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March 2019

# Grace Notes

*Grace Lutheran Church*

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## *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

When I was in junior high and high school there was a state rule that anyone who wanted to play on a sports team at school had to get a physical exam from a doctor first. When I went they called it a "sports physical." They checked over most everything – my heart rate, blood pressure, eye sight, reflexes and more. It was a general assessment to see how I was doing physically. The doctor wanted to find if I had any physical ailments or conditions that might prevent me from playing sports – or that might be exacerbated by physical activity. These would need to be treated. The doctor would also give me guidance about how to maintain and increase a healthy lifestyle – stuff like "Don't smoke" and "Wear a mouth-guard during games."

Starting the end of this month Grace Lutheran Church is going to take part in a voluntary **Congregational Self-Assessment**. Think of it like a "sports physical." It's a chance for us to see where our church's health is at. It will look at a variety of areas to check and see how we're doing. At the end we'll get a "doctor's report" about our health, along with a doctor's guidance about what we can do to improve in certain areas. It may not always be "fun" going to the doctors, but the older we get the more we understand how vital it is. And the Voters agreed. At the February Voters' Meeting they voted unanimously to do the Re:Vitality Congregational Self-Assessment.

As far as the specifics go... the assessment will consist of several pages of an on-line survey that EVERYONE from Grace is encouraged to fill out – whether they are a member, organist, or one-time visitor. It's not too hard. The questions are all multiple choice. For those without computer access or capability, they can fill out a paper copy that will then be submitted for them. Everyone needs to complete this survey in a 3 week window from Sunday, **March 24th through Sunday, April 14th**. The link to the survey will be emailed out by Pastor later this month.

The Self-Assessment is offered FREE through the **English District**. It's confidential and based on objective measuring tools. It's not a grade or threatening in any way. It's meant to give a reliable snapshot of the congregation. After the survey is completed the results will be provided and interpreted for us by **Rev. Derek Mathers**, the English District Mission Executive. He will come to meet with the whole congregation to discuss what the results mean and how we can take that info to grow and improve as a congregation in specific areas and ways.

Above all, this Self-Assessment and our efforts surrounding it will hopefully alert our congregation to the dangers and opportunities facing us, while motivating us forward in accomplishing our Vision for the sake of Jesus Christ and the vitality of His Kingdom here among us.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

### **February Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 6 sick/shut-in visits
- 5 private communions
- 2 circuit visitor activities
- 2 leadership meetings
- 3 hospital visits
- 2 pastoral care visits
- 1 family visitation
- 1 funeral (*Alice Amenhauser*)

<b>Upcoming Sermon Texts</b>	
March 3	Luke 9:28-36
March 10	Luke 4:1-13
March 17	Luke 13:31-35
March 24	Luke 13:1-9
March 31	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** has continues meeting after worship. Join us in the weeks ahead as we study issues relating to death, burial, suicide, euthanasia, and more.

The beginning of March brings with it the beginning of the **Lenten Season**. It starts on Ash Wednesday (**March 6<sup>th</sup>**) with a 7 pm worship service. It begins a somber season of reflection and meditation on Christ. For our midweek services we will be pondering "***Our Lord's Last Words in Luke.***" In these 8 different declarations Jesus has some powerful things to say to those near Him – as well as to us today. We come to listen to Him.

As is customary, starting **March 13<sup>th</sup>** there will be a 6 pm **Soup & Sandwich Supper** beforehand in the Fellowship Hall. This makes it easier for busy people to attend the service without having to worry about dinner. A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Church Council update: in last month's newsletter Pastor mentioned plans to redo and update the Council positions. The **2019 By-Law Review Committee** is currently gathering input from the Council, Elders, LWL, and Altar Guild. Once all that has been received and the proposed by-law changes modified, they will be sent out to all voting members and those interested for consideration ahead of the May Voters' Meeting.

Last month the church received a wonderful letter from **JoAnne and Walter Holz**, one of the couples that came with Laborers for Christ in the mid 1990's to help with our church's big construction project (redoing the classrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and adding the new sanctuary). Along with the letter they included a bunch of pictures from their time here – including many familiar (though younger!) faces. The letter and pictures have been spread out and placed in the Fellowship Hall for everyone to enjoy.

