

Grace *g*azette



Going On An Adventure

When our children were little and the whole family went to visit Ginny's parent's, they would take us to Adventureland in Des Moines. Adventureland was filled with rides, like the "little roller coaster", that everyone enjoyed. There were acrobats and a diving team to entertain us - - - and along the way we even found room in our stomachs for ice cream and funnel cake.

Everyone loved going to Adventureland because it was just the kind of adventure we wanted. And, we knew ahead of time what the day would be like.

When Jesus comes on the scene, he calls us on another kind of adventure as we follow him. We may be excited to be called by God. We may hope for great things. But, we never know where this kind of adventure will lead us.

- Will we be challenged to change in ways we weren't ready to change?
- Will we be invited to forgive people who don't deserve our forgiveness?
- Will we discover gifts and talents we never knew we had because we're serving in unexpected ways?

The disciples follow Jesus on quite an adventure. They go with him as he reaches out to strangers and foreigners. They watch and listen as he teaches and heals - learning about compassion along the way. They ask questions as

they try to figure out what following him is all about. And along the way, Jesus even sends them out on their own mission trip - telling them to share the Good News of what God is doing with people in the towns and villages all over Israel. For the disciples, it's quite a ride.

God continues to call us on the adventure of following Jesus. And like the disciples, we are told to share the Good News with the people we meet. But the world in which we live is quite different than the world in which they lived, so we look for new ways to speak about the Savior.

Like the disciples, we are also called to follow in ways we never expected as we serve people we never knew. And like them, as we follow, we learn a lot about compassion, forgiveness, and even ourselves.

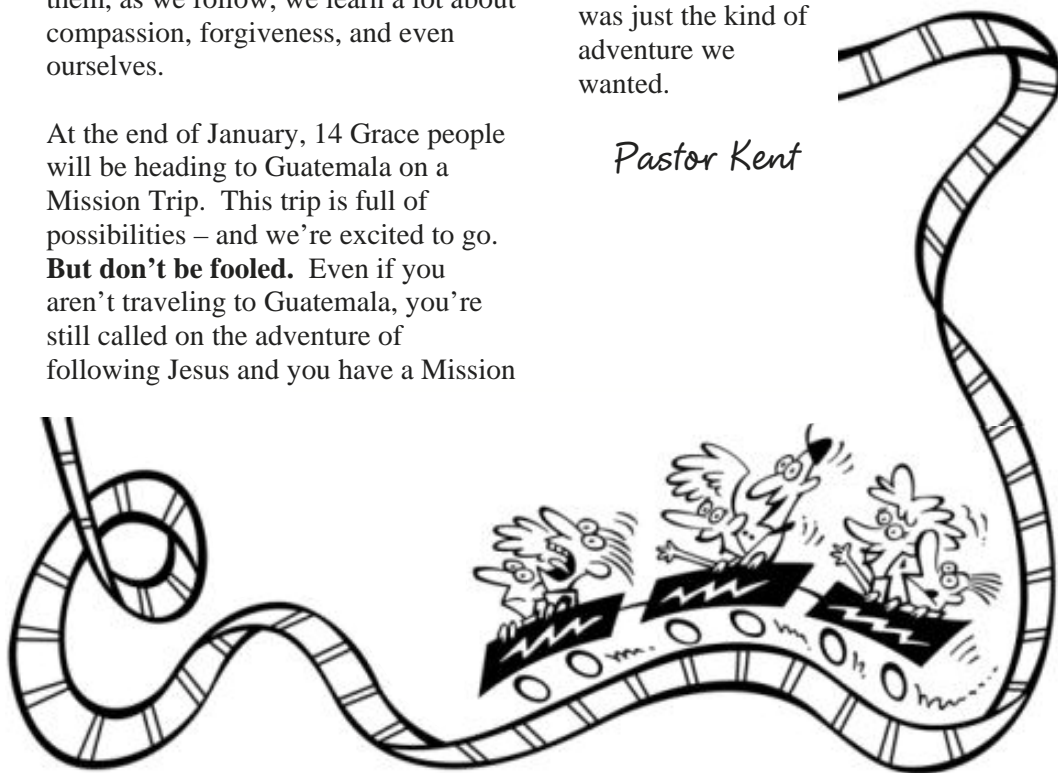
At the end of January, 14 Grace people will be heading to Guatemala on a Mission Trip. This trip is full of possibilities - and we're excited to go. **But don't be fooled.** Even if you aren't traveling to Guatemala, you're still called on the adventure of following Jesus and you have a Mission

to accomplish right where you are. The Adventure of following Jesus might cause you to ask:

- Who is God putting in front of me? Am I called to serve these people? If so, how?
- What gifts has God already placed inside of me? How will I use those gifts to make a difference in the world?
- And how will I share the Good News with the people I meet? When I have the opportunity, what will I say about God's grace and compassion and forgiveness for all?

