First Baptist Church

The first Baptist Church of Eagle Lake is organized to proclaim the Word of God, assist in developing Christian Lives, and to share Christ with those who live near and far away. A concern is felt for the total person.

Emphasis is placed on the personal acceptance of Christ as Saviour. The pastor and members are encouraged to share Christ with those who are not Christians.

Proclamation of the Word of God is central in the worship services. Bible study also takes place at Sunday School, week-day Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, and at Backyard Bible Clubs. The Sunday School has the responsibility of Bible Study and enlistment.

Youth ministries are numerous at First Baptist. Many events are planned by the Youth Committee and Youth Minister meeting recreational and social needs, but also including a spiritual dimension. Youth have enjoyed trips to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in New Mexico, Super Summer at Waco, the Texas Baptist Encampment at Palacios and youth retreats at other camps.

Michele Sibley and Leslie Harrison have participated in the Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir. This year Leslie will be joined by Cathy Lanyon and Michael Sibley in All-State Choir.

Social outlets are provided with meals, games parties, volleyball games, Sunday picnics, summer recreation and banquets.

Educational opportunities also are important. An organization called Church Training provides learning opportunities. The church encourages additional education by scholarship help to the members who wish to attend a Baptist college or university. Total scholarship aid was given Gerry Odom to secure seminary training required for missionary service. She now serves as a Southern Baptist Missionary in Taiwan.

Mission knowledge is provided for boys in an organization called Royal Ambassadors and similar training is given to Girls in Action and Acteens. Adults may participate in the Woman's Missionary Society and Baptist Men.

Special growth opportunities are provided periodicly in the form of revivals and seminars aiding in family life, communications, divorce, lay ministries, and friendship evangelism. The pastor also offers counseling services.

Responsibilities are placed with committees of the church. By this means many people of the church can contribute service in areas of special interest.

First Baptist joins with other Baptist Churches in providing hospitals, children's homes, homes for the aging, colleges and universities, and state-home-foreign mission services. The church participates with Christian friends of other denominational persuasions in special seasonal services and other endeavors that can best be done in concert.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

Any organization is only as good as the people who are its leaders, and the First Baptist Church enjoys exceptional leadership and participation from its congregation.

Frank Davidson serves as Sunday School Director and music director; Scott Powers is youth choir director. The church training director is Clark Powers and the Woman's Missionary Union Director is Mrs. Herman Boothe. Brotherhood director is Ted Wiese and William E. Lanyon is Deacon Chairman.

The current Deacon list is Walter Lee Bauer; Herman W. Boothe; Gene Brown; A. Dale Cassady; Domingo Castillo*; Frank Dividson, J. K. DavidsonBellon L. Duncan, A. D. Fudge, Robert M. Griffith, Joe Guerra*, W. H. Harrison, Jr., W. E. Lanyon, O. John Peroni, Clark Powers, Lanny Powers, Orville Powers, Paul Powers, Isabel Ruiz*, Charles L. Spalinger, Melvin Stancik, and Ted Wiese. The Asterisk notes those who serve the Gethsemane Mission.

PASTORS

The current pastor is J. Melburn Sibley who has been serving since 1973; Raymond L. Woodruff, 1969-1973; Richard B. Douglass, 1966-1968; Henry Adrion, III, 1961-1965; Ralph A. Jones, 1957-1961; Joe R. Townsend, 1955-1957; A. J. Pate, 1953-1954; Howard A. Lee, 1951-1953; Albert M. Brown, 1947-1951; Charles L. Culpepper, Jr., 1945-1946; Carel Owen Estes, 1942-1944;

Vernon Yearby, 1941-1942; James H. Landes, 1940-1941; James Reed, 1938-1940; Brunner S. Lee, 1933-1938; Walter E. Rodgers, 1927-1933; D. D. Summerall, 1927; Neil Ellis, 1925-27; George Gathwright, 1923-25; M. A. Phillips, 1921-23; Emmett McLaughlin, 1917-21;

Joseph Albert Stephen, 1912-17; Oscar Ferrell, 1910-12; J. B. Armstrong; W. T. Conner; J. B. Armstrong, Dr. Lloyd, Sam Preston, A. S. Poindexter, E. E. Green, Jeff D. Ray, Q. T. Simpson, and J. B. Armstrong, organizer in 1875.

