith tradition of announcing "He is Risen".

Perhaps one significant difference we have from the typical U.S. congregation is the fare offered at our Easter potluck breakfast. This year featured such things as mandazis from Kenya, bryiani from India, Cantonese noodles, German green sauce, samossas and a few dishes I could not recognize but were most certainly tasty.

One of our focal points of ministry is our welcome of sojourners as many people transit through Frankfurt for business and pleasure. On Easter Sunday quite a few chairs were filled with such guests. A pilot with Singapore Air, an exchange student from Iowa, a young woman from Taiwan, two families from Portland, Oregon and a Christian from Istanbul were among our many guests.

While spring is usually a beautiful time in Germany, it is also a difficult time for Trinity as good and faithful members begin to leave us. The annual exodus usually begins shortly after Easter as individuals and families commence to move, relocate or leave for the summer.

This year Cindy and I will also be among that group of departees. After 8 wonderful years here we will be moving on. We have accepted a call from the ELCA mission board to return to Africa. I will be working with a Swahili congregation which recently began international ministry in Nairobi, Kenya. This is a very recent development and I shall be writing again soon when I can share more details. We will be leaving Trinity in early July and going to Nairobi in August.

It has been quite a few years since I have visited your good people, we may have a Sunday free this summer if we could work something out with your schedule. Please let us know soon.

Many Easter Blessings

Sam and Cindy Wolff

E-Scrip Funds Are Coming In!

Have You Taken Advantage Of This Great Way To Turn Your Safeway Purchases Into a Donation To GRACE OUTREACH

WHY NOT MAKE IT A POINT TO SIGN –UP AND HELP SUPPORT GRACE OUTREACH!

Grace Lutheran has an e-scrip number to use when you shop at Safeway, Payless Shoes, Chevron and many more of your favorite stores and restaurants. Over 40 of our members are already signed up and by giving Grace’s e-scrip number, which is 9602016 Grace, we have receive a check every month that is 2% (more at some stores) of the total purchases from the stores and restaurants you have visited! What could be easier?

If you have any questions call Ardie at church—602-258-3787 or go to the customer service desk at your Safeway where someone will be glad to help you. Please consider taking advantage of this easy way of turning your shopping sprees into a way of supporting our outreach ministry right here at Grace. What could be EASIER! It almost sounds too good to believe.

This will be a GREAT way to help out Wilbur our “Mission Minded Pig” keep the Grace Room well supplied with hygiene items! During this time of “belt tightening” we can still supply funds for our outreach projects just by using Safeway and other stores where we shop regularly.

HOSPITALITY CORNER

by Phyllis Schilling



GRACE



Cinema Club

The June cinema club will be at the Betz’ home Saturday, June 20th—5PM

Please contact Margie or Larry to RSVP

The July Cinema Club is scheduled for July 4th at Shirley Warner’s house

Viewing fireworks will be part of the evenings entertainment.

Hospitality is in “**high gear**” welcoming our visitors. We have been so blessed with new seekers that love to come to our beautiful church. Getting to talk with them and learn about our visitors are some of the perks. Not to mention sharing Grace’s heritage with them. We continue to offer up our fabulous “Fair Trade” coffee for everyone to enjoy but during the summer months we’re putting a spin on it, **Iced Coffee** is defiantly in order. Come out and try some; it’s on the house. Our Hospitality Ministry will be having its second annual “July 4th Party”. We plan on having a good ole’ fashioned style picnic in Hope Hall. Save the date, July 5th immediately following the second service. We will be having hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, home-made baked beans and a make it yourself ice cream sundae bar. There will also be many fun water games for the kids,

don’t forget your towel!!

We look forward to seeing you.

GLOW WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER



**GLOW will begin once again on Wednesdays
Beginning September 16th**

There is something for the whole family at our midweek GLOW outreach!

