

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships

www.gracelutherantomahawk.org

NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (through Memorial Day)

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

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY go out to the following families:

- Lois Anderson who died on November 16. Lois was the mother of Donna (Tom) Stone.
- Carlene G. Svendsen who died on November 18. Carlene was the grandmother of Jackie (Bob) Leonhard and great grandmother of Aaron & Abrina Leonhard.
- Lawrence Smith who died on November 21. Lawrence was the father of Bill (Heather) Smith, and grandfather of Samantha & Amanda Smith.

May they be comforted with the hope of eternal life.

ONLY THREE MORE SPOTS AVAILABLE for the 500th Anniversary bus trip to Minneapolis on December 2. See the pink insert in the Gathering Area. Don't wait – sign up today.

YOUTH ORNAMENT MAKING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 – 12:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

Lunch will be provided.

IT WILL BE HERE SOON! – Saturday, Dec. 10th is our annual Cookie Walk, Lefse, and Craft Sale! The doors to the craft sale open at 8:30 am, and the doors to the Cookie Walk open at 9:30 am. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area so stop by and take a look. If you want lefse it must be pre-ordered. Prices remain the same as last year \$6.00/pkg of 3 for lefse and \$7.00/lb for cookies. Funds raised will be designated to Kitchen Renovation Fund, Debt Retirement Fund, some towards ground keeping, and an update to the "Confirmation" hallway. There are opportunities to buy ingredients for lefse, help make lefse, create and donate a craft, bake for the Cookie Walk, or work on event day. All helping hands are appreciated. Feel free to contact Julie Dentler (715) 453-4970 with any questions.

QUILT AUCTION—An anonymous donor has provided a beautiful Christmas quilt for the Cookie Walk/Craft Sale. This quilt will be displayed in the Gathering Space until December 13 with a sign-up sheet for silent bidding. Deadline for bidding will be noon on Tuesday, December 13. This masterpiece is 64" x 64" and would be a lovely gift for someone - or for yourself!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – DECEMBER 10 & 11 – ALL SERVICES—Bring your family and friends!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – DECEMBER 17 AT 5:00 PM

Our Sunday School teachers and children have been busy preparing for the Christmas program. Everyone is invited to attend! **There will be no Sunday School on December 18.**

LOOKING AHEAD...

Nearly four years have passed since our last "Driving Down the Debt" (D3) Dinner & Auction. Over \$7,000 was raised at this festive, entertaining event and applied to the principal of our building debt. In **February 2017**, just three months away, we will again honor our beautiful 'new' (twelve-year old) facility with another dinner/auction event. The initial planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge. We welcome all people interested in helping to plan this festive event. If you have questions, please contact Sherry Clements at 453-5615 or Karen Torkelson at 612-8675. *In the near future, we will again ask for donations for this auction. You may want to keep this in mind as you shop the great sales offered over the holiday season. You never know when you'll come across a great idea for an auction/ticket item.*

LOST AND FOUND—All lost/found items will be tagged and dated. After 30 days any items remaining will be donated/removed. See the coat rack in the Gathering Space for lost/found items.

LOOKING FOR A SIMPLE WAY TO SERVE THE LORD? Please consider delivering the Sunday Worship CD to our local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This would be approximately one time per month. This is a very important ministry. These folks are not able to come to worship. The CD on Sunday morning is very important connection for them. Please call the church office at (715) 453-4066.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM SUMMARY—Grace was once again blessed by many Thrivent Action Teams this past year. We’d like to print a summary of those teams. If you’re willing to share your information, please contact the church office (715) 453-0466 or dhetzl@gracetomahawk.org with a short title of the projects you used your Action Team benefit for this year. Thank you for encouraging generosity with a Thrivent Action Team! *If you are a Thrivent member and haven’t used your Action Teams for this year, please contact the church office if you are willing to make them available. Thank you.*

NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING - GRACE HOUSE

Grace House is a very important place. Many people are blessed because Grace Lutheran shares the House with the community. It serves the Salvation Army, the Backpack Program and multiple AA groups. You could say the ripple effect from Grace’s generosity has spread to families way beyond the bounds of Grace House. Salvation Army provides emergency needs to those in our community; they also provide food for countless families of grade school children every week via the Backpack program. The packing of the backpacks takes place at Grace House every week during the school year. The AA groups that meet at Grace House are forever grateful for a safe, anonymous meeting place. The Grace House is priceless to those who use it. You can truly see God at work through the people at Grace House.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER—In Hosea 6:6 we read, “*For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings*” God told His people that, if they refused to acknowledge Him and to show mercy, He didn’t even want their gifts. In the same manner, He wants us to give Him our love before we give Him our tithes and offerings. Through faith, we come to know Jesus, and He develops a relationship with us. As a result of this relationship with Jesus, we, by God’s grace, acknowledge Him and then out of love for Him respond to Him by giving our gifts.

Our Financial Picture 2016	Needed for Monthly Budget	Oct. 2016 Receipts	Difference
General Fund	\$30,858	\$37,128	\$6,270
Building Fund	\$5,076	\$5,926	\$850
Total	\$35,934	\$43,054	\$7,120

Weekly Financial News
 General Fund: \$2,997.00
 Noisy Collection: \$43.44
 Attendance: 172

Year – To - Date	Needed for Monthly Budget	2016	Difference
General Fund	\$308,582	\$278,976	(\$29,606)
Building Fund	\$53,464	\$51,890	(\$1,574)
Total	\$362,046	\$330,866	(\$31,180)

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.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR 2017—Plans are currently being made to select the monthly special offering designations for next year. If there is a ministry that you would like to suggest for consideration, please submit a Special Benevolence Request Form. Forms are available in the church office. The Stewardship Committee strives to offer a variety of outreach opportunities that may speak to “where your heart is.” If you have questions, please contact a Stewardship Committee member: Sherry Clements, Shirley Derleth, Lori Winch.