Following Jesus is a great adventure. None of us knows where he will lead us. But, faith calls us along the way as we trust God to work through us for the good of the world. And in the end, we will be able to say it was just the kind of adventure we wanted.

Pastor Kent



Confirmation Classes begin
Wednesday, January 4th at
6:30 p.m.

Newcomer's Orientation is Sunday, January 15th from 9:15 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Newcomer's is a time to gather information about life at Grace, So if you are a person who is interested in learning more about Grace or has thought about joining Grace, Newcomer's is for you. Simply come to the Youth Center where we'll gather around coffee and goodies to have a conversation,

Congregational Meeting

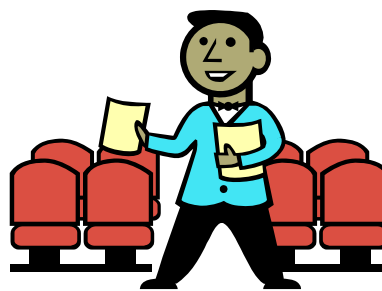
Sunday at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, January 15th.

Sunday School Rotation

Rotation #3: Joseph and His Brothers

1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12

Family Movie Sunday, January 15th immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Watch for more details coming soon.



Women's Ministry

Here at Grace, women have been gathering for group exercise, potluck meals, study and conversation on faith and the Bible, game nights, service projects and outreach. All women are welcome to be a part! Also, all women are invited to an event on **Monday, January 23rd, 6:30pm**, at Grace. Contact Pastor Kristi for questions on this or if interested in getting connected.



Announcing a show you won't want to miss! On Saturday, February 25, at 6:00 p.m. come to the Grace Sanctuary prepared to show off your "talent" or just watch this spectacular event. Judges will be awarding prizes, so start practicing! More information will be coming soon, but for now, mark your calendar and let Kevin know by February 17 if you are interested in participating. theyouthguy@yahoo.com



~ UPDATE ~

Plans are moving forward for the Grace Mission Trip on January 28 – February 4. The Building Team knows they can install 5-6 stoves each day, which will improve the health of 20-25 families. The Women's Ministry will teach how to get vitamins out of the food the families eat as another way to improve people's health. Plus, children in several orphanages will be served by our Children's ministry. Remember to pray for this Mission Team and the work they are doing. Stay tuned for more news this month and then follow the blog that will be in place during the time the Mission Team is in Guatemala.

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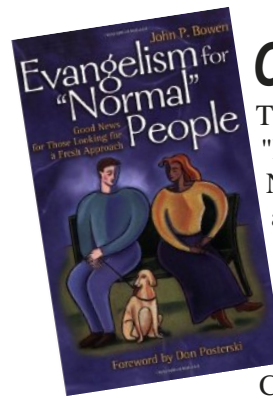
Easy Ways to Support Grace Lutheran Church ~

We've just made it easier for you to support Grace Lutheran. We registered Grace Lutheran Church—Wisconsin Rapids with GoodSearch.com, a company that helps non-profits like ours raise funds through the everyday action of our supporters. Here is how you can help:

- * Use GoodSearch when you search the internet—they will donate a penny to us every time you do.
- * Use GoodShop.com when you shop online—they work with more than 2,500 major brands, have over 100,000 coupons and donate a percentage of every purchase you make to us.
- * Enroll in the GoodDining.com they will donate up to 6% of every dollar you spend when you eat at one of 10,000 participating restaurants.
- * Please join our community on GoodSearch.com and help us raise money for our mission. Get started by clicking the “Become a Supporter” button on the Grace webpage.

Giving statements for 2011 will be available for you to collect AFTER January 20th on the Prayer Partner table. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy or Stacy at 423-2330

GRACE UNIVERSITY
Watch for more
Information coming
soon.



