



Lutheran  
Community of Grace

# What's New?

www.LutheranCommunityGrace.org August 2010

## Worship Sundays 9:30 am at VOA Gathering Room

August 1 – *Holy Communion*  
Joel Smeby

August 8  
Joel Smeby

August 15 – *Holy Communion*  
Rev. Dr. Roy Harrisville

August 22  
Joel Smeby

August 29  
Joel Smeby

(see updated worship information at  
[LutheranCommunityGrace.org/worshipInfo.php](http://LutheranCommunityGrace.org/worshipInfo.php))

## Sunday Forums 10:45 am

August 1  
*Bible study: Acts, part xi*

August 8  
*Bible study: Acts, part xii*

August 15  
*(Coffee and conversation)*

August 22  
*Bible study: Acts, part xiii*

August 29  
*Bible study: Acts, part xv*

## Prayer Requests

Please include in your prayers these folks:

Carla and Bob and their families  
Karl, Erik, Ralph and all those serving in the  
Armed Forces  
Audrey Swenson and family  
Violet and Cliff  
all those traveling  
Andrew Rogness family  
America  
Signe  
Michael's family in NW Minnesota  
Bruce and Faith and her family  
Noah Gabriel (Anna's son)  
Eric and Sarah as they anticipate marriage  
Dan and Sherry  
the LUKE Bible study group  
Jeff, suffering from cancer

Tom and Theresa on their second wedding  
anniversary (July 19)

Don and Bev Erickson  
Kirsten and Craig and Kari

Ed

Ron and Mona

Nancy Kruse

the teens on mission to Puerto Rico (including  
the Hauge's grandkids)

Albert and his wife

all the strangers in our midst  
the church in America

(Send your prayer requests to  
[info@LutheranCommunityGrace.org](mailto:info@LutheranCommunityGrace.org))

## Luke: the Journey Continues

On April 26, 2010 a group of us started on a

journey. We set out to walk with Jesus, the Son of Man, as He traveled throughout the Holy Land during His incarnate sojourn here on earth, as has been recorded for us by the evangelist, Luke.

We have had a great journey thus far. We have beheld His birth celebrated in the heavens with the voices of multitudes of angels. We have seen Him worshipped by lowly shepherds as He lay in a manger of straw. We wondered at His youthful knowledge as He questioned the teachers in the Temple. But all this was but introductory of Who He really is.

We have seen His preparation and conditioning for His work of ministry while here on earth and for the greater work of the suffering servant that lay ahead of Him. We saw Him baptized, only to be led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for terrible temptations. Only at overcoming these could He start His ministry walk.

We were with him as He chose His close disciples. We have heard His teachings. We have marveled at His parables. We have wondered at His healings of the sick. We have stood in awe as He performed miracles.

We have now reached the high points of His ministry. Great crowds have followed Him even into remote places. He had to multiply five small loaves and two fish to feed 5000 men, besides women and children, to sustain them. And we also have seen His spiritual high in the form of Peter's great confession of Him as the Son of God, and His glorious transfiguration. But Jesus did not stay on the mountaintop. He returned into the valley of human life where sin and misery abound, as exemplified by a demon-possessed young lad. Rather, after each of these highs, Jesus foretells of His pending rejection, suffering, and death.

The time for His ascension is approaching so He has resolutely set out for Jerusalem, amidst the growing opposition and hostility. Many have stopped following Him, and Jesus has set about weeding out the insincere and uncommitted followers. He is preparing a true set of disciples.

The most exciting part of the journey is yet to come. He must be in Jerusalem for the Passover, the time when the Lamb is sacrificed for the sins of the people. Luke devotes over one half of his gospel account to this last trip to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week that result. Come and join us on this last leg of the journey. We "travel" every Monday evening at 7:00 PM at our Shady Oak facility. We are guided by the scriptural account with supplemental home study questions to aid your deeper study. [*th contributing*]

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## Thanks to those who stepped up

Speaking of journeys, what of our own journeys into the neighborhoods, specifically those surrounding the Hopkins and Minnetonka area? One of our congregation's major initiatives was to obtain usage of space in addition to that in the Volunteers of America building in Minnetonka. The storefront at Shady Oak Road and Mainstreet in Hopkins is the result of that search. *Again, we are grateful to all those who pledged support to make this happen.* Our presence "on the streets" and in the community has not gone without notice. And, we now have space (24/7 access) to hold Bible studies, meetings, and other activities of ministry.

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## BRCC update

The Blake Road Corridor Collaborative (BRCC) project is a "working group of governmental and community organizations," including the Hopkins police department, the Hopkins public schools, Knollwood Mall, ICA (the consortium of local congregations that support a food shelf), and (our friends who hosted our Prayer meeting for a time) ResourceWest, among others. We are continuing to track possibilities for involvement in this complicated community revitalization project. So far our direct involvement has been serving as chaperone for a "teens night out" with movies and snacks, and a similar outing for children and their parents. The outreach coordinator, Alvaro Rivera, is a native of Columbia. Read about him and the project in their [Spring 2010 Newsletter](#).