Renewal Through Revival

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

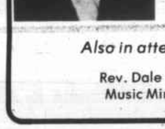
North Lake at East Prairie

April 24 - 27

Services:

10:50 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday

7:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday



Dr. Bob Roberts, Sr.
Evangelist

Also in attendance:

Rev. Dale Pogue
Music Minister

More than 100 years of history

The Missionary Baptist Church of Eagle Lake was organized in 1875 with the Rev. J. B. Armstrong as pastor. The church used a building which also was used as an opera house, school house, dance hall and general meeting house.

A few years later the Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians built a union house of worship.

In 1888 the Baptists completed a building of their own on Church Street at a cost of about $1,500. The Rev. Jeff D. Ray was the pastor. This building was blown down by the storm in 1900 and a smaller one built of the debris.

In 1907 the Church occupied a new brick building at a cost of about $5,100, furnished. It had massive columns of wood and brick at the front entrance, amber glass windows, and elegant pews.

A new building was begun in 1926 under the leadership of Pastor Neil Ellis. This two story brick building with basement was later stuccoed and served the church for 29 years. Property value was placed at $35,000 with this auditorium and educational building. It became evident that a larger facility was needed and a building fund originated in 1950 under the leadership of Pastor A. M. Brown.

The new facility at Prairie Avenue and Lake Street, with all new furnishings and equipment, was dedicated on January 29, 1956, with Dr. Forrest Feezor, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as guest speaker.

The sanctuary has seating for 400 persons with overflow available in the balcony and adjoining hall and adequate educational facilities. The structure is brick with central air conditioning and heating. The Rev. Joe Townsend was pastor and E. H. Shirley and Sam Broyles were co-chairmen of the building committee. The total cost was $143,000.

The past few years have seen major repairs with a new roof, new air conditioning and a new organ. In 1975 the sanctuary was completely renovated. In addition to major remodeling, new pews, stained glass, and new lighting were added and carpet laid throughout. Lorell Dye and Walter Lee Bauer were building chairmen and the Rev. J. M. Sibley, Jr., pastor.

A new parsonage was built by the church in 1981.

In 1931 work with Spanish speaking people was begun by the church and Colorado Baptist Association, which the church joined in 1879. During the pastorate of the Rev. Ralph Jones, the church built and furnished an education building for the mission. An auditorium seating 154 and educational rooms were built for the newly named Gethsemane Baptist Mission, under the leadership of Pastor Henry Adrion, III. In 1973 additional land was acquired for playground and expansion. Some of the land was used as the site of a mission parsonage built in 1978.

The church sponsored a mission at Bonus from 1945 to 1957, when the mission was organized into the Bonus Baptist Church. During these years a mission also was sponsored for a time at Altair.

In 1964 an Opportunity Center was begun under the leadership of Mrs. Carl W. Austin. The objectives are school readiness and Christian teaching. Sewing classes, tutoring, and Bible study also were offered. A Mothers Day Out program has been added with other objectives.

Interest in world-wide missions has been cultivated by six people leaving the church to enter foreign mission service: Ione Buster Stover, The Rev. and Mrs. Charles L. Culpepper, Jr., the Rev. and Mrs. Richard B. Douglass, and Geraldine Odum.

The W. M. U. continues to give mission encouragement through its auxiliaries. Missions also are encouraged by the R. A. chapters reactivated in 1974. Co-Operative Program Support has been strong and mission offerings generous. The church is in harmony with and in support of various programs of the Southern Baptist Convention. Two summer River Ministry trips have provided lay-mission service opportunities. In 1982 Pastor J. M. Sibley, Jr., participated in the Texas Baptist Mission to Brazil.

Beginning in 1951, the church has employed a summer youth worker to offer a variety of programs for young people of our church and community. In 1975 the Day Camp program was added.

