

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

January 16 & 17, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Annual Meeting—See the insert in this bulletin for more information.

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 your 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.**

If you have signed up to be part of this booklet, please turn in your items as soon as possible.

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

This milestone will follow the 5:00 pm worship on January 16.

FIRST COMMUNION 2016 preparation begins this Sunday, 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:

- Three sessions on Sunday mornings, from 9:40-10:40 am in the youth room on **January 17, 24, and 31.**
- 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.

CAMP FOREST SPRINGS annual Winter Community Day trip January 31st. Youth and adults come and enjoy a day of downhill skiing, snowboarding, tubing, cross country skiing and ice skating at Camp Forest Springs. Rentals are available for all equipment or bring your own. Sunday, January 31st is "Help a Neighbor Day" at Camp Forest Springs. Bring a non-perishable food item to help those in need. Don't like the cold? Neal Lodge offers a game room featuring ping pong, foosball, air hockey and carpet ball. Lodge Café offers a variety of snacks plus hot and cold beverages. The Packer game will be on every Sunday so you won't have to miss the game!! We will be leaving from the church at noon and transportation will be provided. Adults needed to help with the driving. Handouts available in the church lobby or call Lynn or Pete Wurl with any questions @ (715) 453-1981. RSVP to church office @ (715) 453-4066. Hope to see you!!!

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

GLOW REPORT

On Wednesday, January 13, the 6th and 7th grade students of Pastor Mark and Patti Gaedtke saw a video from Krueger Family Funeral Home. As a follow up they will be visiting with John and Karen on Wednesday, January 20th at 4:00pm to learn more about funeral homes. Interested parents and other adults are invited to join us.
Bill Sparr

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY has resumed, picking up in Chapter 6, "Is there a Center to Scripture" in "*Making Sense of Scripture.*" We meet on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.

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

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.

TOMAHAWK AREA INTERFAITH VOLUNTEERS (TAIV) CLEANING CARE needs a few more volunteers to help with vacuuming and light cleaning one or two times a month. By working as a team we usually spend 30 to 60 minutes at a home so this does not require much of your time. Times and days are flexible. The benefits of helping those in need and the friendships that develop are heartwarming. Please consider working with us. Call Rachel Jones at 715-453-2076 or the TAIV office at 715-453-3800

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 space. 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. **PLEASE pick up your statement.**

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

Weekly Financial News
 General Fund: \$4,154.01
 Noisy Collection: \$37.94
 Attendance: 188

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)

Tomahawk Food Pantry needs:
 Pancake Mix - Tomato soup
 Beef Stew (*in a can*)
 Cooking Oil - Sugar
 Spam
 Drop off anytime in the box in the Gathering Space.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER— A major cause of discontentment is our material plentifulness and our growing infatuation with and desire for more things. There is a correlation between “having more” and “wanting more”, resulting in our being a discontented people, never having enough. We risk the “snare” the Apostle Paul wrote about saying, *“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs”* (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

2016 CONGREGATION TRIP

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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| 5 committed / 3 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) |
| 14 committed / no limit | “Reunion” Backcountry Group |
| 16 committed / no limit | 9 th 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.

