

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships

www.gracelutherantomahawk.org

DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (through Memorial Day)

Saturday – 5:00 pm **Sunday** - 8:30 am & 10:45 am

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY go out to the family of Dan Baus who died November 24. Dan was the husband of Dawn (LaNou) Baus. His funeral was at Grace on Wednesday. May they be comforted with the hope of eternal life.

THANK YOU ABUNDANTLY to all who planned and arranged the many details of the trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art, this past Friday, to view the Luther display. The bus, schedule, and fellowship was great besides the exhibit itself! What an amazing experience of being, experiencing and learning church!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY/ORNAMENT MAKING – THIS SUNDAY – DEC. 4

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to our annual youth Christmas party. Please bring an inexpensive gift (less than \$5) or a white elephant gift for the gift exchange game. **Come any time between 12:00 – 6:00 PM, this Sunday, Dec. 4.** Please call Margie at (715) 453-5797, or text her at (715) 966-5497 and let us know if you CAN or CANNOT attend. Bring a friend or three!

FAIR TRADE THIS WEEKEND! —Our Fair Trade Team once again has a great Christmas idea for you! Give Fair Trade products! We've put together gift baskets with a variety of coffees, teas, and chocolates for you to give as gifts this Christmas. The baskets, along with our regular supply of Fair Trade products, will be for sale this weekend and at the Cookie Walk in a few weeks. When you buy Fair Trade products, it's like giving two gifts this Christmas! As always, no one is profiting from the sales of Fair Trade items except the farmers and their families. Remember, you may also purchase Fair Trade products through the church office or any time you see a member of the Fair Trade Ministry Team (Margie Welke, Cathy Schmit, Patti Gaedtke, Sherry Clements, and Nancy Kind.) **THANK YOU** for your continued support of this valuable outreach ministry!

IT WILL BE HERE SOON! — Saturday, Dec. 10th is our annual **Cookie Walk, Lefse, and Craft Sale!** The doors to the craft sale open at 8:30 am, and the doors to the Cookie Walk open at 9:30 am. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area so stop by and take a look. If you want lefse it must be pre-ordered. Prices remain the same as last year \$6.00/pkg of 3 for lefse and \$7.00/lb for cookies. Funds raised will be designated to Kitchen Renovation Fund, Debt Retirement Fund, some towards ground keeping, and an update to the "Confirmation" hallway. There are opportunities to buy ingredients for lefse, help make lefse, create and donate a craft, bake for the Cookie Walk, or work on event day. All helping hands are appreciated. Feel free to contact Julie Dentler (715) 453-4970 with any questions.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – DECEMBER 10 & 11 – ALL SERVICES—Bring your family and friends!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – DECEMBER 17 AT 5:00 PM

Our Sunday School teachers and children have been busy preparing for the Christmas program. Everyone is invited to attend! **There will be no Sunday School on December 18.**

QUILT AUCTION—An anonymous donor has provided a beautiful Christmas quilt for the Cookie Walk/Craft Sale. This quilt will be displayed in the Gathering Space until December 13 with a sign-up sheet for silent bidding. Deadline for bidding will be noon on Tuesday, December 13. This masterpiece is 64" x 64" and would be a lovely gift for someone - or for yourself!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Nearly four years have passed since our last "Driving Down the Debt" (D3) Dinner & Auction. Over \$7,000 was raised at this festive, entertaining event and applied to the principal of our building debt. In **February 2017**, just, three months away, we will again honor our beautiful 'new' (twelve-year old) facility with another dinner/auction event. The initial planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge. We welcome all people interested in helping to plan this festive event. If you have questions, please contact Sherry Clements at 453-5615 or Karen Torkelson at 612-8675. *In the near future, we will again ask for donations for this auction. You may want to keep this in mind as you shop the great sales offered over the holiday season. You never know when you'll come across a great idea for an auction/ticket item.*

FIRST WEDNESDAY WORSHIP—On the first Wednesday of every month, at 7:00 pm, we hold a worship service as part of our Confirmation program. Students participate in the various leadership roles, assisted by mentors and parents. Music is led by part of the Contemporary Choir. Please join us for this alternative service time and worship format. All are welcome. **December's First Wednesday Worship has been moved to December 14.**

LOST AND FOUND—All lost/found items will be tagged and dated. After 30 days any items remaining will be donated/removed. See the coat rack in the Gathering Space for lost/found items.

SHARE THE CARE WORKSHOP – MEMORY LOSS

Are you a person with memory loss, Alzheimer’s or dementia? Do you know someone who is? Are you a care partner, family member or friend? Share the Care of Wisconsin and Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers (TAIV) are partnering together to help those with memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer’s stay in their home as long as possible with the help of family, friends, neighbors, and volunteers. **Everyone is invited to this workshop on December 14, 2016, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.** Please sign up by calling or texting (715) 651-2120, or email joan.litwitz@gwaar.org. There will be lunch, holiday goodies and fellowship. For more information, see the flyers in the Gathering Area.

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 dhetzel@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.*

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.

PAT ANDERSON SENDS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL!

Pat, a member of Grace, has recently relocated to New York. If you would like to send Pat a card, here is her address: 65 Lock St., Apt 205, Clyde, NY 14433.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER—Again we come to the time of year when we mark the great miracle of Christ becoming one of us. The Apostle John wrote, *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (John 1:14a). Jesus came to Earth; He bore humiliation and ridicule; He died that we might live; He was raised that we, too, might rise again and live forever with Him. *“And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace”* (John 1:16). How can we thank Him but to give ourselves and our lives in service to Him!

Our Financial Picture 2016	Needed for Monthly Budget	Oct. 2016 Receipts	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund	\$30,858	\$37,128	\$6,270
Building Fund	\$5,076	\$5,926	\$850
Total	\$35,934	\$43,054	\$7,120

Weekly Financial News General Fund: \$4,027.00 Noisy Collection: \$48.04 Attendance: 219
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Year – To - Date	Needed for Monthly Budget	2016	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund	\$308,582	\$278,976	(\$29,606)
Building Fund	\$53,464	\$51,890	(\$1,574)
Total	\$362,046	\$330,866	(\$31,180)

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