We can always use volunteers to help out in this community project. Speak up if you'd like to get involved in building relationships and witnessing to the community in which we worship.

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## Music in the Park

The series of seven weekly summer concerts is winding down at Downtown Park in Hopkins. August 5 at 7 pm is the date and time for the last Thursday evening concert, this one by a group called the "Twin Cities Seven." A good opportunity to increase the name recognition of our church, to do some promotion of our Bible study, and to meet people that we wouldn't otherwise come across. Join us if you'd like to be involved in this last concert. Help out with our little Aebleskiver market or just sit and listen and enjoy the early evening cool air.

Have any ideas for outreach in other community events? Let us know.

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## The Star-Spangled Banner

We all know the first verse to this hymn, which became America's national anthem in 1931. Hymn, you say? You call that a hymn? What is a hymn, anyway? The term goes way back. From Homer onward *hymnos* has been a term for a "song in praise of gods, heroes, conquerors," according to one Greek lexicon, but in the Holy Scriptures, it's a "sacred song" focused strictly upon Yahweh, the Holy One.

One might think that this particular song (hymn?) has nothing to do with God. The words were penned by Francis Scott Key, who was born in Maryland in 1780. It was a poem, not connected to any particular music, that he wrote—on the back of an envelope—with the following title: "The Defense of Ft. McHenry." The fort was on the Chesapeake Bay, just outside of Baltimore, one of the strongholds of the Americans during the attacks of the British upon Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in the War of 1812-1814. Most of the first two verses focus upon a particular flag, commissioned for the defense against the British by the commander of

Ft. McHenry. It was 30 x 42 feet in size, thus was visible from afar "gallantly streaming" as the rockets lit up the night sky.

But, the final verse refers to the "heav'n rescued land", praises the "Power that hath made and preserved us a nation," and closes with these words: "And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust!'"

So, a hymn it is, one that gives praise where praise is due—to the Power that protects the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

John Stafford Smith (1750-1836) wrote the tune. Ironically, he was an Englishman. An organist and a musicologist, he wrote the music for the Anacreontic Society, a social club that was named after the sixth century B.C. poet Anacreon, who celebrated the pleasures of love and wine. Similar clubs were also active in America, which probably explains its becoming a popular song in this country.

So we have today a hymn, one which has its roots in American victory in battle, Greek love poetry, and British drinking songs. [*js contributing*]

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## The Hymn in Colossians

The epistle readings throughout July have been taken from the letter to the Colossians. Colossae was a city situated on the Lycus river in what is today Turkey, about fifty miles from the Mediterranean. It was destroyed, most probably, by an earthquake in the 60's. Besides the native Phrygian population there was also an immigrant population of Jews. The Christian congregation there, organized by Epaphras, came to be influenced (negatively) by this religious and cultural milieu. So, a hymn was written into this letter to the Colossian church, a hymn which offers praise to the Messiah and also serves as a credo for the Christian faithful there who had to cope with false teachings and influences surrounding them. Here is the Hymn to Christ found in chapter 1, verses 15-20:

<sup>15</sup> *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* <sup>16</sup> *For by him all things were created: things*

in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Later on in the letter, we find specific admonitions to “see to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends upon human tradition and the basic principles of this world...rather than Christ,” (2:8) and “...do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.” (2:16)

This is most certainly a hymn. Do you know of any musical compositions that use this text as lyrics? Here’s one example, from Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, KY:

<http://www.audioacrobat.com/sa/WhxDdVL4>

## The Stiff-Necked Pick up Stones

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!" (Acts 7:51) Such were some of the many words spoken by Stephen to the members of the Sanhedrin.



Is it any wonder that they soon picked up stones and began throwing them his way? Stephen had been selected as one of seven, who were “known to be full of the Spirit and of wisdom,” to assist in the daily distribution of food. Stephen was a Spirit-filled man. Read his sermon in Acts, chapter 7, the one that led to his quick trial, sentence, and death. Our Acts Bible study continues at Adult Forum time on Sundays.

*(Fresco by Paolo Uccello, c. 1435)*

## Contributing

*trygve hauge, joel smeby*

**Your ideas and contributions** to this newsletter are always welcome.

## Locate Us



Volunteers of America (VOA) building  
**11400 4<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
 Minnetonka, MN 55343  
 (Traveling west on Hwy 7, make a U-turn at Shady Oak Road and take the first right exit)

**4 Shady Oak Road, Suite 6 (upper)**  
 Hopkins, MN 55343-8852  
 (MAILING ADDRESS as of July 1, 2010)

## Contact Us

(952) 217-7908

[info@LutheranCommunityGrace.org](mailto:info@LutheranCommunityGrace.org)  
[LutheranCommunityGrace.net/wordpress](http://LutheranCommunityGrace.net/wordpress)  
[LutheranCommunityGrace.org](http://LutheranCommunityGrace.org)