The list of pastors includes many outstanding men. In addition to a pastor and summer youth worker, the church employes a Spanish mission pastor, secretary, janitor and nursery workers. Mrs. Clara May Nash has faithfully served as secretary since 1947.

The church is blessed with unusual musical ability. Several musicals have been presented by young people and children. Musical expression with spiritual feeling always has been symptomatic of a church spiritually alive — even if it is 108 years of age.

Festival name suggested by Lila Armstrong

Mrs. Lila Armstrong

Mrs. R. J. (Lila) Armstrong, the winner of the "Name That Fest" contest with her suggestion of "Come April Fest," is a lady who has high hopes for the community and the revitalization efforts.

Mrs. Armstrong said as a community we need to band together to improve the image — new industry could bring in more people to spend money in Eagle Lake. "We need to be proud of our community and give out the word that Eagle Lake is a pretty and clean place to live and raise children," she said.

Mrs. Armstrong was born in Carthage, Missouri and went to school in Houston. She and her husband moved to Eagle Lake in 1959 when he secured employment with Southern Pacific Railroad and they now reside at 803 Church.

Over the years Mrs. Armstrong has been very active in her work as a nurse and in several volunteer efforts. She loved the field of medicine so after her children, Freddie and Michael, were in high school, she applied and was accepted into the Polly Ryon Vocational Nursing School in Richmond. After graduation she worked both at Eagle Lake Community Hospital and the Heritage House Nursing Home.

She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake. She has been the senior vice-presidept and patriotic chairman of the VFW Auxilary. She is currently historian and public relations chairman for the A.A.R.P. and has been among the forces of the dedicated ladies of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) since 1971. Mrs. Armstrong also is a member of the Texas Vocational Nurses League.

When asked how she decided to send in a selection for the contest, Mrs. Armstrong replied that she felt there probably wouldn't be too many entries and she wanted to support the effort.

So, she relaxed in her comfortable chair and began to think. That evening she came up with several possibilities. The next morning while drinking coffee downtown, the perfect idea came to her. She filled in the extra suggestion and mailed her post card with several names for the festival. Lo and behold the "coffee shop entry" was the winner!

Churches combine for KC's

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council No. 4843 of the Knights of Columbus was instituted on August 30, 1959 with Albert Pustejovsky as Grand Knight. State Adjutant Werner Stavinea of Weimar represented the State Council at the Council Institution. The Council was sponsored by the Nada KC Council.

The Knights of Columbus are a very hard working group of men comprised of both the men of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the men of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Churches. Two of their "pet" projects are contributing to the KC's Deaf Fund which supports help for deaf children and the assistance which is given to needy citizens of the community.

To sponsor their various activities the KC's hold bingo once a week, they sell barbecued chicken on the first Sunday every month, and the hold the much enjoyed Las Vegas Nights.

This year's Grand Knight is Darrell Gertson.

Come Out and

ENJOY

Our Las Vegas Nights and Chicken Barbecues

The Knights of Columbus

Eagle Lake Chapter

Masonic Lodge history compiled

This report was compiled by Miss Darlene Stancik, Rice High School student and Miss Dominique Isenhower, Eagle Lake Middle School student. These young ladies spent many hours researching and photographing the Masonic Lodge Building on McCarty Avenue to assist in documenting the revitalization efforts.

In 1872 a group of local Masons organized the first Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge, No 366, AF & AM. The townsite for Eagle Lake had been designated sixteen years earlier, in about 1856. In about 1887 an order was issued incorporating the City of Eagle Lake. In view of these facts, the Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge has played a vital part in the history of Eagle Lake.

The Lodge met in a rented building on the south side of the "square" for about ten years. In 1883, they purchased land and began constructing a building on Main Street located on the south side of the square.

On November 10, 1883 the partially constructed building was destroyed by fire. On November 30, 1883, the Masons met and decided to rebuild the burned structure. The building was finished and the Masons occupied that building for the next twenty-seven years.

With the passing of time and new members becoming active in the Lodge, the Brethren concluded that the old building was no longer adequate. In 1911, a building committee was set up to construct a new building. The committee decided to sell the existing property on Main Street and to relocate.

