



NEWSLETTER



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Grace Lutheran Church

A LAMPE TO GUIDE YOUR PATH

Birthdays

- 2/01-Karsyn Jones
- 2/02-Dallas Hardt
- 2/02-Sue Doss
- 2/03-Delphine Mullen
- 2/09-Bob Brents
- 2/13-Sarah Davis
- 2/14-LuAnn Parks
- 2/17-Edith Chambers
- 2/19-Jeeper Meyer
- 2/19-Magdalyn Sharp
- 2/21-Dennis Doss
- 2/21-Paul Martin
- 2/22-Taya Jones



Dear members and friends of Grace:

A junior high music teacher had just organized a band in her school. The principal was so proud of the music teacher's efforts that without consulting her he decided the band would perform for the whole school. The music teacher wasn't sure her young musicians were ready to do this, so she tried to talk the principal out of having them play for everyone. But her efforts were to no avail. Just before they were to play, the music teacher leaned forward and whispered to her nervous students, "If you are not sure of your part, just pretend to play." With that she stepped back, lifted her baton, and when she brought it down, what do you think happened? Absolutely nothing! The band brought forth a great silence.

Sometime we in the church are like those junior high band members. Unsure of our parts, afraid of making a mistake, we are reluctant to take a risk in serving our Lord and we wind up doing nothing. And the likelihood of that occurring increases when we forget or lack clarity on what's most important for us.

An incident in San Antonio, TX, during the 1990s illustrates what I mean. It was a hot August day when a baby girl was accidentally locked in a parked car by her aunt. Frantically the mother and aunt ran around the car while a neighbor tried to unlock the car with a clothes hanger. Inside the baby was crying and showing the effects of the heat.

It was becoming a life or death matter when a tow truck driver arrived. He grabbed a hammer from his truck, smashed a side window of the car and freed the baby. He was quoted in the San Antonio Herald as saying, "I just thought, what's more important, a baby or a window?" He knew what was important and took action.

How about our congregation? Do we know what is important and are we

willing to take action? The greatest blessing God has given us is the gift of His Son. The familiar words of John 3:16 say it well. "God so loved the world (us) that He gave His one and only Son." By His death and resurrection Jesus has secured for us forgiveness and salvation. As believers in Christ we now have the task of sharing this wonderful Good News with people in our community. Admittedly, we are not always sure what we should be doing as a congregation. But let's not allow that to keep us from taking action and moving forward with the important mission God has given to us. I'm sure there are opportunities for Grace Lutheran Church to make a difference in people's lives in this community. Please continue to pray that God will guide our congregation to see the things He wants us to do and that He will give us the courage to do them.

Yours in Christ,
 Pastor Ken Lampe

P.S. Ash Wednesday is March 6. Watch next month's newsletter for details about all our Lenten Services.



H A P P E N I N G S A T G R A C E

You, Too, Can Overcome

As you face challenges and trials this month just remember that these famous people had to face similar circumstances to become who and what they were.

After Fred Astaire's first screen test, a 1933 memo from the MGM testing director said: "Can't act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little." Astaire kept that memo over the fireplace in his Beverly Hills home.

An expert said of famous football coach Vince Lombardi: "He possesses minimal football knowledge. Lacks motivation."

Louisa May Alcott, the author of *Little Women*, was advised by her family to find work as a servant or seamstress.

Beethoven handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him hopeless as a composer.

Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper for lacking ideas. He also went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland.

A Real Incentive

An old man was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to receive the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."

Pastor's Office Hours

There has been a change in pastor's office hours. He is now in the office on Wednesday and Thursday. He is still available at other times by appointment.



Bell Choir—February 10

The Bell Choir from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church will perform at Grace Lutheran on February 10. The Bell Choir will lead the music for our worship service and will also play before and after the service. Following the service we will have a congregational Pot-Luck.