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February 2019

# Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

It's a New Year and a good time to take a look at things in new ways. The **VISION** for Grace Lutheran Church this year is for Grace to be a place "*where Christ is growing in us and through us.*" Now that's certainly a nice sounding phrase – and none of us would disagree with it as a goal. But our Vision is meant to be more than just some pretty words; it's meant to guide us forward on what we seek to accomplish and be this year. In 2019 Christ will be growing inside of you. Christ will work through you to share His love, kindness, and good news with others. It is our intention as leaders at Grace to work to make that a reality.

As a first step in that direction we're going to look at reorganizing our Church Council. Our congregation is not the same size it was 10 years ago or 30 years ago. Like any organization there comes a time when an evaluation is needed to see whether the parts in place are all still worthwhile – or whether it might be beneficial to make some changes so that the whole group can operate more effectively in accomplishing the mission/goal/vision.

So join us this month at the **February 17<sup>th</sup>** Voters' Meeting when we will be discussing and deciding on whether to change our Church Council to remove and consolidate positions that are no longer necessary while adding new ones that are important. Change can certainly be scary and unwanted at times. But these proposed changes aren't just for change's sake. Updating the Church Council will allow and position Grace's Council to better serve and lead in an effort to make Grace the place where Christ is growing in us and through us. That's our goal.

But as I mentioned before, this is only the first step. Having the "perfect" church Council positions in place doesn't make any difference if there aren't people willing to serve in those positions. And even then, if we have a Vision and leaders in place, we still need the plans and ideas for how to accomplish the Vision in concrete ways here in this place. Yes, there are lots to be done for Christ this New Year. February is the first step.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

### January Official Pastoral Acts:

4 sick/shut-in visits  
6 private communions  
2 circuit visitor activities  
5 leadership meetings  
3 hospital visits  
2 pastoral care visits  
1 family visitation

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
Feb. 3	Luke 4:31-44
Feb. 10	Luke 5:1-11
Feb. 17	Luke 6:17-26
Feb. 24	Luke 6:27-38

The **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class** has resumed meeting after worship. Join us in the weeks ahead as we study issues relating to death, suicide, euthanasia, unborn babies, who goes to heaven or hell, and more.

Looking ahead...**Ash Wednesday is March 6<sup>th</sup>**. It's the official start of Lent, as we turn our thoughts and meditations towards Christ and His journey to the cross on our behalf. Join us on Ash Wednesday for a 7pm service where we will confess our sins, receive the imposition of ashes, and then receive our Lord's forgiveness in the Sacrament of the Altar.

Last month there was a large influx of injuries, infections, and people headed to the hospital. A few reminders and encouragements: if you would like to put someone on the **Prayer Chain**, please contact Jan Koepf (440-935-4287) or Pastor Josh. If you would like someone to be included in the weekly **Sunday prayers** in worship, please contact Pastor Josh. (Before the service starts is fine.) If someone is in the hospital or will be soon, please contact Pastor Josh so that he can try and **visit** them.

As Christ's people His love is the blest "*tie that binds*" us together. Christ grows in us as we have opportunity to pray for one another and visit those who are sick or injured.

### 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  
Kris Koepf 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.

## *From the President*

February is upon us and winter certainly took a nasty turn the last couple of weeks in January. I hope everyone made it through the Polar Vortex without any issues.

As you've read in the Pastor's article there is a committee looking at proposing some changes to our bylaws. We'll be looking into those in the future but right now there is change already happening. You've probably noticed the new flooring going in the kitchen and restrooms. There is also a change to the Council filled positions. Dale Rider has resigned his position as Worship Deacon and has been appointed to (and has accepted) the position of Building and Grounds Deacon.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that a Voters' Meeting is held this month and to encourage all members to attend.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February Voters' Meeting.

## *From the Vice-President*

**Before we meet at the February 17<sup>th</sup> voters' meeting, our church council treasurer wanted me to pass along several financial figures and comments:**

- 1) For the month of January, expenses eclipsed income by \$4853. Fortunately this reflected only 3 weeks of Sunday collections because of the snowfall hazard of January 20<sup>th</sup>. **Even with a collection similar to January 26, 2017 to give us 1 full month, we would had experienced a "loss" of \$3230.** On an annual basis, this would still be a catastrophic loss, but fortunately much too early for a full-year projection!
- 2) We've revised the CY2019 operating budget, which you'll see at the 2/19 meeting. It's not "healthy."
- 3) The church council's looking at bringing down the 12/20/2022 (previously revised from 2024) payoff of the Grace mortgage to help offset any possible Federal interest rate increase in CY2019 and other possible negative effects on asset returns. GLC's interest rate is currently 4 per cent, which isn't fixed. We're considering a \$25,000 to \$30,000 reduction in the mortgage balance of c. \$66,000.

In order to completely liquidate the remaining GLC mortgage balance in a more timely fashion, we need the members of Grace to realize that without Sunday contributions to the financial welfare of Grace Lutheran Church, any future reduction of another significant amount might not be possible.

For Andrew Karp, Church Council Treasurer:

Fred C. Feddeck

Church Council Vice-President

**We can explain/talk more at our upcoming Voters' Meeting. Come if you want to be more informed about the goings-on at Grace.**

## *Evangelism News*

The Mission of the Month for February is the **Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church**. Check out the bulletin board in the hallway and you'll see an article written by **Pastor Charles Ferry** in the January 2019 issue of "*The Reporter*." You'll be shocked to hear the things he writes about – things that you'd imagine happening many centuries ago, still going on today. And you'll also get a glimpse of how God's mercy is being shared with people in need.

For those of you receiving this by email, you can read more by going to [engage.lcms.org/Indonesia-fall-2018](http://engage.lcms.org/Indonesia-fall-2018).

## *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.

Serving in February 3 & 10: Karen Huston  
17 & 24: Kathy Knipper

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

~ Robin

## *Lutheran Women's Mission League News*

Serving February coffee will be:

3 Janet Mertz  
10 Kathy Knipper  
17 Donna Perron  
24 Jan Koepp

The next women's breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, **February 28** at 9:30 at the Oberlin Kitchen Diner on South Main Street.

The first LWML meeting of 2019 will be held on Monday, **February 11** at 7:00 p.m. We have much to decide for our plans in the New Year. Your input is needed and welcome!

# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Faith Class 10 am</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elder's Meeting 4 pm</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Adult Bible Class 11:40 am</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LWML Meeting 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Faith Class 10 am</li> </ul>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Hot Meal 5 pm</li> </ul>
<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> <li>• Voters' Meeting 11:40 am</li> </ul>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm</li> </ul>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship 10 am</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Breakfast at Oberlin Kitchen 9:30 am</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Upcoming Important Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>March 6:</b> Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm</li> <li>• <b>March 13, 20, 27:</b> Lent Soup &amp; Sandwich Supper 6 pm</li> <li>• <b>March 13, 20, 27:</b> Lent Service 7 pm</li> </ul> </div>	