### **March Birthdays**

Jan Mertz	3/09
Myles Bremke	3/13
Caleb Moldenhauer	3/16
Myron Bremke	3/20
Brian Jones	3/25
David Jones	3/25
Reilly Jones	3/25
Wayne Hammond	3/29

### **March Anniversaries**

Dawn & Gary Coultrip	3/26
Dave & Jen Jones	3/29

\* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

### ***From the President***

We had a successful Voters' meeting last month that was informative and forward looking. To this end, the voters decided to participate in ReVitality Congregational Self-Assessment offered by the English District.

This will allow all members to participate in filling out an assessment that lets their views and opinions be heard by the District. The District will then meet with us to explain the results and to offer ideas to help us grow in new ways.

Since we have actively approved this offer from the District we should be committed to engage and pursue the offered ideas. So many times groups will look for answers but then do nothing with them. My hope is Grace Lutheran is different.

## *From the Vice-President*

Two paragraphs below to ponder:

So, we're going to save c. \$172 a year by cancelling the Sunday bulletin inserts? How frugal we've become! Seriously, we spent more time at February's Voters' Meeting debating this than discussing 2018 money results and 2019 with its operating budget---with 2019 suggesting a deficit larger than experienced in 2018! Please READ the packet for the next voters' gathering so that the council might field some important money issues in addition to whether there should be 2 services Christmas Eve.

Since we don't as yet have actual expenses for the month of February, we'll have to be satisfied comparing ACTUAL income with BUDGETED expenses. Here's a "snapshot" through the end of February:

ACTUAL REVENUES (INCOME)	\$11,484
BUDGETED EXPENSES	<u>17,288</u>
<b>2-MONTH DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$ 5,739</b>

**Is it any wonder, then, why our treasurer transfers money needed to pay expenditures from the Luikart Funds so often?**

## *Evangelism News*

March 31<sup>st</sup> is the first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month in 2019 – an opportunity for us to experience a wider variety of worship formats. That morning we will be using **Matins** as the Sunday morning order of worship for the non-Communion service.

The Mission of the Month for March is **Older Adult Ministry**. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway and you'll see an intriguing article from the February 2019 issue of "*The Reporter*." Many people consider a church "youth group" important and older adults can remember when they were involved with that or the old "Walther League." Oftentimes the elderly can be forgotten. But older (retired) adults are not just people to be ministered to – they are God's people to go and minister to others. The article makes some great points and has lots of practical suggestions. How might we try one here at Grace???

For those of you receiving this by email, you can read more by going to <https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/older-adults-an-overlooked-ministry-resource/>

## *Altar Guild News*

Ash Wednesday is **March 6**. As a reminder, there are no flowers on the altar during the season of Lent.

Altar Guild will be offering to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate the chancel for Easter. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the coming weeks with the details.

Two new white banners were recently purchased with Memorial Funds.

Serving in March:

3 & 10 –Robin Turnbull

17 & 24—Colleen Karp

31 & April 7—Carolyn Husted

~ Robin

## *Lutheran Women's Mission League News*

There will be a LWML Meeting Monday, **March 18** at 7:00 p.m. All are encourage to attend.

Coffee Hour hosts for March:

3 Karen Huston

10 Anita Saathoff

17 Barb Hadaway

24 Marcia Metzger

31 Judy Gornek

# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship 10 am</li> <li>Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elder's Meeting 4 pm</li> <li>Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	8	9
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship 10 am</li> <li>Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LWNML Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lenten Soup &amp; Sandwich 6 pm</li> <li>Lenten Service 7 pm</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	22	23
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship 10 am</li> <li>Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> <li>ReVitality Survey Begins</li> </ul>	25	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lenten Soup &amp; Sandwich 6 pm</li> <li>Lenten Service 7 pm</li> </ul>	28	29	30
31					<p><b>Upcoming Important Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 3 &amp; 10: Lent Soup &amp; Sandwich Supper 6 pm</li> <li>April 3 &amp; 10: Lent Service 7 pm</li> <li>April 18: Maundy Thursday Service 7pm</li> <li>April 18: Good Friday Service 7 pm</li> <li>April 21: Easter Service</li> </ul>	