

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

January 23 & 24, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you for the interest and input of all who attended the annual meeting. Thank you to all elected to serve or represent Grace in many various ways

- **Council:** Brian Schmidt, Mary Wessel, Mark Gaedtke and Steve Heikkinen
- **Endowment Fund:** Jack Lauder and Lori Pietschmann
- **Nominating Committee:** Forrest Gibeault, Gil Wessel, Carey Heikkinen, and Claudia Osero - need two more people
- **Voting members to Synod Assembly:** Mark & Patti Gaedtke elected – need one more person
- **Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Colleges:** Margie Welke, Marilyn Smith and Carey Heikkinen
- **Homme Home Inc:** Joe Story.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

The following are meetings and events (some with no limit) or which were not filled at the annual meeting.

- **Conference Assembly – January 30, 12:30 at Saint Andrew, Wausau** – all in attendance may vote. This assembly oversees and supports shared ministries of the 25 ELCA congregations from Tomahawk to Mosinee in the Wisconsin River Valley Conference. Major ministries are the companion relationship with the Madikwe Circuit in South Africa and the regular gatherings of pastors and of leaders in ministry with youth and family.
- **Crossways Annual meeting– February 13, St. Marks, Neenah** – Grace may have three voting members.

DIRECTION FOR 2016 – SEE IT IN THE ANNUAL REPORT

The annual meeting clearly laid out the direction of Grace in 2016 as can be seen in the annual report. 1) Servantship, 2) Fellowship, and 3) Worship are the three priorities established by Grace. This “listening” process seeking to follow God’s mission included the Congregation Retreat in April, Acts Study in summer, Fall Fill-up in September, and the post-it lists and prioritizing the list through November. Congregation Retreat for 2016 will be on Saturday, March 5.

LENTEN SOUP MEALS

HOW can you help? . . . Please check the SOUP MEAL charts in the Gathering Area and see if you can fill in a blank square. Help in the kitchen? Make soup? Donate an item? Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Please sign up at the table in the Gathering Area and please *include your telephone number*. **A special need is to have Coordinators for the evening meal – please don’t wait – sign up today.** Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a delicious meal. Thank you from the Fellowship Committee.

SNOW REMOVAL

Grace is in need of more volunteers for snow removal. This includes all the sidewalks around Grace (half a block) and the entry ways into the building. Grace has been blessed that this service has been handled by volunteers. Volunteering can be to cover a week or by day of the week or morning or evening. Call the church office, (715) 453-4066, Ken Kincaid (715) 612-0992, or Dar Clements (715) 453-5615 with questions or interest.

OFFICE HOURS—Effective February 5, the church office hours are: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm (closed between noon and 1:00 pm), Friday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Monday – Thursday hours remain the same, Friday hours have been changed. The church council approved this change at the January council meeting.

COMPANION BREAKFAST

Join Us – 9th Grade Wilderness Companion Breakfast – February 7th after the 8:30 AM worship service. Pancakes, french toast, egg bakes, fruit and a whole lot of companionship. The breakfast will be made and served by the 9th grade confirmation youth planning for the Wilderness Trip in Absaroka-Beartooth in Montana. Thanks for your support!

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. 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!!!

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

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.

GLOW STUDENTS FIELD TRIP—On Wednesday, January 20, the 6th and 7th grade students of Pastor Mark and Patti Gaedtke visited Krueger Family Funeral Home. Karen Gauerke and John Krueger welcomed the class with snacks and gave them an introduction to the facility and answered their many questions. It was interesting to learn the study involved in becoming a mortician. A tour followed, allowing a comfort level whenever the individuals might return. A follow up video will be shown in a future class finishing the introductory lesson they had in preparation. Patti Gaedtke and Bill Sparr accompanied the class.

VIA DE CRISTO – MARCH 17-20, 2016

Do you feel God calling you to a deeper relationship with Him? Do you want to be energized in your faith life? If so, consider attending the next **Via de Cristo** weekend, **March 17-20, 2016**. Over 35 people from Grace (and others from Tomahawk) have attended this event, and come back with a new vision of how they can make a difference in their environments. The cost of the weekend (all meals and lodging included) is \$75, and a sponsor will drive you to and from Camp Forest Springs near Westboro. The weekend starts Thursday evening after supper and ends Sunday afternoon. Please take a brochure from the welcome wall rack and fill out an application. (Give it to Debbie with your payment or put in VDC mailbox **by February 21.**) Married couples are encouraged to attend together if possible. Scholarships are available—see Pastor Mark. If you have questions, contact Nancy Kind at (715) 612-6034 or check out the website: www.northernlightvdc.com.

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: \$3,277.00
 Noisy Collection: \$38.17
 Attendance: 195

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).

LUTHERLAND TOUR—The Tomorrow River Conference invites members of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin to participate in a tour of Lutherland, which they are sponsoring. The tour will be July 5-15, 2016, during the “Decade of Luther,” which leads up to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. The cost is \$3225 per person from Chicago. The reservation deadline is March 1, 2016. Brochures, with full information and a registration form, may be obtained by contacting Rev. Jon Sachs at jonsachs@charter.net or (715) 258-9788.

