

The News of Grace

Volume 37, no. 6

June 2014

“Gangway to Galilee” *Amazing Grace Adventures*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

This verse has served us well as a congregation. It puts into perspective what the name of our local congregation means. Grace is something that is given to you. Grace and Gift are synonymous. There is an old saying, “You don’t get anything for free.” But that is indeed how we receive the kingdom of heaven. It is a free gift that our heavenly Father bestows upon us through His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ. Yet we also know that this free gift comes to us at a great price, the suffering and death of Jesus for our sins in order that the kingdom might be restored for us and freely given to us. Grace is **“God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.”** That which was lost by us has been returned to us by Him who became like us, except that He was without sin.

June is a transition month. School is out or will be within the first week of this month. Summer un-officially began on Memorial Day, though we know that it officially begins on June 21st according to the calendar. We will celebrate Father’s Day on June 15th which is also Holy Trinity Sunday this year. Also on Sunday, June 15th we will begin our Vacation Bible School. For five days our young people will participate in this year’s program which is entitled **“Gangway to Galilee.”** They will hear again, or maybe even for the first time for some of our VBS attendees, about Jesus’ ministry in Galilee. Most of Jesus’ ministry took place in this area north of Samaria and Judea, around the Sea of Galilee and the town of Capernaum.

If you have children or grandchildren of VBS age, I truly hope that they will come and join in this summertime program here at Grace. It is also a great opportunity for them to invite a friend to

come and share in the activities. We have some hard working members who are planning this year's program for which I am most thankful. There are also ways that you can help which are listed in this newsletter. So let me encourage you to step forward and do so!

This year's VBS program will follow significant events in the ministry of Jesus. Those include His **calling** of the first disciples by the Sea of Galilee and His **teaching** these fishermen by trade that they would become "fishers of men." Yet another lesson will show how Jesus **keeps us safe** and ultimately how He **saves us**. The program will conclude with a lesson on how Jesus **provides all I need**. If your child cannot make all of the evening sessions, maybe they can be here part of the time. Let me encourage you to remember this ministry of Grace in your prayers.

Summer is also a time when many of us will have special family reunions and events. It is also a time when many of us will have opportunity to take a vacation which might include visiting with family and friends. If you are traveling and need to know if there is a Lutheran congregation where you will be vacationing, you can find that information on-line or you can call the Church Office and we will look it up for you and give you addresses and phone numbers. Don't forget about our Wednesday evening Services here at Grace if your travels are over the weekends and you are home during the week. The Services are a shortened variety of the previous Sunday Service. You are always welcome to join us then.

God's amazing grace is certainly not something that we should take for granted nor is it something that we relegate to one hour or so every week. It is something for us to live in and share each and every day of the week. Gifts received by us are to be received with a thankful heart, and given an opportunity we need to say thank you. We have been **called** by the Gospel and **taught** what that truly means. We recognize God's hand keeping us **safe** even as we rejoice that He has **saved** us because of His great love for us. Finally we recognize that He continues to **provide** for us in this life and the life to come.

I hope you have a blessed summer. Pastor Walter

THOSE WHO SERVE in JUNE

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Ethan Andrews

10:45 a.m. Worship Service – Matthew Warren

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

June 1st – 10:45 Service – Kurt Shrader

June 8th – 8:15 Service –

June 15th – 10:45 Service –

June 22nd – 8:15 Service – Raymond Harrill

USHERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Robert Wilimzig's team
Robert Jones, Robert Nichols, Paul Walter

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Tim Sweeney's team
Shaun Baker, Ron Krueger, Greg Warren

CANTORS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Randy Middaugh

10:45 a.m. Worship Services – Suzanne Lambert

GREETERS' SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Worship Services – Debbie Penny

10:45 a.m. Worship – Jim and Nancy Wade

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Services – Janet Killough

10:45 a.m. Services – Dawn Cline

Wednesday Mid-Week Services – Suzanne Raddle & Wilma Richter

*If you are unable to serve please ask someone to fill in for you
and then call the church office.*

Director of Parish Music

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

As we reach the end of the season of Easter, I'd like to share a wonderful Easter hymn with you. It is "All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding" (LSB 462). The text is text by Pastor Stephen Starke and tune (MICHAEL) by Herbert Howells, a great English composer of the 20th century. Like all of Pastor Starke's hymn texts this hymn has great imagery and is packed full of rich meaning.