The Masons purchased land on the west side of the city square on McCarty Avenue from J. Landa, (Colorado County Deed Records - Volume 47) and plans and specifications were drawn up. In August of 1911 the building contract was awarded to G. W. Keith.

All of the newly acquired land was not needed for the building so an adjacent lot was sold to J. Nathan with the stipulation that he erect a brick building not over one story high and that the building not be used for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Keith erected a two-story building, thirty feet wide and eighty feet long. The outer walls are covered with light colored brick. The upper level of the Masonic Lodge building originally had sunlights and windows on every side.

There were four windows on the east side (facing McCarty Avenue). There were nine windows on the south side and on the north side. The west side had three windows.

The upper level of the Masonic Lodge building originally was divided into four rooms. There was a large meeting room, a kitchen, a hall, and a storage room. The stairway was built on the south side of the meeting room.

The interior walls of the building were covered with lapboard and plaster and some walls were covered with wallpaper. The wood floors were covered with a heavy linoleum. The high ceiling was of embossed tin squares of various sizes and patterns with matching tin molding, and painted.

The Masonic Lodge building was completed in early 1912. On April 6, 1912 the Secretary of the Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge wrote the Grand Master for dispensation to move into the new building by May 1, 1912. The first meeting in the new building was held on June 10, 1912.

The Masonic Lodge rented the lower floor of the building to Max M. Landa. In April of 1912, Mr. Landa opened a grocery store, called Max M. Landa Grocery Store. This store was later called Max M. Landa Sanitary Grocery Store and later it was known as Landa's Cash Grocery. The grocery store remained in the Masonic Lodge building until 1918.

In 1919 the grandfather of Herman Boothe, Mr. George E. Boothe, opened a grain store, which was known as the Eagle Lake Grain Company. The grain store remained in the building until 1925.

In 1925 the Central Power and Light Company rented the lower level of the Masonic Lodge building. They are still the tenants in the building today.

In December of 1958 plans and specifications were drawn up by the Central Power and Light Company to completely renovate the lower level of the Masonic Lodge building. In 1959 the renovations were completed.

The lower level of the building now consists of the general office area in the front of the building, 38'x30', a large storage area in the back of the building, 20'x28', and two small offices, an office supply room and two restrooms. The walls are paneled and the floors are covered with tile. The entire front of the building facing McCarty Avenue is of glass. A central air conditioning and heating system also was installed.

In March of 1963, the upper floor of the Masonic Lodge building was remodeled. All of the windows on the east and south were covered. The large meeting room, hall, stairway, and kitchen remain the original size and location, but the small rooms were changed to accomodate a restroom, the heating and cooling units, and a small storage room.

The ceilings in the storage room were lowered to make more room for storage space. The walls in the meeting room were paneled and the remaining walls were plastered and painted.

Some time after the construction of the original building, ceiling fans were installed. These original fans are still hanging in the kitchen area but the fans were removed from the large meeting room when the central air conditioning unit was installed.

In September of 1969 repairs were made to the front awning and the original fire escape was replaced.

In 1972, the most recent remodeling, some of the rooms in the Lodge were repainted and wall-to-wall carpeting was installed.

Shuart & Bendy

Attornies-at-law

Eagle Lake

Salute The Fine Job Done by The Festivals Committee

Where Thrifty Shoppers Shop

Eagle Lake Drugs

Professional

PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

Located in the medical complex

*Have your doctor call, or bring your prescription to us.

*Ample FREE parking

*Many Specials

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Eagle Lake Drugs 234-2502

702 S. McCarty

Grace Lutheran Church: *Rich history, strong future*

Efforts to form a Lutheran congregation in Eagle Lake were made long before the church was actually organized in 1935. From 1903 to 1913 Pastor Karl Roth, who was serving as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Sublime, had a "preaching station" in Eagle Lake. Services were held on a regular basis, sometimes under rather trying circumstances.

