

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

January 9 & 10, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY go out the family of Mike (Nancy Pertmer). Mike's mom Darline passed away on December 30th. May they be comforted with hope of eternal life.

FLOWERS TODAY are in honor of the Baptism of Serena Reinke from her family.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR STORY Please consider sharing a short faith story for our upcoming **Lenten Devotional** booklet. Many of you may remember the devotional booklet we made 10 years ago as we moved into the new sanctuary and how meaningful that was for everyone. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space for all the days of Lent. Some have suggested Bible passages to base your story on, other days are "you choose" a Bible passage. So choose a day, write you name in, and take the corresponding instruction sheet from the yellow file box (Bible passages are printed on the sheets). Thanks to those who have already signed up! **Deadline has been extended to January 25.**

ANNUAL MEETING—JANUARY 20, 2016

Grace Lutheran's annual meeting will take place Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at **6:30 pm**.

A potluck meal precedes the meeting at **5:15 pm**. (Come when you can!)

Attention Committees and Groups! It's 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 was January 7, 2015. 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?

FIRST COMMUNION 2016 preparation begins on January 17th! Any baptized child showing desire to receive Jesus in Holy Communion is welcome to come to First Communion preparation! Please talk with Pastor Mark if you have questions about your child's readiness for Holy Communion.

Two options for First Communion:

- A) Three sessions on Sunday mornings, from 9:40-10:40 am in the youth room on **January 17, 24, and 31**.
- B) Onetime retreat format on **Sunday, January 31**, from 4:00-7:30 pm. It is important for parents to also attend. We appreciate your announcing your plans to the Church Office so that we can be prepared for your attendance. Planned time to receive First Communion is Transfiguration Sunday, February 7 at 8:30.

Which children/youth?

- **Fifth grade** is recognized as a natural time for preparing for Holy Communion. Children begin thinking about sin and death at this age and are able to understand concepts and actions taught in this preparation.
- **Younger children** showing desire to receive Communion are welcome to come to this preparation! God's grace and children are indefinable mysteries. Anyone baptized is welcome at the Lord's Table. All we ask is to have this preparatory conversation before their First Communion.
- **Older children and youth or adults** who have not received this preparatory teaching are urged to come! God's grace is too amazing to miss. Please contact the pastors or the Church Office if you think this may not fit you or if you have questions

Must parents come along?

It is crucial for parents to attend with all children and youth up to 16 years old. Godparents and grandparents may also attend and/or substitute when parents have work conflicts. Incorporating forgiveness and rituals of forgiveness is a key part of this preparatory conversation.

LENTEN SOUP MEALS—Soup, soup, **wonderful soup!!** It is time once again to start planning for six weeks of Lenten soup meals. **With your help**, Grace will be serving soup meals during Lent. Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb 10, two meals will be served every Wednesday – **lunch starting at 11:30** and **supper at 5:30**. Please prayerfully consider your role and how you can help. Help is needed in many different ways: by making your favorite soup, helping in the kitchen, or providing needed supplies. The sign-up sheets are located in the Gathering Area. Thank you from the Fellowship Committee

SENIOR GRADUATION MILESTONE – SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 – 6:00 PM

Attention high school Senior and parents! Please save the date for this upcoming milestone. This milestone will follow the 5:00 pm worship on January 16. See Margie Welke for more details.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY—Tuesday morning Bible Study resumed last Tuesday at 9:30 am picking up in Chapter 6, "Is there a Center to Scripture" in "*Making Sense of Scripture*."

TUESDAY EVENING ADULT EDUCATION—The Gospel of Luke will be the subject of our Tuesday evening adult education beginning January 12. The study guide, by David Tiede, former Luther Seminary president, will serve as the reference for the fourteen sessions. Cost of the guide is ten dollars. Join us from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Tuesday evenings beginning January 12 for an hour of discussion and challenge. Coffee and cookies provided.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES are available in the Gathering Area for \$20. These are NRSV versions and include maps, subject guide, Bible reading plan and more. Get one for yourself or for a gift.

MEMORY TREE ORNAMENTS – Please pick up your ornaments, you can find them on the tree.

IF YOU ARE IN THE HOSPITAL—If you or a loved one are hospitalized, PLEASE call the church office (or have someone call on your behalf) and let us know which hospital you are at. Even though hospital personnel may ask if you want your church notified, THEY VERY SELDOM call us. We always want to know if you are hospitalized and make those visits top priority.

