



## 9:45AM Sundays in Grace Chapel

December 7, 14

### The Brain Fitness Program



If you are 50 years old today, you'll probably live into your mid-eighties. If you live into your mid-eighties, there's a more than even probability that your brain will decline in function before you die. Over 50 neuroscientists have worked to create a system for strengthening the brain and making it perform with more agility, speed and comprehension. *The Brain Fitness Program* is based on the concepts of neuroplasticity – the ability of the

brain to change and adapt and even rewire itself! *The Brain Fitness Program* will help you understand how the brain works and how you can keep your brain fit.

Join Don and Mickey Castor at 9:45 on Sunday mornings in the chapel for these interactive sessions with video, discussion, and developing our own "brain fitness" programs for us as individuals and/or a group.

### Beginning January 11 Biblical Images of Christian Life

Join Pastor Hillmer in Grace Chapel as we look at daily life through the lens of four words: Kerygma, Koinonia, Leitourgia, and Diakonia. All of them present a picture of an aspect of our Christian Faith. Bring your Bibles.

### Thank you ...

- to Pastor Meyer and Mickey & Don Castor for leading the adult forum
- To ALL those who organized and helped with the Fall Festival
- To Mary Ann Hamilton, Mal Kaser, Victoria Rennesund and all those who wrote devotions for our Advent Devotional.
- To all those who contributed to the toiletries collection for the Good Samaritan Mission and especially the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and their teachers who organized the collection.
- To the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes who filled goodie bags for the children at Tampa Early Childhood Center for Halloween. And to Sharon Sammons, Jean Bean and Dorothy for decorating the bags.



This year long Bible study led by Sharon Sammons meets on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00AM in Holmer Hall. They are studying "God's People Have Leaders: Early leaders in the rise of the nation." They are also learning to use many Bible study tools such as a concordance, commentary, Bible dictionary, and Bible Atlas. ALL ARE WELCOME!



**First Steps** First Steps is a group for parents and children under the age of 1 year (more or less). The group meets every two to three weeks on Sunday evenings for fellowship, support, and learning from each other. We'd love to have more families with young children join the group. Call Jodi Frazier for details at 969-1310 or [jodi26mi@hotmail.com](mailto:jodi26mi@hotmail.com). Check the nursery door for meeting dates and times.

### Confirmation

- **Cross Training** is December 7th at 12:30PM in the Chapel.
- **Cross Walk** is on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. We will go Christmas Caroling and then come back to Grace for a Christmas party.



**Time to Clean Out Your Closets!** Do you have **gently worn jackets, sweaters or blankets** just sitting in the closet taking up space? Our Confirmation Class is collecting them for the homeless in response to a recent Sunday school lesson. Clean your gently used items and place them in the receptacles in Holmer Hall by December 21. Our class will make sure they help keep someone warm this winter. Thank you!

### Sunday School Christmas program is December 14<sup>th</sup> at the 11AM Worship Service.

This year's program is "Journey to Bethlehem." It was written and arranged by Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman, recorded and produced by Alan Billingsley.



Rehearsals continue thru December 14 during part of the Sunday school hour. Kim Kearney, our director, will be coming around to the classrooms to practice with the children. Dress rehearsals will be on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30-10AM in the Sanctuary and 9:45AM on Sunday in Holmer Hall. Parents are asked to bring Christmas cookies to celebrate after the service on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Please come  
To a Birthday Party for Jesus!  
On Sunday, December 21, 2008  
At 9:45AM in Holmer Hall**

Everyone is Welcome! For the kids we'll have a birthday party with cake, stories, crafts and games. Adults may enjoy coffee, cake, conversation and maybe even join in the fun with the kids. Come celebrate Jesus' birth with us! All are welcome at Jesus' party!



**Louis Braille's  
Bicentennial Birthday  
Celebration  
January 4, 2009 at 9:45AM  
In Holmer Hall**

Everyone is invited to this special birthday celebration. We're coming together to give thanks for the life of Louis Braille, who was born on January 4, 1809, and whose bicentennial birthday we will honor with fun and educational activities for all.

Sherrill O'Brien, our longtime member who has been blind since birth and who learned to read Braille as a child, will lead this festive event. Sherrill will introduce us to this fascinating inventor of the Braille code, who gave the gift of literacy to blind people throughout the world. And we certainly can't have a party without a special cake!

Kids of all ages can participate in Braille activities, such as writing Braille, and learning about the Braille alphabet. Sherrill will bring lots of interesting Braille stuff, such as her unique computer, Bible, and special storybook to read, called "View From Under the Pew". And we can't forget her guide dog, Merry, who will come to visit everyone that morning! So let's all come together to laugh and learn on a very special January 4!

**The Lutheran Study Bible**

Augsburg Fortress is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of the new Lutheran Study Bible. This exciting new Bible features the NRSV translation as well as introductions, notes, and articles written by over sixty Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians. This resource is designed to invite readers experience the Bible and its message through solid background material, unique Lutheran insights, and opportunities for faith reflection. Reader-friendly, inviting, and engaging, this is the perfect study Bible for both youth and adults who want to encounter Scripture in a fresh and new way! Biblical text is 10 point font; study notes are 7 point font.



- Reader-friendly: With an attractive page layout and easy-to-read study notes, Lutheran Study Bible presents the biblical text in a fresh, approachable format. Plain-language notes assume little to no prior understanding of theological terminology, making it accessible to the youth and adults alike.
- Inviting: The rich study notes of the new Lutheran Study Bible invite discovery, providing helpful background information while actively encouraging the reader to directly engage the biblical text.
- Engaging: The combination of biblical text and study notes enable the reader to learn about the Bible's content and to hear God's Word as it was encountered by people in the Bible as well as how in now encounters us.

Study notes are grouped into four categories:

- The World of the Bible explores the historical, cultural, and geographic background of a particular passage.
- Biblical Concepts explain key words or themes in the context of other parts of Scripture.
- Lutheran Perspectives highlight Lutheran theological insights and catechetical connections drawn from particular passages.
- Faith Reflections provide commentary and questions that encourage life application.

**If pre-ordered as a group of 10 or more, we can get at 35% discount. If you'd like to participate, bring or mail your order and check to the church office by December 21. The release date is March 1, 2009 and they will be shipped to us soon after that.**

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**Order Form for: The Lutheran Study Bible**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Study Bible(s) X \$22.75 = \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "Grace Lutheran Church" and note "Lutheran Study Bible" at the bottom. **We will call you in March when the Bibles arrive.**

Reserve for \_\_\_\_\_(your name) \_\_\_\_\_(phone)