Dinner is served from 5:30-6:00PM

Music & Singing - 6:15PM

Adult classes and children's Bible learning and art, and youth activities begin at- 6:30PM

Join the Fun! GLOW with us on every Wednesday!

Milestones Along Life's Way

Congratulations, blessings, and prayers:

- ❖ Congratulations, prayers, and blessings to Iva Galster who will celebrate her *94th birthday* on June 13th.
- ❖ Congratulations, prayers, and blessings to Florence Mc Chesney who will celebrate her ***100 birthday*** on July 14th.
- ❖ Prayers for safe travel, good health, growth in faith, and great fellowship for our youth who will be attending Campfirmation in Prescott - June 28th - July 3rd - Nick Kontz, Seth Morey, Danaë Schilling and Lance Schilling.
- ❖ Prayers for safe travel, good health, growth in faith, and great fellowship for Mark, Andres, and Val Schilling who will be attending a Bible Camp in Oklahoma this June.
- ❖ Prayers for Andres Schilling who will be traveling to Princeton New Jersey once again to attend a "Music and Composition Camp" at West Minister Choir College.
- ❖ Prayers for travel mercies and good health to all our families who will be traveling this summer to their various vacation destinations.
- ❖ Prayers and blessing for Pastor Roger and Cheryl Thompson as they move to Fresno California and begin a new journey in ministry at Hope Lutheran.





Flowers Flowers Flowers

To beautify the Grace Altars, please consider bringing fresh flowers in. It is possible to have a memorial or a tribute for the flowers that you bring.

Please reflect on these guidelines:

1. At least 2 weeks prior to the Sunday, the donor should call or email Gloria in the Grace office about the intent to bring flowers and to ask if a memorial or tribute can be printed in the bulletin. This will ensure that no one else is bringing flowers on that same day.
2. OR before the 17th day of the prior month, the donor should call or email Gloria in the Grace office about the intent to bring flowers on a specific date and to request that a memorial or tribute be printed in the GraceVine.
3. On that Sunday, the donor will bring in 2 bouquets of fresh flowers
 - a. Bring to church at least 1/2 hour prior to service time.
 - b. Fit bouquets into 2 standing brass vases for second service before 9:30 AM for the 10:00 AM service and before 10:30 AM for 11 AM service c. OR bring 1-2 vases or arrangements to place on the altar for the first service by 8:00 AM
4. The donor will remove the flowers from the altar area after the service.
Please put the greenery back into the brass vases.

Hint: When I brought flowers in for Mothers' Day, I bought 2 similar mixed bouquets. I used a third bouquet of gladiolas to supplement the bouquets. Evalyn helped me arrange the bouquets by shortening the front blossoms and extending the height with the gladiolas.

Linda Erickson



Happening during the month of June
and **WE NEED YOUR CURRENT
INFORMATION!**

Look for the orange binder available
at both services and **UPDATE** it!



**Sunday, June 7th
11:15—Hope Hall
See you there!**

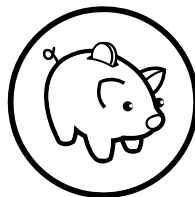


**Meets the 4th Friday
of each month—9:30a .m.**
(For further details contact Dana Day)

THANK YOU!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all our youth and parents who made the Youth Led Worship a memorable experience for ALL of us! Each of the youth had a role to play and I especially want to thank Hannah Gardner and Jamie Ramirez who each worked up the courage to prepare and deliver a GREAT sermon.

Congratulations also to our four confirmands, Nick Kontz, Seth Morey, Danaë Schilling, and Lance Schilling who affirmed their baptismal vows and began their journey as an adult member of Grace. The four of you also did a great job at "Kid Talk" - Can I count on you to help out with Kid Talk when I am gone on vacation this summer?



Wilbur's New Emphasis for June and July!

Our Vacation Bible school youth will be collecting school supplies for the Thomas Pappas School for the homeless in our downtown neighborhood. Please bring supplies such as pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers, water color markers, notebook paper, notebooks, folders, pencil cases, backpacks, etc. If it has to do with the beginning of school Wilbur will joyfully receive it for the children who attend Thomas Pappas School. Let's all work really hard during VBS and the summer months to collect lots of things and really help out the children who have so little.