The first stanza shows how the whole earth rejoices at Christ's resurrection: *All the earth with joy is sounding: Christ has risen from the dead! He, the greater Jonah, bounding From the grace, His three-day bed, Wins the prize: Death's demise-- Songs of triumph fill the skies.* Just as Jonah was three days in the belly of the great fish and God made the fish spew him out, so Christ was three days in His tomb, but the grave could not hold Him. And by Christ's death and resurrection He has destroyed death so that the grave will not hold any who have faith in Him.

Stanza two continues telling of Christ's mighty deeds: *Christ, the devil's might unwinding, Leaves behind His borrowed tomb. Stronger He, the strong man binding, Takes, disarms his house of doom; In the rout Casting out Powers of darkness, sin, and doubt.* Christ has not only destroyed death, but He has also destroyed the might of the devil. Satan is now like a roaring lion that has lost its teeth; he can harm us no longer.

Stanza three: *Jesus, author of salvation, Shared in our humanity; Crowned with radiant exaltation, Now He shares His victory! From His face Shines the grace Meant for all our fallen race.* Christ has won the victory and now shares it with us. We are given the sure and certain hope of the resurrection from the dead and eternal life with Christ because He died and rose again! As we say in the Proper Verse during the Easter season: *Alleluia! Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will*

never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia! Since Christ gives us His victory, death no longer has dominion over us. We are Christ's people and nothing can snatch us from His hand.

The hymn concludes with a hymn of praise to our Paschal Lamb: *Praise the Lord, His reign commences, Reign of life and liberty-- Paschal Lamb, for our offenses, Slain and raised to set us free! Evermore Bow before Christ, the Lord of Life adore!* Thanks be to God that He sent His Son to die in our place and then raised Him up on the third day, proclaiming His victory over all that would assail us. **Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

O God, in the paschal feast You restore all creation. Continue to send Your heavenly gifts upon Your people that they may walk in perfect freedom and receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Peace in Christ,

*Nathan Beethe
Director of Parish Music*

NOON DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR

Noon Devotions with Pastor is Thursday, June 12th, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall. Bring a sandwich and join us for Bible study and fellowship. Drinks, chips, and dessert are provided. We eat first and then Pastor Walter shares a devotional Bible study with us. **Bring a friend and join us ...this is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!!**

STEWARDSHIP BUDGET RE-CAP

2014 budget totals \$531,856

which is an average weekly

General Fund contribution requirement of \$10,228

Budget needs through week 21	\$214,788
Actual expenses through week 21	\$219,805
Contributions to General Fund from all sources	\$201,330*
Average weekly contribution through week 21	\$9587

In summary, General Fund giving for the year is \$18,475 less than actual expenses. By comparison, this time last year giving was \$17,934 less than expenses.

Non-budget giving to designated funds through week 21 \$20,179

*These contributions include a monthly payment from ECDC to help offset expenses. They also include some memorials and honorariums which are not designated to specific funds.

This month the board for Stewardship wanted me to publish the state of our budget to date. As you can see, we are currently dipping well into our operating expense surplus (or special savings account) to cover expenses. The summer typically slows on giving, but our expenses also drop \$4,500 in July because of how we pay some expenses. The giving typically raises some at the end of year as well. However if in light of how God has blessed you, you would like to give a little more through the summer or throughout the year, we would appreciate it.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

“Hooray, hallelujah, school is out and vacation time is here!” That may very well express the feeling that a lot of students and teachers have when June comes around. Life is filled with all kinds of “stops” and “starts.” Isn’t there an old saying that goes something like this: ***“Variety is the spice of life”?***

Just as students and teachers look forward to a break from all the school activities, as workers look forward to some days off, as families look forward to some vacation time, and as many look forward to the lazy hazy days of summer, so also Christian stewards may look forward to a break

from the weekly routine that involves worship, Bible study and giving of time, talents and treasure. Is there such a thing as a break from being a Christian steward? What do you think? It surely depends upon how you define Christian stewardship. If you define Christian stewardship as something “you have to do,” then a break might feel pretty good. But is Christian stewardship something that you have to do?