It is reported that one time, when the Colorado River was flooding out of its banks, Pastor Roth had to crawl across the railroad bridge on his hands and knees, pushing his valaise in front of him, because the supports for the track had been washed out. Unfortunately, his dedication was evidently not well enough appreciated, because a permanent congregation did not take hold at that time.

Before 1921 several men stopped in Eagle Lake on their way from Seguin to hold services in Wallis. E.A. Sagebiel, Arthur Rode, A. Streng and W.A. Flachmeier all had contact with the few Lutherans who lived in town. In the time period of 1921-1922 it was decided to start a church here, but not much happened.

There was always hope in the hearts of some, however. Mr. Leo Breitkreutz talked with Pastor W.A. Flachmeier of Columbus about the possibility of starting a congregation in Eagle Lake. They found several other Lutherans who were interested in having services. Occasional services were held on week days as Pastor Flachmeier had regularly scheduled services elsewhere on Sundays. Prospects did not look very good as not a lot of interest was shown by a great number of people.

In the June 1932 issue of "The Lutheran Caller," published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Columbus, Texas, Pastor Flachmeier writes: "A way seems to be opening to begin regular services in Eagle Lake. Pastor T.N. Ander, who is retiring, will make his home with his daughter in Wallis. He will try to take over the morning services in Wallis to relieve your pastor for work in Eagle Lake." The Columbus parish at that time consisted of Columbus, Wallis, Mentz and New Bielau.

The October 1932 "Caller" says "Services are being held in Eagle Lake every second and fourth Sunday at 10:30 a.m., since September 11. The start is encouraging." The services were held in the City Hall with Sunday School at 10 a.m. They were conducted in English.

On May 13, 1934 the first adult confirmation class, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Pophanken and Miss Adoline Breitkreutz, was confirmed in Wallis.

The October 1934 "Caller" reports "Eagle Lake has been having its services at eight o'clock in the morning on every second and fourth Sunday since Pastor Ander left Wallis. A small but active group attends. Sunday School is conducted after the services in the main auditorium of the City Hall."

At the beginning, all of the offerings which were received went into a building fund as the young group looked to the future. It would be a long time before they realized a building of their own, however.

The congregation had been worshipping in the auditorium of the City Hall (the old Fire Hall), but it was felt that this was not a very worshipful atmosphere. So, in the spring of 1935 they began worshipping in the Presbyterian Church. Services were held at 7:30 p.m. on the Fridays before the first and third Sundays.

Grace American Lutheran Church of Eagle Lake, Texas was formally organized on July 5, 1935. Some of the Charter Members were Mr. & Mrs. Leo Breitkreutz, Adoline Breitkreutz (Mrs. Lena Parmal, Mr. & Mrs. A.A. Klockman, Mrs. F.T. Kollmann, Mrs. E.F. Michaelis (Mrs. F. Lyle), Mrs. L.G. Payne and Mrs. W.E. Pophanken.

In the spring of 1937 it was no longer possible to have services in the Presbyterian Church so the City Hall was used again for a short while. Then, in February of 1938, the congregation began using the old Methodist Sunday School Building on Lake Street for worship services and Sunday School. Services were still held on a bi-weekly schedule.

The "Lutheran Caller," of May, 1938 read "On Good Friday, Mrs. & Mrs. C.G. Amthor, Mr. Henry Kretzschmar and Mrs. G.F. Harborth were confirmed in Eagle Lake, while Mrs. W. Baumert and Mrs. Alf Marx were confirmed."

At the convention of the Texas District held in Mason, Texas in the Spring of 1939, Grace American Lutheran Church of Eagle Lake was taken into membership in the American Lutheran Church.

Also in the spring of 1939 Pastor Flachmeier of Columbus surrendered Wallis and Eagle Lake to the Texas Mission Committee and Pastor Henry Schliesser of Bellville gave up Cat Spring to the same committee. These three congregations in cooperation with the Texas Mission Committee of the American Lutheran Church issued a call to Pastor Gottlieb F. Wolf of Palmer, Iowa, who accepted the call. In July of 1939 he and his family moved to Eagle Lake into a house the Church rented for $15 per month.

