

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

www.gracelutherantomahawk.org

Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships

DECEMBER 17 & 18, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (through Memorial Day)
Saturday – 5:00 pm **Sunday** - 8:30 am & 10:45 am

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve, December 24 – 4:00, 6:00, & 10:00 pm
Christmas Day, December 25 – 10:00 am

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY go out to the family of Edith Olsen who died December 3. Edith was the mother of Larry (Jan) Hagen. May they be comforted with the hope of eternal life.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY go out to the family of Diane Kincaid who died on Saturday, December 10. Diane was the mother of Ken (Deb) Kincaid and grandmother of James Kincaid. May they be comforted with hope of eternal life.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!! Hope Peace Joy Love – gifts to be shared! The Sunday School children let their lights shine by sharing the Sundays of Advent in the Christmas program, *Lighting the Way*. How good it is for all of us to be reminded through song and God's spoken Word that ***Jesus is the Light and the Way!*** Thank you, children!



Thank you to the Sunday School Team for teaching, directing, and preparing the children for this moving presentation. Much gratitude to Therese Hesse and Karen Torkelson for all your important work behind the scenes. And let's not forget our many dedicated parents, who transported, encouraged and helped in preparation of the children for this wonderful day.

Sunday School Christmas Team

Music: Laurie Schmidt and Sherry Clements

Teachers: Melissa Hafeman, Kimberly Gibeault, Brita Liebelt, Renee Loka, Laurel Reinke, Cindy Storm, Jessie Stromberg, Heather Tobias, Faye Witulski

Youth Shepherds: Megan Miles, Serena Reinke, Allison Schmidt, Martin Schmit, Brynne Stefan, Ellie Witulski, Grace Witulski

Rehearsal Meal Coordinator: Shirley Derleth

Director of Sunday School: Patti Gaedtke

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE HANDBELL CHOIR!



Cindy Blair

Ann Hussong

Sandy Wick

Christine Brown

Deb Narloch

Gail Wilson

Connor Brown

Sara Reiff

Therese Hesse

Carol Sparr

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AND FUND GRANT REQUESTS must be turned in by December 31st. See the yellow insert for details.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE – YOU ARE NEEDED!

Please give prayerful consideration to serve in the worship ministries on Christmas. What a great opportunity this is, to serve Jesus on His birthday! You can sign-up on the board in the Gathering Area or go to our website, www.gracelutherantomahawk.org, and scroll down to: **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES – SIGN-UP GENIUS**. Services are: Dec. 24th, 4:00, 6:00, and 10:00 pm, Dec. 25th, 10:00 am.

CHRISTMAS WITH FRIENDS! Don't be alone on Christmas. Spend it with us at Grace Lutheran! **If you need a meal delivered, we can do that.** The dinner will be served at the church from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, with deliveries taking place beginning at about 11 am. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling Debbie at the church office, [\(715\) 453-4066](tel:7154534066). Please indicate to Debbie whether you will be dining at the church or have your meal delivered.

ANNUAL MEETING—JANUARY 29, 2016

Grace Lutheran's annual meeting will take place Sunday, January 29, 2017 at **9:30 am**. A potluck brunch will follow the meeting. Please note that the meeting is on **Sunday morning**.

- Attention Committees and Groups! It is never too early to prepare your reports for the Annual Meeting. **Please send your completed Annual Meeting report to the office on or before the deadline which is January 13, 2016.** Emailed reports will be especially appreciated!
Email address – dhetzel@gracetomahawk.org
- Annual Report Format
 1. What did we accomplish this year?
 2. What remains to be done?
 3. What did we learn?
 4. What are next year's goals?

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU to Leanne Setlak, the top bidder for the lovely Christmas quilt that was donated to the Cookie Walk/Craft Sale.

NEW OFFICE PHONES have been installed! You will notice a difference when you call. You are able to leave voicemail for Pastor, Wendy, Debbie, or Sarah individually. You also have the option to listen to the worship schedule only. Our former phones are 20 plus years old, but are still usable. If you can use these please call the church office (715) 453-4066.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM SUMMARY—Grace was once again blessed by many Thrivent Action Teams this past year. We'd like to print a summary of those teams. If you're willing to share your information, please contact the church office (715) 453-0466 or dhetsel@gracetomahawk.org with a short title of the projects you used your Action Team benefit for this year. Thank you for encouraging generosity with a Thrivent Action Team! *If you are a Thrivent member and haven't used your Action Teams for this year, please contact the church office if you are willing to make them available. Thank you.*

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2017 are available in the Gathering Area!!!

SPECIAL OFFERING IN DECEMBER YAGM!

December 1 is the opening day to apply to the ELCA "Young Adults in Global Mission." This is one of the fastest growing and most effective ministries of our ELCA. Each year more than seventy young adults ages 21-29 are chosen from the applicants to be immersed into the life and culture of a different country serving in the name of Jesus. This program and ministry is especially close to us at Grace since Lekubu Parish has hosted two young men, one from Montana in 2013-14 and one from Michigan in 2015-16. Both of these worked in Lekubu's Early Learning Center and lived in the "round house" next to the parsonage on the grounds of Lekubu Lutheran Church. Pastor Jack and Mosa Kgari, the Director of the Creche or Early Learning Center, who visited us this summer spoke highly of these young men and their work and experience. For more information on YAGM see the newsletter.

TOMAHAWK EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Food Pantry is currently in need of **tuna, cooking oil, soups, corn flakes, jelly, toilet paper, and laundry soaps.** Please place in the food pantry box in the Gathering Area. Thank you very much!
Bill & Carol Sparr, Coordinators

OFFERINGS RECEIVED DECEMBER 31/JANUARY 1 will be credited for the 2017 year. If you want your offerings credited to the 2016 year, please bring them the weekend of Christmas - December 24 & 25.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER— Long ago the prophet Jeremiah wrote, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9). We only have to look within to acknowledge that Jeremiah's statement is still true today. Fortunately, we have One Who does understand it. Beyond that, we have One Who sympathizes with us in our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). So deeply does He sympathize with us that He came to us in human form in order to provide the cure for those weaknesses – our sins – in His body on the Cross. As Christ gave Himself for us, let us give ourselves in service to Him.

Our Financial Picture 2016	Needed for Monthly Budget	Nov. 2016 Receipts	Difference
General Fund	\$30,858	\$24,267	(\$6,952)
Building Fund	\$5,076	\$9712	\$4,636
Total	\$35,934	\$33,979	(\$1,955)

Weekly Financial News
 General Fund: \$5,489.10
 Noisy Collection: \$53.84
 Attendance: 337

Year – To - Date	Needed for Monthly Budget	2016	Difference
General Fund	\$339,440	\$303,242	(\$36,198)
Building Fund	\$58,540	\$61,602	3,062
Total	\$397,980	\$364,845	(\$33,136)

For more information or details on the Financial Report, please contact Sherry Clements, Financial Reporter.

**Adjusted Budget" includes reduction in mortgage payment on 4/1/16 (Monthly mortgage payment reduced from \$5,977.89/mo to \$5,075.80/mo resulting in annual reduction of \$902.09/mo X 9 months + \$8,118.81.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR 2017—Plans are currently being made to select the monthly special offering designations for next year for each month. If there is a ministry that you would like to suggest for consideration, please submit a Special Benevolence Request Form. Forms are available in the church office. The Stewardship Committee strives to offer a variety of outreach opportunities that may speak to "where your heart is." If you have questions, please contact a Stewardship Committee member: Sherry Clements, Shirley Derleth, Lori Winch.