In our church body we have defined ***“Christian stewardship as the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”*** According to that definition Christian stewardship is not so much a matter of “having to do” but more a matter of “getting to do.” Christian stewards are privileged people who find joy in doing privileged things. For a good example of this kind of stewardship consider the Macedonian example in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Christian churches throughout the then known world joined in a special offering for the saints in Jerusalem who were suffering from a severe famine. The Macedonians were financially poor people and most people probably thought that they should not even ask the Macedonians to take part in the offering. But here’s the surprise: ***“Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.”*** They might have appeared to many as poor, unprivileged people but in their own hearts and minds, they considered themselves privileged people who wanted to do privileged things. Why??? Because they had heard and believed the good news of Jesus as their Savior and Lord and therefore they wanted to respond to Christ’s love with their own acts of love.

June might mean a break from many of the routine activities of life, but for Christian stewards it simply means having another month to use all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. By God’s grace we never take a break from being Christian stewards because our stewardship is always a response to God’s love which continues in every day and season of life. Whether we are at school, at work, on vacation or at home we are God’s stewards who freely and joyfully manage all we are and have for God’s purposes.

So, this summer, look for ways to use your time, abilities and financial resources in ways that bring glory to God and blessings to others as well as us. Enjoy June as another month to display God-pleasing and people-blessing works of love. In Christ we are children of our Heavenly Father who long to be more like Him in loving and giving because those are two activities that our God delights in doing (John 3:16). Do this, not because you have to, but because in Christ you get to.

In Christ,
Joel Junkans, Director
Board of Stewardship

GRACE FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME...

Congratulations to our 2014 Confirmands:



Pictured above are our 2014 confirmands: Maxwell Baker, Kaylee Hammond and Abby Litwa with Pastor Walter. They were confirmed on Sunday, May 11th. We welcome them as communicant members of our Grace Congregation.

HOLY BAPTISM

Harper Anne Cate, daughter of Sam and Yamaira Cate, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, May 4th. Harper's sponsors are C. C. Cate and Dr. Ivan Quintanar Smith.

Henry Joseph Schluterman, son of Craig and Lauren Schluterman, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, May 4th. Henry's sponsors are Kerrin and Elaine Sheldon and Lyle and Marie Burdine.

Cecelia Noelle Hammond, daughter of Jeremy and Jennifer Hammond, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, May 18th. Cecelia's sponsor is Colleen Moorman.

August Charles Stein, son of Kurt and Abby Stein, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, May 25th. His sponsors are Sarah Bancroft and David Peters. Gus is the grandson of Charles and Mary Kathryn Stein and nephew of Krista Stein and Caleb Stein.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS...

Congratulations to Courtney and Jason Sutterfield on the birth of their son, Luther Thomas Sutterfield, on May 6th. Luther has two sisters Aidan and Stella Grace, and his grandparents are Jon and Sandy Lindemann. Congratulations and God's blessings to the Sutterfield family.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY...

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Mary Lou Hall who died April 28th in Iowa. Mary Lou is the mother of Travis Starr. Please keep Travis, Heather, Madison and their family in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Nelda Hicks who died May 5th here in Little Rock. Nelda is the mother of Jeff Hicks and grandmother of Ashley Weinhold and Adam Hicks. Please keep Jeff and Lisa and their family in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Alicia Reneé Loveless and William James Eustice who were married Saturday, May 24th, at Grace with Pastor Walter officiating. Congratulations and God's blessings to Alicia and Willie.

Congratulations to Kevin Ray as he received his Vicarage assignment to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Concordia, Missouri. God's blessings on Kevin, Allie and their daughters as Kevin begins his Vicarage sometime this summer.

