

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

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Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (through Memorial Day)

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

ANNUAL MEETING – NEXT SUNDAY – 9:45 AM

Grace Lutheran's annual meeting will take place Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 9:45 am. Donuts and coffee will be available after the 8:30 service. **There will NOT be a potluck to follow the meeting.**

Please note there will not be a 10:45 worship service on the 29th. The deadline to turn in your Annual Report was Friday, January 13. **Anyone that has not yet submitted his or her report is welcome to present a verbal report at the meeting.**

WELCOME JOSHUA ARMSTRONG - Joshua spent September, 2015 – August, 2016 living in Lekubu, South Africa and working in Lekubu's Early Learning Centre (Creche). He knows very well those who visited Grace this summer including Pastor Jack & Elza were his host family and Mosa Kgari is the Director at the Creche. He will tell us today the story of his experience, the ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission, and of Lekubu Parish.

ELCA EXTRAVANGANZA - Wendy Black, Patti Gaedtke, Margie Welke and Pastor Mark are at this gathering from January 27-30 with ministry staff from all across the United States. Ministry in the first third of life is the focus of the workshops, resources, and speakers.

D3 PLANNING MEETING this Tuesday, January 24th at 6:00 pm in the lounge. We welcome anyone interested in helping to join us.

POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The following positions are elected at the Annual Meeting on January 29 following the 8:30 worship. Prayerfully consider people well suited to serve including yourself! Ask, encourage and be prepared to volunteer or nominate for these positions:

Church Council - the Nominating Committee will present names and people can be nominated from the floor. Five are needed – three for 3-year terms (confirmed member), one to complete a 2-year term, one young adult (age 19-35) for a three-year term.

Endowment Committee – two to be elected to serve 3-year terms. Endowment Committee members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms)

Nominating Committee - six to be elected to serve 1-year terms, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Council. Members of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible to serve no more than two terms consecutively. Forrest Gibeault, Gilbert Wessel, Carey Heikkinen and Claudia Osero were elected in 2016 with Sarah Mann and Cathy Schmit appointed by the Church Council.

Synod Assembly – three people are to be elected to represent Grace on May 19-20 in Green Bay.

Grace is eligible to have three voting representatives attend the annual meeting of the following ELCA-related ministries.

- **Crossways Camping** Annual Meeting, March 4, 2017 at St. Mark's in Neenah WI
- **Gustavus Adolphus College** Annual Meeting, April 22, 2017 at St. Peter, MN
- **Homme Home** Annual Meeting, September 2017 in Wittenberg, WI

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

SPEAKER BOB LENZ ON JANUARY 25

Next Wednesday, January 25, Grace Lutheran Church will be co-sponsoring a speaker at the Tomahawk School District auditorium. His name is Bob Lenz, and some issues he speaks about are bullying, self-harm, suicide, and substance abuse. He will be speaking to the middle school students during the day. In the evening, his talk will have more of a Christian perspective. **We will NOT have Confirmation for 8th and 9th graders at Grace next Wednesday, January 25;** instead, **we strongly encourage you to attend this event as a family.** The presentation will take place at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be served following the event.

FAMILY FUN DAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017—CAMP FOREST SPRINGS

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.

COLORING BIBLE STUDY will resume starting on Monday, February 6th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Please contact Margie Welke with any questions.

2017 FIRST COMMUNION preparation begins on February 5! Any baptized child showing desire to receive Jesus in Holy Communion is welcome to come to First Communion preparation! Please speak with Pastor Mark or Patti Gaedtke, Director of Children’s Ministries, 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 in the youth room on **February 5, 12, and 19**, or B) onetime retreat format on **Wednesday, February 15**, from 4:00-7:30. 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 26 at 8:30.**

COMPANION BREAKFAST - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – BETWEEN SERVICES

The 2017 Grace Wilderness Trippers are hosting a Companionship Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 5, between services. A free will offering will be accepted to help us defray the cost of our trip to the Bighorn Mountains. Come enjoy some tasty treats and fellowship! Hope to see you there! A Thrivent grant has provided “seed” money to begin fundraising for the Wilderness adventure.

SMALL BUCKETS NEEDED

We’re looking for some smaller buckets to be used for the drawing tickets at the D3 Dinner Auction. We’ve placed a sample on the D3 table in the gathering space. If you have any buckets around that size that we could use for the D3, please notify the folks at the ticket table or contact Karen at 612-8675, Pam at 453-3934, or Sherry at 453-5615. Thank you.

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. 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
DECEMBER	Receipts	Adjusted Budget**	vs BUDGET	SPENDING	vs SPENDING
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)
YEAR-TO-DATE	YTD Receipts	YTD Needed for Adjusted Budget**	Adjusted DIFFERENCE	YTD ACTUAL SPENDING	YTD RECEIPTS vs SPENDING
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

Weekly Financial News:

General Fund: \$3,939.00
 Noisy Collection: \$41.33
 Attendance: 196

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.

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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