
January 2020

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

This month marks the beginning of a New Year and a new decade. That should give us reason to pause and reflect – looking both forward and back. What happened in your life the past 10 years? For me personally it was a decade filled with big changes – a wife and four kids worth!! What do you think lies ahead this coming decade for you? What achievements or milestones do you look forward to celebrating?

Not too much has really changed over the past decade at Grace. We still have the same pastor, same building, same hymnal, same worship service and style at the same time every Sunday. Perhaps it's true that Lutherans don't like change – especially when it involves having to sitting in a new pew on Sunday! What's probably changed the most at Grace is the faces. Over the past decade we've lost many longtime members of Grace – pillars of our little church community. You know many of their names. Instead of "lost" I should probably say that we've buried these men and women of faith – looking forward to seeing and being with them again in Heaven. So in that sense, this change is only temporary.

But turning the page, what awaits Grace over the next decade? What changes in our society and local community will impact us? What challenges will we need to overcome? What success stories will we have by 2030? How will our church look different then?

These sorts of questions about the future are sorta fun to reflect on – but nearly impossible to predict with any sort of precision. But instead of worrying about the future

forecast, we go forward confidently led by God. Our Vision at Grace is **“WHERE CHRIST IS GROWING IN US AND THROUGH US.”** THAT is where we want to be and to become. That’s what we expect to happen.

So for this year and the years to come, let us do those things that encourage Christ to grow in us, while following His guidance as He works through us.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS A special thanks goes out to Robin Turnbull for making the change to ordering our Christmas poinsettias from a new place. They made our sanctuary look spectacular this year!

December Official Pastoral Acts:

- 6 sick/shut-in visits
- 6 private communions
- 4 circuit visitor activities
- 1 evangelism contact
- 1 leadership meeting

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
Jan. 5	Ephesians 3:1-12
Jan. 12	Romans 6:1-11
Jan. 19	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Jan. 26	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Feb. 2	1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Education News

This month in worship we will hear the story of Jesus’ baptism – followed by the powerful things God did through Him in the years that followed. Here at Grace we believe in the power of baptism – but also in the responsibility of parents to raise their children in the faith so that God’s power continues to be at work in them through His Word. In an effort to encourage parents of children to be doing this good work we will be giving them special Bible story books when their child is baptized, turns 3, enters first grade, and enters 6th grade. Watch in worship as we begin this month.

Evangelism News

Bob Scherry is the newly elected Evangelism Deacon at Grace. He’s got some new ideas and is willing to try some “outside of the box” type stuff. Consider joining his team as they work to reach out to people in our area with the love of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Josh’s Sunday morning Adult Bible Study on **“God Space”** by Doug Pollock will resume on January 12th by covering Chapter 4. If you haven’t been part of this study – or read the book – it’s not too late to join in and learn more. The book is a great hands-on tool for learning how to encourage God to be at work in your everyday life *“in you and through you.”*

Message from the President

FRED C. FEDDECK 2020

“NOT WANTED, BUT TOLERATED”!

As most of you are now aware, I am the incoming president of the Grace Lutheran Church Council. As most of you are also aware, I don't "sugarcoat" what's on my mind. I was nominated and elected because of the paucity of candidates to lead Grace Lutheran Church. That's OK.

But some occurrences are NOT OK---like attendance, which has decreased for our **Communicant** members over the past few years. **Attendance for 2019 has decreased 15+per cent from 2018.** Simply fixed: come to church more often on Sunday!

I also have several changes in mind to share with Pastor Moldenhauer and other members of our church council that I hope will be beneficial. I will discuss them at our January council meeting and, getting approval, will implement a few beginning at February's Council Meeting and Voters' Assembly.

Enjoy the New Year of 2020. I know our eyesight isn't 20-20 (Ugh!) but our love for God better be 15-15. "Happy New Year" and see you in church!

Respectfully,

Fred C. Feddeck, President-Elect

Again, our sincerest "thank you" to Mr. Kert Limpert for his guidance during this past year.

NAMI

Are you on the right track?!?

Will Rodgers once said, "You may be on the right track, but if you don't move you will get run over." You see by doing nothing, nothing gets done. We must move to improve the environment in which we live. Giving support to those who find themselves on the track to our support group helps these folks keep moving. It has been 5 years now that by the Grace of God we have reached out to others in need. I thank all the members of Grace Lutheran Church for supporting Mental Health awareness and allowing our church to be a host site for our support group. The attendance for our group goes up and down, it's not about numbers. It is about reaching out extending a hand, listening when no one else will. The driving force for this is explained in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 versus 4-7. All of us need to keep moving. Reach out to our Lord Jesus, pray for forgiveness praise his holy name, have faith and your wheels will keep turning. Hope you had a safe and blessed holidays.

~ Bob Izold ~

January Birthdays

Becky Folley 1/07
Ron Mertz 1/08
Bonnie Abicht 1/19

January Anniversaries

Chris & Rachael Koch 1/22

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

Lutheran Women's League News

Sunday January 5th will be donation Sunday for the Grace Lutheran Church **Gathering of Blessings**. Food donations will be given to the Oberlin Community Center. The Ladies will try something new this month. January 15th (Wednesday) we will be having lunch at **Michelle's Café** in LaGrange at 11:30. Michelle's is on Rt. 301 north of the square behind the McDonalds. All women are welcome. The next LWL meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00 pm.

~ Bonnie

Altar Guild News

Thank you to all who provided poinsettias to grace the chancel area this year:

Glen and Karen Fridenstine, Andy and Colleen Karp, Pastor and Jen Moldenhauer, Anita Saathoff, John and Kathy Knipper, Terry and Judy Gornek, Fred Feddeck, Carolyn Husted, Robin and Glenn Turnbull, Tom and Barb Hadaway, Dale Rider, Norma Stechow, Dave and Marcia Metzger, and Robin Schaeffer in memory of **Charlie, Dean and Jean Palmer**.

Thank you to **Tom & Barb Hadaway** for purchasing two new white Christmas banners to be displayed for the first time on Christmas Eve and throughout the Christmas season.

The flower chart has been updated for 2020.

Thank you to all who helped to take down and put away the Christmas decorations!

Altar Guild in January:

5—Carolyn Husted
12—Carolyn Husted
19—Karen Huston
26—Karen Huston

Coffee Fellowship in January:

5 Karen Fridenstine
12 Bonnie Abicht
19 Sue Walker
26 Jan Koepf

~ Robin

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 • Worship 10 am • Organist Review Team Meeting 11:40 am	6 • Council Meeting 3:00 pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	13	14 • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm	15 • Ladies Lunch 11:30 am at Michelle's Cafe • Elders Meeting 3:30 pm	16 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm	17	18
19 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	27	28 • LWL Meeting 6:00 pm	29 • Feb. newsletter items due	30	31	

Upcoming Important Dates:

- February 16: Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- February 26: Ash Wednesday 7 pm worship service