
February 2020

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

*"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you **hungry and feed you**, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'"*

These words of Jesus, from His Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25, formed the basis for the **Free Hot Meal** offered here at Grace once a month. Back in 2006 a committee of Grace members (including Bob & Pat Fraunfelder, Jennifer Williams, Chris Koch, Tina Brandes, and Carolyn Husted) met a variety of times to brainstorm together ideas to help our church grow in members and spiritual vibrancy. They were looking for ways to reach out to our community and help others. It was from this group that the idea and impetus to start a free meal for our community began – and so they started what became a monthly tradition. On the third Saturday of every month – rain or shine (or snow) – people from our area would come into our fellowship hall with no questions asked; simply given a smile and a plate of food.

I'd like to commend those who were leaders in starting this ministry – and all those who served meals over the years. I think God is pleased in what you did. Now I know this is what's called a "*mercy ministry*" – which means something Christians do to simply share God's love without any expectations in return. But there were "returns"! People in our community grew to know our church and see us in a positive, servant light. And – thanks be to God – we currently

have a family coming to our church for worship who first got connected to us through the Free Hot Meal – and the kind words of a nice, old lady who was working there that night.

I think for me one of the highlights connected to the Free Hot Meal was the time that one of the “regulars” caught me at the beginning of the meal and wanted to tell me something privately. While the rest of the group ate, we sat down in the classroom and she relayed to me a heavy heart and tears – with a grim health diagnosis and a close friend dying out of state. I felt honored that she felt comfortable enough with me to “unload” all this – though she wasn’t a member and I barely knew her name – while also trusting me to pray for her.

The Free Hot Meal was a blessed thing whereby Christ was at work through us and in us as we served others. I relay all this to you with a feeling of sadness because we’ve decided to no longer serve the Free Hot Meal at Grace. The numbers of those volunteering had dwindled, and those who were still volunteering were too tired and worn out to continue. A vote at the January Council Meeting made it official. The Free Hot Meal ministry is at Grace no more. I wish that wasn’t the case – but unfortunately that is reality here at Grace.

While programs come and grow, we put our focus on Jesus Christ. We thank Him for all the blessings that came about through the Free Hot Meal over the years – and we look forward to whatever good plans He has for us in the future.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS The **Bylaw Review Committee** (made up of myself, Fred Feddeck, and Jan Limpert) are wrapping up our review and analysis of Grace’s Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies. At the February Voters’ Meeting we will present a series of proposed changes/updates – focused primarily on all the policies. I know that when most of you hear “*bylaws*” and “*policies*” being discussed it sounds incredibly BORING and snooze-worthy! Nonetheless, I encourage all the members of Grace to read about these proposed updates in the Voters’ Meeting packet and attend the Voters’ Meeting (on Feb. 23rd) – because our church policies are very practical documents that can affect any of us. For example:

- *How should funerals be conducted at Grace?*
- *Can you rent some chairs from church next week – and what’s the procedure for doing so?*
- *What happens if people have concerns about the organist’s performance?*
- *What happens to money you give to Grace in memory of a loved one?*
- *How much would it cost if your nephew wants to get married at Grace?*

And on top of all that, we also have updates concerning pastor’s job description, the proper removal of a pastor, and what happens to the assets of Grace should our congregation one day dissolve. Suffice it to say this is a lot of stuff to read over, think over, and decide on together with the wisdom and godliness that we pray God provides.

January Official Pastoral Acts:

5 sick/shut-in visits
3 private communions
3 leadership meetings
2 circuit visitor activities
2 pastoral care visits

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
Feb. 2	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Feb. 9	1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Feb. 16	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Feb. 23	2 Peter 1:16-21
March 1	Genesis 3:1-21

Mark your calendars: **Ash Wednesday** is February 26th. We will mark the beginning of Lent that day with a 7 pm worship service complete with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Join us for this night of self-reflection and meditation on Christ.

