

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

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Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships

JANUARY 13 & 14, 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (through Memorial Day)

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

THANK YOU - Romans 1:8 ... I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you ... (NLT)

The **Christmas with Friends Community Dinner** experienced great success again this year due to the wonderful hearts of all of you in the congregation and community. Fifty-five people came together to help in so many ways to reach out to those people who would have otherwise been alone. We were able to serve about 100 people at church and delivered about 125 dinners out into the community. Thank you to all who prayed for this ministry, donated money, or volunteered time out of your Christmas Day to cook, serve, clean, or deliver. We appreciate all that you did to make this day special and meaningful to so many!

A BIG THANK YOU to Phyllis Heikkinen for all the prayer shawls she has sent to us from Florida!!!

Phyllis moved to Florida some years ago, but has remained an active member nonetheless. We appreciate your “busy needles” Phyllis!

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING – TUESDAY – JANUARY 24 – 1:00 PM

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES BEGINS – THIS WEEK, JANUARY 17

- **9:30 AM** - “From Heretic to Hero” – 20 minute video on Luther’s time in the Wartburg Castle and his reasons to risk returning to the University at Wittenberg.
- **7:00 PM** – We will begin the study on Job and “Stars beneath Us.” Mark Gaedtke will lead this using Dick Huntoon’s notes. Dick was very passionate about this study. His notes are extensive and filled with enthusiasm for the connection of science and faith in Job and which Dr. Paul Wallace embraces in “Stars beneath Us.”

JANUARY IS YOUNG ADULT MONTH AT GRACE

- **Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)** at all worship services **January 21-22**. YAGM, for ages 21-29, is the fastest growing and one of the most effective programs in the ELCA. Applications are received from Dec. 1 – Feb 15. Joshua Armstrong is preaching on his experience in Lekubu Parish from September 2015 – August 2016. The ELCA hired him, after his experience, to travel to congregations to tell his story.
- **YAGM IN LEKUBU AND FROM WAUSAU- COME AND HEAR**
Saturday, January 21, 2:00 PM at Immanuel in Wausau, 630 Adams St.
This is a first-hand opportunity to learn about the wonderful ELCA program for Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) from two young men who completed their YAGM year of service in 2016. Joshua Armstrong served in the Madikwe Circuit of South Africa at Lekubu Parish and is currently hired by the ELCA to share his experience on behalf of the YAGM program. Jonathan Ecker, a Wausau native will also share his experience, having served in Uruguay. The YAGM program is for young adults 21-29 years old, who are interested in giving service to their church.

CONSTITUTION CHANGES FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Copies of the Grace Lutheran Constitution with the proposed Constitution changes are in the Gathering Space. Contact the church office if you want an electronic copy of this. These are the changes made at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, reviewed by Grace’s Constitution Committee and recommended by Grace’s Church Council. A summary of the changes was included in the January 2017 newsletter

REV. CLAY SCHMIT will be installed at 9:00am on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church located at 1410 Rogers St., Stevens Point. Pastor Schmit comes to us from the South Carolina Synod and was Provost at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, SC prior to his call at Trinity. We welcome him and pray for he and his family as they transition here to start his ministry with the good people of Trinity Lutheran Church. clayschmit@gmail.com

FAMILY FUN DAY—JANUARY 29, 2017—CAMP FOREST SPRING

Bring the whole family to Camp Forest Springs on January 29 at 12:00 noon or later! All are welcome! There will be downhill skiing, cross-county skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, tubing, and lots of fresh air. Join us and invite all your friends.

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 AND there will be no 10:45 worship. The deadline to turn in your Annual Report was Friday, January 13. **Anyone that has not yet submitted their report must do so by Monday, January 16 in order for it to be included in the prepared report or on the agenda.** Late submissions may be handed out at the meeting by the committee or group submitting the report.

PLEASE PICK UP your Memory Tree Ornaments.

HYMNALS—Inspired by this year’s emphasis on worship and praising God, the Worship Committee wishes to pursue use of the cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Hymnal to bring new opportunities to enhance our worship. You can sponsor a hymnal for \$22.50. If you wish your gift to be in memory or honor of someone, please indicate that on your envelope. This information will be shown on a book tag on the hymnal’s inside cover.

SPECIAL OFFERING IN JANUARY – LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES’ PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

At the request of LSS our Church Council has designated this offering for LSS’s “Transitions II Start-Up Fund”, except for funds designated for other LSS ministries. Last year the WI Department of Children and Families contracted with LSS to treat ten girls caught in the web of human trafficking. LSS redeveloped a LSS-owned building for this purpose called Transitions I. That property has a second unit that can accommodate twelve girls which will be Transitions II. By adding Transitions II LSS will have a unique, secure, female-only campus specifically dedicated to serving victims of human trafficking.

As you are hearing each week, LSS has many ministries. Human trafficking is an unfortunate need in Wisconsin right now and which our state is contracting with LSS to address. Adoption is another ministry in which LSS is one of the leaders in Wisconsin. You may designate your LSS Special Offering to the area that is of special importance to you.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2017 are available in the Gathering Area!!!
CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are also available!
Please pick them up.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Rev. David Platt mentions in his book, *Radical*, that he often asks members of his church whether or not they are “receivers” or “reproducers of God’s Word.” He says that we are by nature receivers because we listen from a default self-centered mind-set that is always asking “What can I get out of this?” What if we changed the question whenever we gather to hear and learn God’s Word to, “How can I listen to His Word so that I am equipped to teach this Word to others?” When we realize we have the responsibility to teach the Word, it changes everything about how we hear the Word. May God grant us the passion to share His Word with all people.

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE 2016

	Dec. 2016	Needed for	RECEIPTS	ACTUAL	RECEIPTS
<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Adjusted Budget**</u>	<u>vs BUDGET</u>	<u>SPENDING</u>	<u>vs SPENDING</u>
General Fund	\$38,877	\$30,858	\$8,018	\$39,557	(\$681)
Building Fund	\$4,355	\$5,076	(\$721)	\$5,076	(\$721)
Total	\$43,232	\$35,934	\$7,298	\$44,633	(\$1,402)

Weekly Financial News
 General Fund: \$6,436.72
 Noisy Collection: \$75.97
 Attendance: 278

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

	YTD	YTD	Adjusted	YTD	YTD
<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Needed for</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
				<u>SPENDING</u>	<u>vs SPENDING</u>
General Fund	\$342,119	\$370,298	(\$28,179)	\$334,087	\$8,032
Building Fund	\$65,957	\$63,616	\$2,342	\$63,616	\$2,341
Total	\$408,077	\$433,914	(\$25,838)	\$397,703	\$10,373

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.

SHARE THE CARE: STAY INDEPENDENT, SAFE, SOCIAL AND ACTIVE!

When: Tuesday, January 24 **Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM **Where:** Grace Lutheran Church–Tomahawk

- What is Share The Care?
- Understanding wants needs and desires to remain independent and safe.
- Who is your care circle and how to ask for help
- What is dementia specific assistive/adaptive technology?
- How Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers (TAIV) can help.
- Remain active programs; education, support groups, mind movers, dance & exercise routines
- Equipment display, snacks and fellowship!

RSVP’s appreciated. See below.

Joan Litwitz, Share The Care Project Coordinator

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