The Methodists were moving into a new building and the Lutherans hoped that they could buy their Sunday School building and move into a new site, but the cost proved prohibitive. On November 22, 1939 admittance was gained to the vacant building of the "First Christian Church" of Eagle Lake. The organ and altar furnishings, as well as the heater of the former Trinity Church of New Bielau, were given to the Eagle Lake mission. The first services were held in the new building on Thanksgiving Day, November 30, 1939.

In July of 1942, Pastor W. A. Flachmeier of Columbus, organizer of the congregation, entered the U.S. Army as a chaplain. In February of 1943 Pastor G. Wolf was called as pastor of the Columbus parish. He accepted this call which led to a realignment of parishes, with Eagle Lake joining the Columbus-Shaw's Bend parish. The Mentz congregation later joined this parish as well.

The Eagle Lake congregation could never get a clear title to the "First Christian" building on the corner of McCarty and Church streets so, in 1947, they purchased the "Seaholm lots" at the corner of Stevenson and Clark Streets for $1,250.

In the fall of 1950 the former Columbus Methodist Church was purchased for $850. It cost $500 to tear the structure down and move the materials to Eagle Lake. The construction of a 30'x50' building was contracted for with Mr. Edwin Hartensteiner of Weimar for $2,600. This job, however, did not include plumbing, painting and electrical wiring.

The original plans were improved to include asbestos siding, sheetrock walls, celetex ceiling and oak floor, thus adding to the total cost. Much of the finishing work was either contracted locally or was done by members of the congregation. Total cost for the building was $7,336.99.

On August 5, 1951 the congregation dedicated its new sanctuary. This was the first building which they could call their own.

In 1956 Pastor Walter Miller was called as the first full-time pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. In anticipation of his coming a parsonage was built. It was during his ministry that an education unit was added on to the sanctuary.

Pastor Miller was followed in service by the Rev. Wayne Landgrebe (1960-62), Rev. Milroy Gregor (1963-67), Rev. Dennis Engler (1967-70), Rev. Charles Meyer (1970-76), Rev. William Ordelt (1967-80) and the present Rev. Paul Krupicka.

Our Mission and Purpose

A statement of our mission and purpose as followers of Jesus Christ, by members of Grace Lutheran Church

Believing that God has called us to be His children through the waters of Holy Baptism; that He has given us a distinct command of mission when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations," and believing that we have a task to perform; do bring forth this statement of purpose and mission.

When we begin to think of our mission as followers of Jesus Christ, we see our work as falling into three areas; worship, study and the world.

In worship, we come together as one body to hear the Word of God proclaimed and applied to our daily Christian life. We unite to receive the forgiveness of our sins, and to share in the grace of God as bestowed on us in Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. In worship, we join together as Christians to praise and glorify our God, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In study, we as Christians continue to grow in our religious knowledge and spiritual understanding. We strongly feel that Christian study is extremely important for both youth and adults. For us, Christian study is the sharing of the gospel, the effect of the saving grace of God on daily living, and how we might better live for and with God. It is for this reason that there are numerous opportunities for Chrisitan study at Grace Lutheran.

Having shared in worship and study, we believe that we as Christians have a mission to the world around us. We believe that we are called to spread the Word of God to all peoples, no matter where they might live. We do this by showing and proclaiming Christ to all people through our own words and deeds; by providing help to those in need; and through our benevolent support of the Lutheran Church.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

Current members of the Grace Lutheran Church Council are Robert Klockman, president; Carol Ripper, treasurer; Weldon Buchhorn, secretary; Clarence Coldewey, Benny Schmidt, Arthur Behrens, and Thurston Webb.

Grace American Luthern Church Women — The ALCW of Grace Lutheran Church is the organization of all confirmed women members of the church. During 1982, this organization met four times to plan and discuss projects done by the Women of the Church.

A few of these activities have been helping with furnishing refreshments for two blood drives; two bake sales to raise money for special projects; sponsorship of the Mother-Daughter Banquet, hosting the birthday party for the month of May at the Heritage House; the annual Thankoffering Worship Service; the new Advent supper; and the furnishing of cookies for the Shiner Home.