FELLOWSHIP CLUB

The **Fellowship Club** will meet for an ***"Indoor Summer Cook-out"*** on **Tuesday, June 24th, at 5:00 p.m.** in Parker Hall. Pastor and Paula will host the Cook-out. More details will follow in the bulletin. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

8th Grade Graduates

Maxwell Baker – Pulaski Heights Middle School
Will attend Catholic High School this fall.

Kaylee Hammond – Christ Lutheran School
Will attend Central High School this fall and has been chosen to play on the school volleyball team.

Abby Litwa – Christ Lutheran School
Will attend Mount Saint Mary Academy this fall.

High School Graduates

Brandt Cline – eStem High School
Received a Presidential scholarship to attend Pulaski Tech this fall.

David Graf – Little Rock Christian Academy
Will attend Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, this fall.

Sarah Johnson – Pulaski Academy
Received her completed thesis book at PA's Honors Night to symbolize the completion of the Honors Senior Thesis program.
Received scholarships from and will attend Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee this fall.

Nick Worden – Little Rock Christian Academy
Will attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville this fall.

College Students

Katherine Barlow is on the Dean's List and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway with a BA and a double major in Politics and Spanish. Katherine is working for the Democratic Party in Arkansas.

Gabriel LeBlanc received his PhD in Chemistry from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee and will attend the University of Texas in Austin for his Post Doctorate work.

Kari Schulz graduated from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD with a BA in Communications.

Hannah Walter was awarded the Williams/Arnold Scholarship from the English Department at the University of Central Arkansas for her senior year.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Volunteers Needed to Serve

COFFEE HOST SIGN UP - Please take a minute and sign up for the Sunday on which you wish to serve. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the Parlor.

The schedule for **June, 2014** is:

June 1 st	Jack and Pat Funk
June 8 th	Debbie Penny
June 15 th	VBS Kick-off
June 22 nd	_____
June 29 th	_____

The schedule for **July, 2014** is:

July 6 th	_____
July 13 th	_____
July 20 th	_____
July 27 th	_____

Thanks! We appreciate you serving!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Grace Lutheran Church



It's Time to Register for VBS!
AGES 3-11

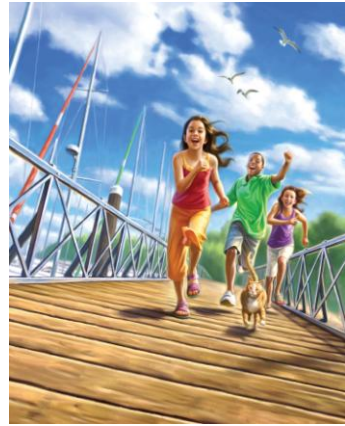
Sunday, June 15th – Thursday, June 19th
5:30pm – 8:15pm

A light dinner will be served each night for the children. Parents are encouraged to attend the last night (Thursday) with their child(ren)!

**Registration forms are available in
the breezeway.**

Please contact Diane Roberts (di4hogs@yahoo.com),
Catherine Manchester (cmanchester@icloud.com) or
Gina Junkans (jgjunkans@aristotle.net) with any questions.

VBS Supper Menu



Sunday—Hot dogs, Baked beans, Chips

Monday—Mac-n-Cheese, Green beans, Applesauce

Tuesday—Turkey & Cheese sandwiches, Chips, Pickles

Wednesday—Chicken nuggets, Tator tots, Carrots w/Ranch

Thursday (Parents Night)—Pizza and Watermelon

**Parents are encouraged to attend the last night (Thursday)
with their child(ren)!**



Set-up Work Day

***VBS Work Days – Set up and Decorating
are***

Friday, June 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 14th at 9:00 a.m.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL shopping list **Food and Supplies**