GRACE’S GIFT CATALOG – An immediate identified need is a riding tractor for snow plowing (mower for the spring). Estimated cost is \$4,500. Donations can be given in memory/honor of someone or a special donation. We all appreciate the work our PPP men do for us. Let’s help give them the tools they need. Thank you.

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Gathering Area. Please take yours home and begin using them in 2016. If you do not see your envelopes, please call the church office at 715 453-4066.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available in the Gathering Space.

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING—HAVEN

HAVEN, Inc., located in Merrill, serves victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, elder abuse, and human trafficking. The services available include a 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, community education, and information and referrals. We are able to shelter six families and have a 24-bed shelter. The length of sheltering depends on each individual’s situation. Funding sources include grants, foundations, and private and corporate donations. We host numerous fundraising events to supplement the budget. Thank you for your support!

| Our Financial Picture 2015 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| December | General Fund | Building Fund | Total |
| Budgeted Expenses per month | \$28,817.07 | \$5,977.92 | \$34,794.99 |
| Offerings received for month | \$40,653.38 | \$5,246.00 | \$45,899.38 |
| Actual Budget Expenditures | \$32,426.63 | \$5,977.99 | \$38,404.62 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | 8,226.75 | (\$731.99) | \$7,494.76 |

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| Weekly Financial News General Fund: \$12,734.25 Noisy Collection: \$44.81 Attendance: 223 |
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| Year-to-Date 2015 | General Fund | Building Fund | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Budgeted Expenses YTD | \$345,804.86 | \$71,735.00 | \$417,539.86 |
| Offerings received YTD | \$351,738.18 | \$55,265.34 | \$407,003.52 |
| Actual Budget Expenditures YTD | \$336,542.13 | \$71,734.78 | \$408,276.91 |
| Surplus (Deficit) YTD | \$15,196.05 | (\$16,469.44) | (\$1,273.39) |

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| Tomahawk Food Pantry needs: Pancake Mix - Tomato soup Beef Stew (<i>in a can</i>) Cooking Oil - Sugar Spam Drop off anytime in the box in the Gathering Space. |
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STEWARDSHIP CORNER—Our relationship with Christ makes it possible for us to be content in all circumstances. Without Christ we will never be satisfied. We are, by nature, people who have insatiable appetites for more things, success, and power. A relationship with Christ quenches our worldly appetites and brings about a redirection of interests to eternal things. We become willing to accept God’s will and learn to be satisfied with what God gives us. Contentment, therefore, comes from God and not from things. We can remain content even in the absence of material things.

2016 CONGREGATION TRIP – progress report: 23 signed up!

Cross+generational fellowship is among the top priorities at Grace. Such an experience is being planned for July 22-31, 2016. Choose the comfortable accommodations of Christikon Bible Camp or the scenic backcountry of the Beartooth/Absaroka Wilderness in southern Montana. \$25 (refundable)/family – reserves a spot for you or your family. **See brochure and registration slip in Gathering Space.**

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3 committed / 6 spots remaining | Christikon’s LODGE – <i>private bedroom with shared bathroom</i> |
| 1 committed / no limit | Christikon’s backcountry experience – <i>for youth only</i> (10-12 th grade) |
| 8 committed / no limit | “Reunion” Backcountry Group |
| 11 committed / no limit | 9th Grade group – parents & youth |
| 2 considering / 6 spots remaining | Christikon’s CABIN – <i>8 bunks in a room with connected restroom/shower</i> |
| 0 considering / 16 spots possible | Halftime each in Christikon’s CABIN & with Backcountry Group |

TOMAHAWK WARMING CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Shifts will be 7:00pm to 11:00pm, 11:00pm to 3:00am, and the final shift 3:00 to shortly after 7:00am to prepare for the 7:00pm shift that evening. New people will be paired with a trained partner. The shelter will be open from 7 PM to 7 AM, beginning the week of January 8, and will be located above Bambinos, entering from the alley next to City Hall. It will work closely with Our Sisters’ House which also needs volunteers. OSH has a 90-day limit and requirements to live there. TWC is an overnight shelter.

RECEIPTS/REIMBURSEMENTS FOR PURCHASES FOR CHURCH

Please, remember when turning in receipts to church:

1. Your name (person turning in receipt)
2. What the charge or receipt is for (Event or Fundraiser)
3. Ministry to which this amount should be charged

There are envelopes in the Treasurer's box that you may use that list the above items. Thank you!

NEW YEAR - NEW EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS!

Don't forget to fill out an **Event/Fundraiser form**. This form is needed to get your event or fundraiser started.

TEMPLE TALKS – SPECIAL MUSIC

Please use the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside the office if you would like to do either of these things.

