

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Congregation seeks to bear witness to the love of God the Father, shown through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by proclaiming the Word, administering the sacraments, and providing loving service to our community.



Summer 2011

**GRACE
UPON
GRACE**

Pastor's Report

Now that we've finally survived what was said to be the coldest spring that Vancouver has had in the last 50 years, we can finally look forward to some kind of warmth as summer slowly rolls in. We can finally look forward to sunny days that brighten up our lives. We can finally look forward to days spent outside on the patio sipping a cool drink and soaking up some sun. We can finally look forward to sitting on the dock of the bay, watching the tide roll away (while it's sunny out). There's something about the sun that uplifts our spirits. We seem to be more motivated to get up early and participate in some sort of activity outdoors or otherwise when it's sunny out.

Case in point: in your typical Spring (which this year's clearly was not), when the sun finally peeks its head out from behind the gloomy clouds that we've been staring at throughout the winter months, what do you suppose the first typical reaction is? Well, of course there's that cheer inside knowing that winter is coming to an end and summer is on its way, but right after that (and I know this for a fact that this is totally my own assumption for the purposes of writing this in hopes that it'll make any sense whatsoever...), the typical thought is "hey, let's clean the house and get it ready for summer".

Seriously? You want to clean up? You want to paint? You want to plant plants? These are the things that we are motivated to do when the sun comes out. Yes, there's something about the sun that uplifts our spirits.

Of course, many of these things just have to be done at this time because it makes sense. We need to plant when the season is right for planting. We need to paint when we know (or hope with all our might) that rain won't come down and wash away our hard work. And, it's not called "Spring Cleaning" for nothing... But we cannot deny the fact that there just is something about the sun that uplifts our spirits and motivates us to do these things that we quite frankly wouldn't want to do at any other time of the year.

There is a season for everything. And here we are at the end of the Easter season and looking forward to the season of Pentecost, also known as the Common Season (mostly because it takes up most of the year making it pretty common). Up until now in the church year that started with the season of Advent we've been focusing on Jesus and the things that Jesus has done. You know, like being born, getting baptised, getting tempted, doing some ministry, dying, coming back from the dead, saving humanity, and then going up to heaven. But at the end of Easter, our focus shifts to something (or someone) else: US (that's us as a people on the whole, not the U.S. of A.). Well, the focus is on us with the help of the promised Holy Spirit.

This season of Pentecost focuses on the people of the church. It focuses on the work of the church. And it focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit in the church. As the other seasons helped us get into the framework of who we are in Christ by the work of Christ, this coming season will ask us what we're going to do about it. Up until this point we've learned about what Jesus has done for us in order to get us to where we are, and now the promised Holy Spirit will help us in living out this new position that we have.

So you're saved by the faith of Jesus, how are you going to treat yourself? So you're forgiven by the grace found in the blood of Jesus, how are you doing to treat others? So you're loved enough for Jesus to die for, how are you going to live your life? It is the Holy Spirit that helps us with those questions and empowers us to do good and act with love and mercy. It is the Holy Spirit that will guide and lead us as we strive to be more Christ-like. It is the Holy Spirit that reminds us of our position in the Kingdom of God and the promises that comes with it. It is the Holy Spirit that continually points us to Christ as Christ points us to the Father.

Yes, there's something about the Son that uplifts our Spirit.

Pastor Nathan

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THANKS TO THE WALKERS AND SPONSORS

On behalf of the Burnaby Hospice Society, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to those who walked in the HIKE FOR HOSPICE on May 1, and to all those who sponsored us. Although participation in the event was down slightly from last year, proceeds were actually higher, thanks to the generosity of donors like you! The funds raised will enable the Society to maintain and (hopefully) increase the services it provides to the Burnaby community.

The Society is dedicated to ensuring that no one in Burnaby needs to go through the end-of-life experience alone. It serves over 800 families every year and offers all of its services free of charge.

I encourage you to become acquainted with the many services available, and to share with your friends and neighbours who might need them, now or sometime in the future. There are pamphlets in the reading rack in the narthex, or feel free to speak to me or to our office administrator, Sharon Hamer. We both sit on the Board of the Society, and would be happy to answer your questions, provide more pamphlets, etc.