Wilbur says, "Please help us out with your donations during VBS, June, and July!"



Calling all Youth

Be Sure to Mark your calendars and join us!

June 15th-19th - VBS Adventure - Crocodile Dock - "Where fearless kids shine God's Light!"

June 28-July 4th - Campfirmation for eighth graders - Nick, Seth, Danaë and Lance

July 4th Celebration - Sunday July 5th - Food, Fellowship, games - Come and celebrate after worship on July 5th .

Sunday July 26th - "Youth Group Alive" - at Grace - Who ever can come! Fun, food, fellowship and movie to be announced!

THIS IS WORTH CLAPPING FOR!!

Congratulations and blessings to Sara Schilling , who graduated May 19th from Maryvale High School and will be attending ASU this fall. She wants to major in criminology.

Congratulations and blessings to John Estes who is graduated May 3rd from Regis University in Denver, CO. He graduated with high honors and attained a degree in International Business and Mathematics with a minor in Spanish and Philosophy. He is getting an award for being the Top Business Administration Graduate. He is working on getting an internship for a year before he goes to law school. He is interested in pursuing a career in International Business Law.

Prayers and blessings to our four eighth graders – Nicholas Kontz, Seth Morey, Danaë Schilling, and Lance Schilling - who will be going off to High School this fall!

COMING SOON WATCH FOR DATES!

VBS – Crocodile Dock needs all our youth as crew leaders and station helpers
– PLEASE sign-up if your schedule allows you to participate. June 15th – 19^h –
5:30PM-8:15PM

See you in Church

June Birthdays

- 1st Solveig Muus
- 5th Ruth Jacobson
Ardith Senft
- 7th Erica Khatter
Hannah Khatter
Kenda Khatter
- 12th Francesca Ark
Ruth Erdmann
- 13th Iva Galster
- 14th Dana Day
Wendy Estes
- 17th Becky Gustafson
- 21st Terri Fry
Phyllis Schilling
- 24th Ann Gardner
- 29th Chris Kontz
Abigail Matusak

SUMMER WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY
 7:30AM Pancake Bkfst
 8:30AM Contemp. Service
 10:00AM Trad. Service

MONDAY
 9:00AM Grace Room

TUESDAY
 7:00PM Band Rehearsal

SATURDAY
 8:00AM Bible Study Group

Summer Dates to Note

Saturday, June 6
 9:30AM—VBS Staff Workshop

Sunday, June 7
 11:15AM— Mission Meeting

Tuesday, June 9
 6:45PM—Grace Ministry Night

Thursday, June 11—13
 Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

Saturday, June 13
 9:30AM—VBS Decorating

Monday, June 15—Friday, June 19
 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 5:30PM—8:15PM—All Campus

Thursday, July 16
 9:30AM— Bible Equipping

Saturday, June 20
 5:00PM—Cinema Club Mtg.

Sunday, June 21
 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!


Friday, June 26
 9:30AM—Grace Book Club

Sunday, June 28—Friday, July 3
 CAMPFIRMATION

Monday, June 29
 9:00AM— Heat Respite Begins

Saturday, July 4 —INDEPENDENCE DAY- 5:00PM—Cinema Club Mtg.