Coffeehouse

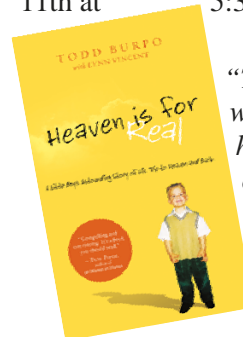
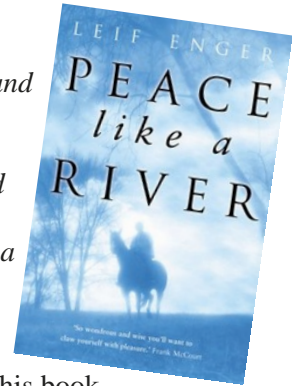
The next Coffeehouse book will be "Evangelism for "Normal" people: Good News for those looking for a fresh approach" by John P.

Bowen. Coffeehouse begins on Monday, January 2nd at noon in the kitchen, bring your lunch and come and join the discussion. Books are available in the Church office, cost is \$13.

Book Group

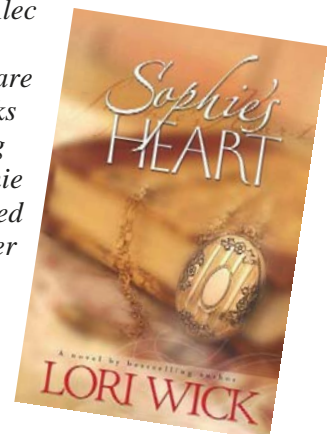
"Affecting and dynamic, Peace Like a River is at once a tragedy, a romance, and an unflagging exploration into the spirituality and magic possible in the everyday world, and in that of the world awaiting us on the other side of life. In Enger's superb debut effort, we witness a wondrous celebration of family, faith, and spirit, the likes of which we haven't seen in a long, long time -- and the birth of a classic work of literature."

This book discussion will be led by Stacy Harper on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30 p.m. in front of the fireplace.



"Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle." This book discussion will be led by Tammy Koch on Wednesday, February 8th at 5:30 p.m. in front of the fireplace.

"After the tragic death of his wife, Alec Riley struggles to put his life back together. He and his three children are lost in their grief... until Sophie walks unexpectedly into their lives. Having left her native Czechoslovakia, Sophie has discovered the land which seemed so bright with promise is far from her dream. A highly educated woman, Sophie now finds herself keeping house for Alec and his family. How can Sophie find peace in her new job? Will God use her gentle spirit to help heal Alec's broken heart? From the author of The Visitor and Bamboo and Lace comes a warm contemporary story of God's tender mercies and loving intervention in the life of one family." This book discussion will take place on Wednesday, March 14th at 5:30 p.m. in front of the fireplace.



Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

1531 Whitrock Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-4208

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715.423.2330 or 715.423.773



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www.glcwr.org

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www.facebook.com/glcwr

Return Service Requested

January 2012...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship	2 12:00 Coffeehouse	3 6:00 Women's Group 3 6:30 Stewardship Meeting	4 9:30 TOPS 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Confirmation	5 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS 12:00 Neighborhood Table	6 6:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	7
8 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Education 9:15 Mission Trip Meeting 10:30 Worship 11:30 Board of Fellowship 12:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	9 12:00 Coffeehouse 5:30 Board of Youth Meeting 6:00 Church In Society Meeting	10 6:00 Women's Group 3	11 9:30 TOPS 5:30 Book Group 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Confirmation	12 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS	13 6:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	14
15 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Congregational Meeting 9:15 Newcomer's Orientation 10:30 Worship 11:30 Family Movie Day 12:00 Council Retreat 12:00 Dinner Theatre Tryouts	16 12:00 Coffeehouse	17 6:00 Women's Group 3	18 9:30 TOPS 6:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Confirmation	19 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS	20 6:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	21 12:00-4:00 High School Tobogganing at Iverson Park
22 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Education 9:15 Discover Your Place In Ministry 10:30 Worship 11:30 Discover Grace Luncheon 12:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	23 12:00 Coffeehouse 6:30 Women's Group	24 6:00 Women's Group 3	25 9:30 TOPS 6:00 Choir Practice 6:30 Confirmation	26 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS	27 6:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	28 Mission Trip to Guatemala (January 28-February 4) Youth Center Reserved
29 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Education 10:30 Worship 12:00 Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	30 12:00 Coffeehouse	31 6:00 Women's Group 3				