Education News

On January 26th Pastor had the privilege and honor – on behalf of Grace – to hand out new Bible story books for all the kids during the Children’s Message. These are books for them to keep and read with their parents. It’s one way we are encouraging the parents in our congregation to be teaching their children about Jesus.

Evangelism News

I have been working on the responsibilities of my new position. I will be sharing my thoughts and plans by the next newsletter.

One note: there WILL NOT be a Free Hot Meal this month.

~ Bob Scherry ~

Lutheran Women’s League News

The LWL of Grace Lutheran Church met Tuesday Jan. 28th at 6pm for their first meeting of the year. Our yearly activities were discussed and voted on. We will once again be hosting an Easter Brunch on April 12th from 8:30-9:30. Watch for the list to be posted. Once again we’ll be working with Love Inc. on the Clothe-a-Kid and Mitten Tree projects. Our main fund raiser is the Rummage Sale, with dates to be announced at a later date. This project requires A LOT of work. All volunteers are welcome. It was decided to accept donations all year round, so start cleaning and bring your treasures to church anytime. More information to follow at a later date. The Ladies’ lunches will be Feb.19th and March 18th at 11:30 at Michelle’s in Lagrange. All Ladies are welcome.

~ Bonnie ~

Message from the President

Here it is already February and your Church Council is gearing up for its second meeting of 2020! The one positive development to share with those who will be attending our Voters' Meeting scheduled for February 23rd is the fact that the mortgage has been paid in full and we'll want to plan a date to celebrate this momentous occasion with those in attendance on the 23rd. Do decide to express your opinion by being there!

On "the glass is half empty" side, the first month of 2020 has shown us that Sunday collections haven't hit the budget "mark." Recall the old adage: "God helps those who help themselves." Let's hit the budget "mark" of covering total expenses in 2020.

Attend the February 23rd Voters' Assembly to hear the "good news."

Fred C. Feddeck
Council President

Finance Update

Notice of payoff of the mortgage has been received. The records have been filed with the county. No mortgage payments going forward.

February Birthdays

Brandon Swanzer	2/03
Diane Senyak	2/03
Eva Horning	2/04
Jan Kristoff	2/04
Barb Hadaway	2/09
Carter Jones	2/10
Myles Bremke	2/13
Lee Anne Christner	2/15
Kris Koepp	2/19

February Anniversaries

Dave & Marcia Metzger	2/01
Terry & Judy Gornek	2/20

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

Buildings & Grounds News

Improvements to the exterior of the Fellowship Hall have been completed – which includes the capping of the wooden gables ends and fascia along the sides and backdoor. A new gutter along the parking lot was installed. Two new windows have been installed on the south side of the parsonage.

Altar Guild News

We are still looking to add a few new members to our team. If you are interested in serving on Altar Guild please contact Robin Turnbull.

Reminder: Ash Wednesday is February 26. There are no altar flowers during the season of Lent.

~ Robin ~

Altar Guild in February:

2—Robin Turnbull

9—Kathy Knipper

16—Kathy Knipper

23—Robin Tunbull

Coffee Fellowship in February:

2 Jan Mertz

9 Kathy Knipper

16 Donna Perron

23 Robin Turnbull

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 • Worship 10 am • Memorial Committee Meeting 11:30 am	3	4	5 • Bylaw Review Committee Meeting 10 am • Elders Meeting 3:45 pm	6	4	8
9 • Worship 10 am	10 • Council Meeting 3:00 pm	11	12	13 • Voters' Meeting Packet items due	14	15
16 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:30 am	17	18 • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm	19 • Ladies Lunch 11:30 am at Michelle's Cafe	20 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	21	22
23 • Worship 10 am • Voters' Meeting 11:40 am	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday • Communion Service 7 pm	27 • March newsletter items due	28	29

Upcoming Important Dates:

- March 4,11,18,25: Midweek Lent Suppers (6 pm) and services (7 pm)
- April 9: Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
- April 10: Good Friday Service 7 pm