Tuesday, July 14
 6:45PM—Grace Ministry Night



Thursdays:
June 18th
July 16th
August 20th
9:30AM—North Rm

July Birthdays

- 7th Shane Sigala
- 12th Gary Nelson
- 14th Florence McChesney
Nicholas Kontz
- 29th Nathan Lichte

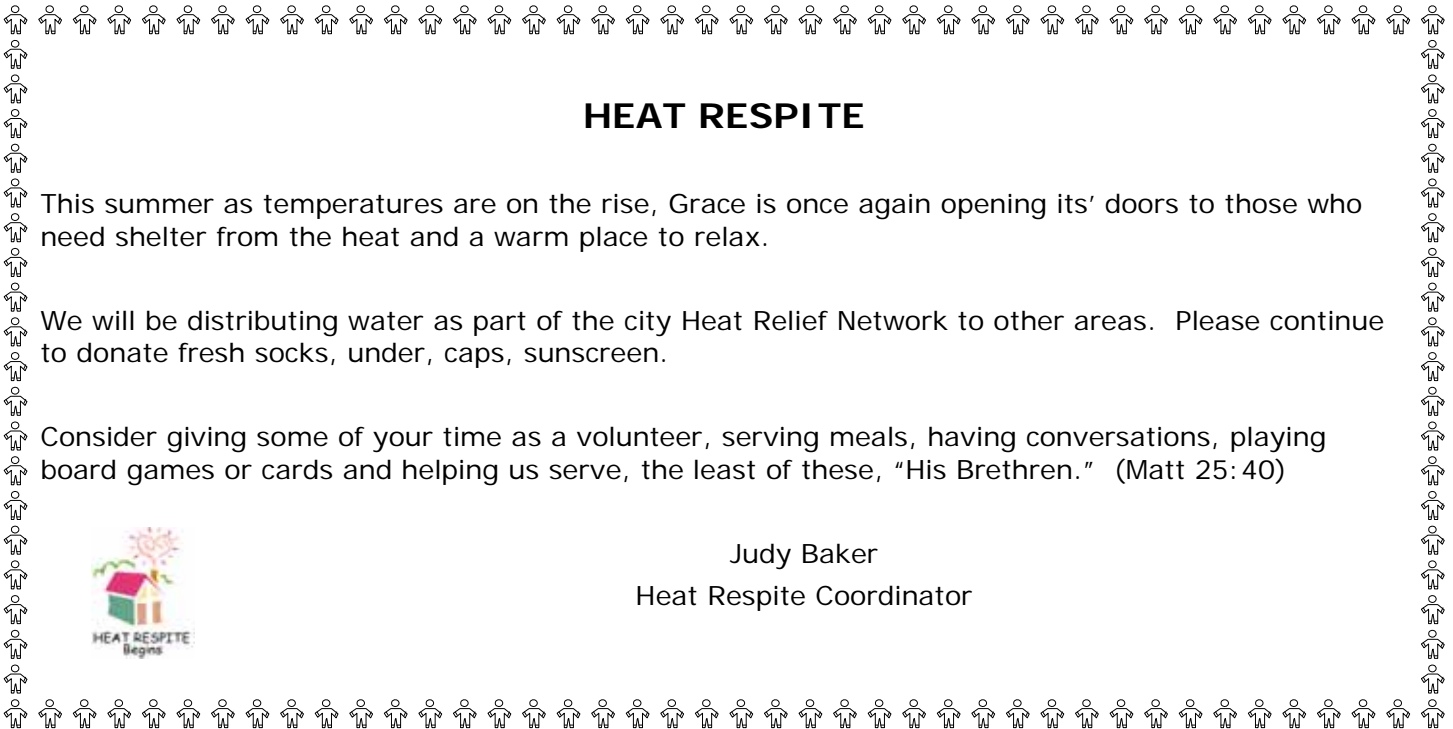
HEAT RESPITE

This summer as temperatures are on the rise, Grace is once again opening its' doors to those who need shelter from the heat and a warm place to relax.

We will be distributing water as part of the city Heat Relief Network to other areas. Please continue to donate fresh socks, under, caps, sunscreen.

Consider giving some of your time as a volunteer, serving meals, having conversations, playing board games or cards and helping us serve, the least of these, "His Brethren." (Matt 25: 40)

Judy Baker
Heat Respite Coordinator



Grace Lutheran Church
Living God's Grace and Sharing the
Faith

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Fax: 602-523-9359



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