Optional Bulletin Announcements

For

United in Praise

*Group Presentations / After Worship Presentation / all member letter*

**Sunday #1** Have you ever stopped to think what you were before Jesus came and made your heart his home? Have you considered just how fortunate you are that through faith in Jesus, God has made you a new creature in Christ? A pastor once suggested that if you were able to perform the miracle of changing a common earth worm into a majestic eagle which soars high into the heavens, you would have only a faint image of the great transformation God has worked in us by turning us from being slaves to sin and unbelief to being free to serve God now through the faith and salvation he has given us. Surely what he has done for us prompts us to do all we can for him. We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, to do good works. His great gift of faith has transformed us into a new creation and made us a part of his family. Praise God!

This week begins a special time for our congregation. A planning team is organized and letters have been sent out. Each one of us will have the special opportunity to hear how we, who are the transformed children of God, will have opportunity to invest in a special ministry, Great Plains Lutheran High School. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead.

**Sunday #2 – Bulletin announcement for Group Presentations**

We have some truly exciting and challenging opportunities before us as we, [name of church], along with Great Plains Lutheran High School, begin a unique and exciting funding effort for the benefit of God’s people. To help share this information, we have arranged for several group presentations over the next two weeks. We are inviting each of our members to attend one to learn more about this special opportunity at Great Plains Lutheran High School.

Group presentations are scheduled for:

 - list date and time - list date and time - list date and time

Please contact church office (phone #) to RSVP for one of these presentations. This will save us from making phone contact by one of our members – thank you in advance!

**Sunday #2 – Pastor encouragement**

A blessing of being God’s child is that we are members of the King’s family. Stop and think of what that means. Perhaps an analogy would be helpful. Who of us, after having made the basketball team, would respect and appreciate the coach who said, “Now that you are on the team there will be no training rules because they don’t matter; their will be no practices, drills, wind sprints or plays because they won’t make any difference anyway; and there will be no uniforms because there will be no games.” We would likely conclude that this team is really no team at all.

We have not “made” the Christ’s Kingdom as if it were a try-out. We are part of it only because of God’s grace found in Jesus. Yet, we are a part of it, and what we do with those things that are given to us matters greatly. This is the case whether we speak of our bodies, our individual talents, our minds, our money, our time, or whatever else we can count as blessings. We are lavished with a gift that keeps coming to us, 24/7, nonstop. This is all because of God’s grace. And now, we go and share that love with others.

In a few short weeks, there will be a special presentation after our worship service (s) explaining the Great Plains Lutheran High School’s *United in Praise* Capital Campaign. This important, Christ-centered ministry is one that is having a huge impact on the teens in our area/region.

**Sunday #3**

Our upcoming Great Plains Lutheran High School Celebration Sunday is next week. Looking up the definition of the word “celebrate”, we find: ***to say that someone or something is great or important.***

We celebrate our birthdays and say God is Great! Thank you God for creating me and all my abilities, my reasons, all my senses, and for preserving me every day of my life.

We celebrate our many blessings and say God is Great! Thank you God for giving me food, clothing and all my goods, and for richly and daily supplying me with all that I need to support a full life living on this side of heaven.

We celebrate our baptism and say God is Great! Thank you God for making me your child and for the gift of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies and keeps me in the one true faith.

We celebrate Christmas and say God is Great! Thank you God for sending Jesus, who with his holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death, purchased and won me from death and the power of the devil.

We celebrate Easter and say God is Great! Thank you God for the promise of eternal life through our risen Lord.

The GPLHS Celebration Sunday is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. At this time all of us will have the opportunity to respond to a special giving opportunity. Please consider how our Great God has been a blessing in your life. We have reason to celebrate! We stand together as redeemed and forgiven children of our heavenly Father and say . . . God is Great!

**Sunday #4** Today’s service emphasizes Christian education. God is very clear that his desire for all people to grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Christian education is for all people, no matter what their age. Today’s focus, however, is on the Christian education ministry of Great Plains Lutheran High School.

After today’s service there will be a short presentation explaining the Great Plains Lutheran High School capital campaign and how you can invest in this important ministry. Encouragement is given to consider this special giving opportunity.

**Sunday #5** Last week we distributed the brochures explaining the campaign projects for our Great Plains Lutheran High School. If you did not receive one, more are available in the [location]. Please prayerfully consider sharing a portion of what God has given you by making a gift or pledge in support of Great Plains Lutheran High School’s special project. Envelopes may be mailed directly to GPL, or returned in the offering plate here at church where they will be forwarded. If you have any questions, please contact [Congregation Coordinator Name] at [Phone #]. Finally we thank everyone who helped with this effort here at [congregation name].

**Month or two out: (Bulleting & Newsletter Announcement; data supplied by GPL)**

During the last quarter, our congregation was blessed to participate in the capital campaign effort throughout the Great Plains Lutheran High School Association. The Lord has certainly blessed this effort, and we wanted to share a few results with our members.

As of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, over [amount] has been pledged to Great Plains Lutheran High School, with [$ amount] coming from members in our congregation. We are thankful for those who have already given gifts to this special ministry. If you should wish to join us here at [congregation name] in support of this ministry, please contact [www.gplhs.org](http://www.gplhs.org) or call 605-886-0672.