Again, a big THANKS to all!

Eleanor Joughin

Deacon's Report

Coming up!

Don't miss our barbeque on Father's Day, June 19, after the church service. The women will be in charge of this.

The women's retreat took place June 10 – 12 in a beautiful setting. The ladies who go to this annual retreat keep coming back. Keep it in mind for another year as it is always held in May or June.

I recently attended two nice events in our community.

One was Peter Rohloff's concert at First Lutheran. It was an evening of wonderful music in support of a very good cause.

Marie Schactner and I attended Deer Lake United Church's jazz night with music featuring saxophone, bass guitar and regular guitar. It was an excellent evening along with coffee and goodies.

Coming up in September, we will start the fall season off with a talent night. We invite all interested members and friends to take part in this event. We will confirm the date later in the summer.

Well, that's all for now.

Marie Hahn, *on behalf of the Deacons*

Ask & Imagine Did you attend the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering in 2010? And/or are you interested in youth leadership development and formation?

Applications are now being received for the 2011 Ask & Imagine program!

Do you know a young person who would love to go?

Thanks to a grant, all travel expenses are paid no matter where you live in Canada. The tuition for the 10 day program including all program fees, transportation, room and board in university residence is \$700.00. This year, Ask & Imagine runs from August 13 - 24.

If you know a young person in high school who wants to explore deeper questions, develop their leadership skills and take on a challenge, please tell them about Ask & Imagine.

For further information visit www.askandimagine.org or email info@askandimagine.org.

Share resources! E-Communique is an electronic newsletter full of timely information and resources from the ELCIC National Office. If you would like to subscribe, send an email to communique@elcic.ca with the word "Subscribe" in the subject.



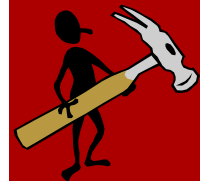
BBQ- June 18



Gardening & Repair day
Saturday
June 18

9:00 AM– 12:00
All are welcome – young, old and in between...

We will be doing some gardening on the church property, and some general repairs inside the church.



Bring gardening tools and gloves if you wish to garden.

Financial Stewardship Report

Financial Stewardship Report For The Period Jan. 01 to May 31, 2011

Current offerings are lower for the first five months of this year when compared to the amounts donated during the first five months of 2010. Two new renters are using church space. The extra rental income of about \$3,000 for this year will help to partially offset the \$12,000 rental income lost because our major tenant left. If you know of any group that would like to rent church space please let Sharon Hamer or me know.

A reminder of some of the available options to contribute to Grace Lutheran Church:

- a) Sunday offering plate
- b) Pre authorized direct bank deposit
- c) Transfer stocks, bonds or other marketable securities to the Grace Lutheran Church brokerage account