A sub-group of the ALCW are the two circles at Grace Lutheran. The Ruth Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Church. The Hope Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church.

Current officers of the ALCW for the 1983-84 year are Paulette Klockman, president, Laura Matthys, vice-president; Charlene Konesheck, secretary, Marie Argo, treasurer, JoAnn Krupicka, education secretary, and Bernice Kochwelp, stewardship secretary.

Those ladies who are responsible for particular aspects of the Altar Guild for 1983-84 are Bernice Kochwelp, Carol Ripper, Marlene Miller, JoAnn Krupicka, and Lena Parma.

Another function graciously accomplished by the ladies of the church is that of supplying music for the services. Current organists are Carol Ripper, Janet Schorlemmer, and Sharon Webb.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS BY HELPING OTHERS

Christmas of 1982 was a very special one for the members of Grace Lutheran Church — they chose to help a needy family and in the end found the glory of the Christmas season through giving.

The Church as a group sponsored a family of seven who had been having a particularly difficult time finding work. The family consisted of the parents and five children.

Once the family was selected, work began to gather together toys, clothes, food and money. The response was overwhelming. On the day before Christmas Eve everything was ready to deliver to the family. Each member of the family had at least one new suit of clothes, toys were wrapped for each child, the families utility bills were paid, and they would receive food for the Christmas season.

The joy on the children's faces and the tears in the parents eyes were all that needed to be expressed to those members who delivered the presents. The true meaning of giving to others and the joy of the Christmas season could not have been more evident than on the day.

Student Essays

The following are essays prepared by two students of the Grace Lutheran Confirmation Classes over the last few years.

THIS I BELIEVE

I believe that God has created all things everywhere. He has given me my body and soul, my limbs and the movements of my body, my reason and all thinking abilities of my mind.

He delivered me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. He did this not with silver and gold, but with his holy and precious blood; and with the way he suffered and died. We are saved from death and claimed by God because of this for eternal life. I believe that God came to me through the Christian Church on earth. Daily he forgives my sins from evil.

I believe on the last day he will come to me and other Christians of the Kingdom of God, and we will be saved. God will bring us into His Kingdom, and we will be in heaven with Jesus.

THIS I BELIEVE

I believe God created this world and everything in it. I believe he gives me everything I need in life. He is all powerful and can do anything he wants at any time. I believe he forgives my sins and that no one else can do that.

I know that Jesus is God's only son and that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born to a virgin, Mary. I believe that Jesus is 100 human, but at the same time 100 God. I know he was crucified under Pontius Pilate and died. He went to hell but defeated death on the third day and rose again.

He went to heaven and sits on God's right hand. He saved me from my sins with his blood so I might live forever with him. I believe that one day he will come back to earth and judge us. All the believers will go to heaven and the non-believers will be sent to hell.

I believe that I can't come to Jesus myself but the Holy Spirit calls me and preserves me in faith. The Holy Spirit forgives my sins and on the last day he will raise me and give me eternal life.

I believe that God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are all equal. They are the Trinity, three in one. All three have equal powers.

I believe the Ten Commandments were given to Moses as laws that we as Christians should follow. I know that we can't follow them all everyday, but Jesus will always forgive us. In every commandment, God not only tells us what we shouldn't do, but what we should do.

I also believe in baptism and that it was commanded by Jesus. I believe baptism is not only water, but water with God's Word. I think that if a person is baptized, he will be saved.

I believe that if I believe in God and live a Christian life, he will grant me eternal life and take me to live with him in heaven.

Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol Him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.
Praise the Lord!
Psalms 117

PSALM 150:1-6
Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his exceeding greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clasing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

During this time of festivity, the members of Grace Lutheran Church (A.L.C.) wish to welcome those who are visiting our community for "Come April Fest". We rejoice that there is a time set aside to show and demonstrate the many gifts and talents which our Almighty God has given to us. And we join with the Psalmist in praising and thanking our Lord for His gift of you.

Grace Lutheran Church
408 Stevenson
Phone 234-3381

Paul Krupicka, Pastor
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.