- 8 dozen hot dogs buns
- 8 dozen hot dogs
- 2—117 oz. cans Bush's baked beans
- 3—101 oz. cans cut green beans
- 100 individual bags of chips
- 2 large bottles mayo/Miracle Whip—squeezeable
- 2 large bottles Ranch dressing
- Bread for 75 sandwiches (150 slices)
- Deli turkey for 75 sandwiches
- American cheese slices—for 75 sandwiches
- 5 pounds elbow macaroni
- 1—106 oz. can cheddar cheese sauce
- 1 pound of butter
- 3 pounds baby carrots
- 3—46 oz. jars Baby Dill pickles
- 75 applesauce cups
- 2 seedless watermelons
- 3—gallon pails ice cream—2 vanilla; 1 chocolate
- Sprinkles—topping for ice cream sundaes
- 3—82.5 oz. cans lemonade mix
- 80 hand-shaped sugar cookies (Gina has cookie cutter)
- Bag of small heart-shaped candies (at least 75 count)
- 4 oz. meringue powder
- 20 boxes blue jello...or...75 individual size cups blue jello
- 16 oz. Cool Whip
- 6—15 oz. cans mandarin oranges
- 90 cups Muddy Buddy/Puppy chow snack mix

30 Full-size rolls of assorted fruit flavored Lifesavers (brand name)
30 Snack size bags of Goldfish crackers (brand name)
30 bottles of water
30 Snack size bags of pretzels
30 Full-size Hershey's bars
250 plastic forks
250 plastic spoons
400 paper plates
400—9 oz. paper cups
75 clear plastic punch cups (squatty—9 oz. size)
100 disposable paper bowls—for ice cream sundaes
500 paper napkins
4 packages of baby wipes
100 ct. 4-5/8"x 7-1/4" clear Wilton shaped treat bags
30 yards 1/4" orange ribbon
100 Google/wiggly craft eyes (10mm or 12mm size)

If you are able to provide any of the following, please sign up on the sheet provided in the breezeway...or...contact Gina Junkans. jgunkans@aristotle.net or 501-650-6462

Thanks so much! 😊



Thrivent Choice Dollars can benefit Grace Lutheran Member Assistance or ECDC

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans?

Are you eligible to participate in the Thrivent Choice Dollars program?

By participating in the Choice Dollars component of this program, eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can recommend where Thrivent Financial will distribute a portion of its charitable grant funds, including to Grace Lutheran.

Here's how Choice Dollars works:

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice dollars based on:

- Annual premiums of qualifying insurance products;
- Contract value of qualifying products; or
- Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position.

You can learn more at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800Thrivent and state "Thrivent Choice".

If you wish to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Grace or the ECDC, at [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) go to your account. Click on "Direct Choice Dollars". Under "Search Organizations", choose Organization- Grace, City- Little Rock, and Search.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to Grace Family Members in the month of June:

- 1 - Pat Funk, Steve Gertsch, Pastor Paul Jilg
- 2 - Danielle Wilbert
- 3 - Jacob Ralston
- 7 - Janet Pulliam
- 8 - Roy Brands, Jr., Paul Krueger, Laine Krueger
- 10 - Houston Metzler, Tommy Weed
- 11 - Hunter Goodwin, Jr., Charlotte Wunderlich
- 12 - Jim Wade
- 13 - Zachary Arnold
- 15 - Sydney Smith
- 16 - Mason Andrews, Rose Shrader
- 18 - Judy Borchert
- 19 - Mikayla DeAnda
- 20 - Janie Derden, Randy Middaugh
- 21 - Debbie Craig, Kaya Wilbert
- 22 - Alma Carle, Carter Stein
- 23 - David Roberts, Kristin Wilkins
- 24 - Mildred Burgess, Lou Alice May
- 25 - Carolyn Moorman, Rob Nichols
- 27 - Faith Moseley, Gary Proud
- 29 - David Graf
- 30 - Philip Bemberg, Donna Langlais, Michael Litwa

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to these couples in June:

