

Grace in Appleton is Busy Reaching Out and Doing Mission!

In an effort to reach out to community children, we've initiated **Spark Story Time** and **West High Grilled Cheese Lunches**.

Spark Story Time is aimed at Lincoln Elementary School children who are part of the summer YMCA after school program. A staff person escorts children who have registered over to Grace. He or she remains with the children during the program, 12:15 to 12:45. Pastor Judy Deckert reads stories from the Spark Bible. Her dates are: June 19, July 10, July 17. Haley Fens will read to the children July 26. She is a member of Grace and is an education major.

West High Grilled Cheese Lunches are an every Thursday event enjoyed by young and old alike. Appleton West students who have off-campus privileges walk over to nearby Grace Church for a free lunch. About 75 'Cheesers' enjoy made-to-order grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup. In addition, they get pickles, oyster crackers and brownies, washed down with 'red stuff' or apple juice. Donations help support the program. A basket is set out, as well, for donations to 'help feed more.

A faithful group of 'Kitchen Wizards' prepare the meal. For a congregation with few young people, it's a great way of connecting the generations. Between the 'Cheesers' and the 'Wizards', it's a toss-up as to who is feeding whom and who's having more fun!

Recently, as 'Cheese Louise' was flipping sandwiches, a boy who was waiting expressed his thanks. She said to him: "You can help us too." The boy said, "How?" Joyce (her real name) said, "Just do well in school!" When asked how he got so tall, another boy replied, "It's the grilled cheese!"

A buzz word for the lunchtime is: 'Cheeses with Jesus.' The young people who come made it up. Principally, Grace provides a safe place for youth to gather, eat lunch off-campus and share in the spirit of Grace. We've been showered with abundant blessings so we can bless our youthful neighbors. We are not out to convert them, proselytize or 'sign them on the dotted line as members.' We simply offer them the 'Bread of Life', slightly grilled and oozing with 'Cheesus.'