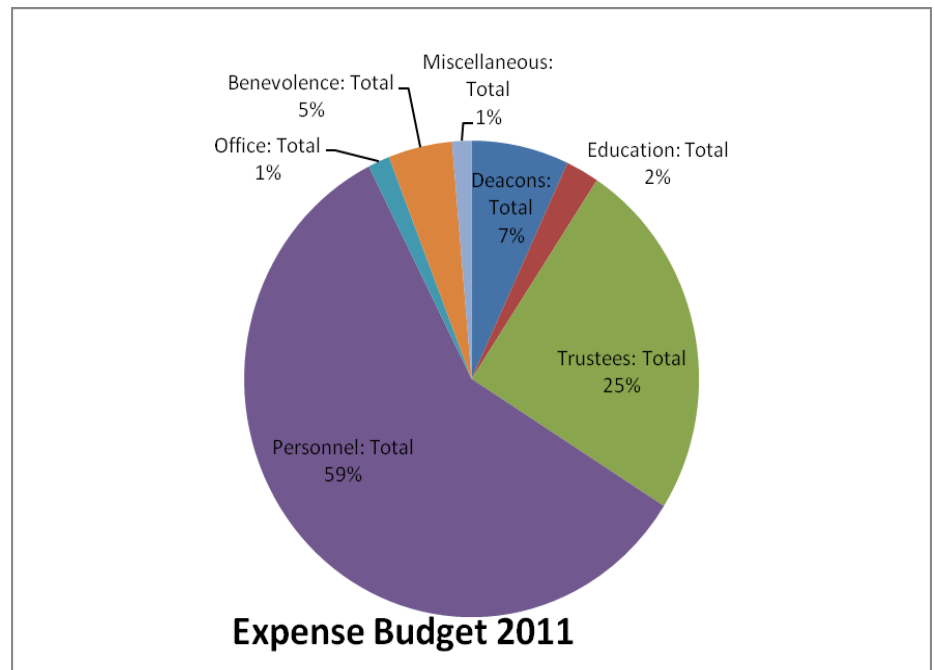
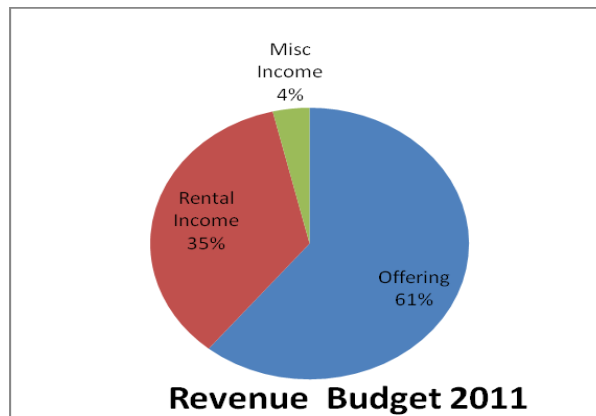
If you need a box of offering envelopes or information on any of the other giving options, please contact Sharon Hamer at the church office 604-433-1515.

Overall expenditures are below budget. The largest variance from budget is in the repairs and maintenance area where the Trustees are only undertaking necessary maintenance and repairs. The church's financial position is positive, as at 2010 May 31 owing to the additional rental income and the deferral of expenditures. The current bank cash balance should be sufficient to cover expenditures until September.

I am always open to any suggestions as to how revenues can be increased or expenditures can be reduced. Please share your ideas with me or any other member of council.

Shalom *Bob Schneider*

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue:			
Offerings	37,831	38,352	
Rental Income	<u>23,865</u>	<u>22,460</u>	
Total Revenue	<u>61,696</u>	<u>60,812</u>	
Expenses:			
Worship	3,029	4,365	1,336
Education	1,904	3,191	1,287
Building	9,150	12,405	3,255
Personnel	36,796	35,157	
Office	708	875	
Benevolence	<u>2,750</u>	<u>2,750</u>	
Total Expenses	<u>54,337</u>	<u>58,743</u>	
Net Income (Deficit)	<u>7,359</u>	<u>2,069</u>	



Grace Lutheran Preschool



Grace Lutheran Church

7283 Nelson Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5J 4C2
Phone: 604-433-1515

Email:
office@graceburnaby.com

Website:
www.graceburnaby.com



Practicing for graduation day

The last day for preschool will be Friday, June 17th and the children will be performing songs they've learned at the closing ceremony held in the sanctuary. After the performance, the children and their families will gather in the preschool to share food and fellowship. You are welcome to join the festivities if you're able.

This year, the preschool field trip was at Deer Lake Park, near the Carousal and Burnaby Village Museum. The teachers met the children and their families at the park where they enjoyed playtime, a picnic and a visit to the carousal and Village Museum. The field trip was held Friday June 10th.

This Wednesday, the parents are invited to come to the church for a brief slide show and a story time with Pastor. As you may know, Pastor Nathan and sidekick Jesus (the puppet) visit the children in the preschool each Wednesday for a bible story. Since the parents are coming on Wednesday to see the slide show, the teachers thought it would be a good opportunity for Pastor to tell a story to them as well.

We still have a few spaces available in the Fall classes so if you know of anyone who is in need of a preschool, please pass on our contact information

phone number: 604-433-1515
website address:
www.graceburnaby.com/preschool
email address: office@graceburnaby.com



or have them scan this QR code with a smartphone →

It'll take them directly to our website where they'll find information about the program



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