- 1 - Ame & Roy Andrews
- 2 - Margaret & Eldon Schulz
- 7 - Tina & Billy Wilkins, Jr.
- 8 - Lydia & Robert Bemberg
- 11 - Cecilia & Joe Gelzine, Suzanne & Josh Hardman, Allie & Kevin Ray
- 13 - Riley & Randy Middaugh
- 16 - Julia & Paul Malbrough, Joan Ann & Ralph Olsen, Mildred & Bill Wilkins
- 17 - Leah & Derek Sheridan, Megan & David Witte
- 18 - Anne & Rick McIntyre
- 19 - Donna & Ron Stewart
- 22 - Gina & Joel Junkans
- 24 - Megan & John Calvillo
- 27 - Jo Hanna & Grady Worden
- 30 - Amber & David Solomon

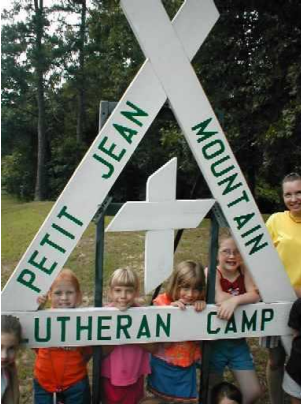
We apologize if we have missed your birthday or anniversary; please let us know in the church office so we can update our records. Thank you!!

LUTHERAN CAMP ON PETIT JEAN

EPIC!

Exploring Purpose in Creation

2014 Summer Camp schedule and registration forms are available at church on the table by the ramp door, in the church office or call the camp at 501-727-5656.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE

Our nursery, downstairs in the church, is also available to take care of the infants and toddlers during Sunday School/Bible Class time.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - Pastor Walter's Bible Class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Parker Hall. Pastor Walter is leading a study of the book of Hebrews.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for children ages 3 through 6th grade are held in the lower level of the Family Life Center. Parents are invited to join us for the opening service at 9:45 each Sunday. Contact Colleen Moorman or Nathan Beethe. LCEF K.I.D.S. Saving Stamps are available from Ame Andrews during Sunday School opening time.

JUNIOR YOUTH class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in their classroom downstairs in the church. During the summer David Witte will lead the class each Sunday morning.

SENIOR YOUTH class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in their classroom downstairs in the church. Dave Roberts leads the class each Sunday morning.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY group is taking a break for the summer. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for the fall schedule. Contact Vicar David Witte at drwitte@gmail.com if you have questions.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY class meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at St. Vincent Hospital in the 4th floor conference room (off the main elevator). Pastor Walter leads this Bible Study. All men of Grace are encouraged to attend.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets each Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the downstairs classroom in the church. They are now doing a women's small-group Bible study "*The God of All Comfort*" by Donna Pyle. Contact Joan Ann Olsen for more information.



ECDC News & Notes

As June begins, so does summer fun! We sort of take the summer off so to speak and not “hit the books” so hard. To keep us busy we will enjoy Frosty Friday’s (that’s when the ice cream truck comes and we get to take money out of our “ice cream bank” and pick out our very own favorite cool treat!). And, of course we’ll have all sorts of water adventures! Whoo Hoo!

We will still be learning though – all about summer time, the beach, and sea creatures. And, what better time to include some of our favorite adventure-filled Old Testament Bible stories – Jonah and the Big Fish; Daniel in the Lion’s Den; and Three Men in the Fiery Furnace? But, the real stories aren’t about the adventures of these men – but instead about God’s mercy shown Jonah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! They are about followers of the faith willing to risk everything for their belief in God. They are about God’s almighty power! They are about God’s deliverance. They are about God’s redeeming love! We will also be talking about a personal adventure – when we became God’s child in Holy Baptism. Through water and His Word He calls us to be His very own, He washes us clean of our sins, and He gives us eternal life. We become His disciples and teach others about God’s grace and His ultimate gift – our risen Lord and Savior – Jesus! That’s an adventure of a lifetime!

We’ll have some new friends join us this summer. They are all ECDC alumni and some have younger siblings and friends who are here now. It’ll be fun having new friends join us for our adventures! Plus, I’m betting a number of our ECDC friends will be joining us for VBS! Another opportunity to have fun together and share God’s word!

Until next month God’s continued blessings to each of you —

Colleen