

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

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Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships

JANUARY 28 & 29, 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (through Memorial Day)

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

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY go out to the family of Tami Morren who died January 20. Tammi was the mother of Brianne (Scott) Skees. May they be comforted with the hope of eternal life.

ANNUAL MEETING – THIS SUNDAY – JANUARY 29 - 9:45 AM

Donuts and coffee will be available after the 8:30 service. There will NOT be a potluck to follow the meeting.

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.

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

Women & Justice: One in Christ: Conversations toward a Social Statement

The Appleton Conference is hosting study and conversation to give input to a new ELCA Social Statement on Women & Justice. Come for any one of the sessions or all, to participate in the process and to preview the materials for your own congregation. Saturday mornings Feb. 11, 18, 25 -- 9:30 am to 11:00 am at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2330 E Calumet Street, Appleton. Pre-registration is appreciated. Contact Pastor Mark or the church office for study materials, questions and for registration.

WRONG DATES – Wendy, Patti, Margie & Pastor Mark were at the ELCA Extravaganza last weekend, January 20th – 23rd.

COLORING BIBLE STUDY will begin 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

A steward is a manager of someone else’s property according to the desire and wishes of the owner. Because God has created and owns all things, we are God’s stewards. God uses us as His stewards by enabling and equipping us to use our time, talents, and money in ways that help others hear the Gospel. By His grace, God entrusts us with time to manage wisely so we are available to be used in His service. In the same way, we are given talents that can be developed so we can be effective in places where we can serve. God gives us the ability to work and make an income, and we are to manage the money we’ve earned faithfully and responsibly so we can give generously to support ministries that share the Good News and to help those in need. May God help us all be the stewards that God has created us to be.

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE 2016

	Dec. 2016	<i>Needed for</i>	<i>RECEIPTS</i>	ACTUAL	<i>RECEIPTS</i>
<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: \$3,567.76
 Noisy Collection: \$51.69
 Attendance: 185

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

	YTD	<i>YTD Needed for</i>	<i>Adjusted</i>	YTD	YTD
<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Adjusted Budget**</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	<u>ACTUAL SPENDING</u>	<u>RECEIPTS 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.

