

# GRACE NEWS

Pastor Vicki Fink

**Grace Lutheran Church**

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February, 2016

## Pastor's Message

### Lent

**begins February 10, Ash Wednesday**

What is Lent all about beyond the fish fry's? It's a "penitential" time to examine what we do that is harmful as well as reflecting on what we feel called to do that we aren't doing. In anticipation of Easter, we look at our lives to see how we might live more fully into the gift that Christ gives us in his death and resurrection.

When I was in grade school, all the Catholic kids got excused from school in order to go to Mass on Ash Wednesday. I was jealous that they got to leave school and I didn't. It seemed so holy to be able to miss school for church. I can remember recess on Ash Wednesday one year. The Catholic kids were back from Mass. Cathy Perez had a smudge of ash in the shape of a cross on her forehead. I noticed it as she and Shelley Winter were holding hands spinning on the merry-go-round, being forced out centrifugally, but hanging on tight to one another. They were laughing! I'm so glad that is one of the images from my childhood. It has put penitence and joy together for me, and placed both squarely in the context of community.

Knowing "who and whose we are" will hopefully help us find a similar boldly happy abandon this Lent. Bold as we look at our lives, individually and as a congregation. What are we doing well? What is going badly? Where should we change directions? Where do we need healing?

Identifying an issue is maybe as much as 80% of solving it. It's not that fun to have problems, but talking together and knowing where to get help takes the edge off. "*From where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord*" Psalm 121 helps us pray. God faithfully "keeps" us the prayer repeats often, five times in eight verses! Faith communities have enjoyed this help from God through the centuries. It is ours as well.

Our baptism into Christ began a great conversion in us through God's power. The Spirit sealed in us through the water and the word is at work. More change and renewal, penitence and joy is waiting for us this Lent. May we be joyfully bold.



Pastor Vicki



**East Central Synod of Wisconsin**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Grace is a congregation of the ELCA, a church of more than 4 million members with the vision of being claimed by God's grace.

## Good News

*To all of you, thank you for your concern*

*Marie Mueller*

*Christmas comes to our world ... and remind us that God still hears, still loves, still sends His best to His people.*

*Henry Schoenborn*

*Thank you for the Xmas bag of presents. It was wonderful with lots of good cookies.*

*Love, Ellen Holz*

*Thank you for all the wonderful items Grace members made for the tenants of Randle Court for their Christmas Party. They were thrilled with the mittens, scarves, shawls, hot bowl holders and, of course, the beautiful quilt. They are very appreciative of the generosity of Grace Congregation.*

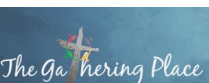
*Kari Kuiper, Program Manager*

## Mission & Outreach

*Grace is a member of the Appleton Conference of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Each of the 20 congregations contributes dues of \$1.30 a year per baptized member. These funds are distributed through grant requests by congregations each year such as The Clothes Closet, The Warming Shelter, Ruth's Pantry, The St. Paul Christmas Dinner, Habitat Interfaith Build and other worthwhile projects. There are three designated grants each year that serve all age groups. They are:*



**Crossways Camping Ministries** programs to school age children and their families through their camps. In addition, as part of this annual grant it brings 3 young people from South Africa to work at the camps not offering the experience to our young campers to get to know someone from another part of the world. Jake Czarnik-Niemeyer is Executive Director



**Lutheran Campus Ministry—Oshkosh at The Gathering Place** is a ministry that cares for young adults as they begin to spread their wings and plan for their futures filled with great possibilities. The Gathering Place offers a safe place for them to meet, attend a church service, weekly lunch and other activities. Connie Weis is Campus Minister.



**Fox Valley Lutheran Homes—Linwood Place** provides independent living for adults 62 and older at an affordable price. There is a care coordinator on site two days a week, a monthly church service, weekly gathering for lunch, summer picnic, Christmas Party, many card games, exercise class and a feeling of family. Becky Luett is Executive Director.



### Appleton Conference Evening Concert Event

A fusion of jazz and Arabic music by international recording star **ALI PARIS.**

Friday, February 12, 2016, our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 3009 N. Meade Street, Appleton, WI. **Concert at 7:00 p.m.**

*No Charge— A free-will offering will be accepted.*



**Ushers Needed!** Consider joining an usher team? Several of our team members have retired and there are openings at the 8:30 a.m. service. Training is available and new volunteers will be warmly welcomed. Please see Ron Bailey or give him a call.

**Boards & Leaders:** Now is a good time to put together your reports for the June meeting. Send to office when completed.

**Thrivent Members!** Grace receives funds through Thrivent's Choice Dollars program! Members Call 800-847-4836 to direct your dollars to Grace.

**Rummage Sale?** Yes, Grace will have a sale May 20th & 21st. Please remember to save for this as you clean closets, etc.

**Faith In Action** is one of Grace's Christian Outreach Missions. Thank you for the monthly donation of food and other items I am able to distribute at Trinity Lutherans weekly Loaves and Fishes dinner. These items can mean so much to those who have so little. **Thank You!** Shari Waldron

"Transitions" is the name of a column written by Jean Long Manteufel the first Sunday of each month, and it deals with situations for the aging population. January's column pointed out the importance of each person having one primary care doctor who sees you and can coordinate medications and other ideas from all you doctors so you don't become over or under medicated.

Contact your county Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) if you know someone struggling to stay in their home. Their goals:

- ◆ Educate and empower people to remain independent as long as possible.
- ◆ Help people understand their choices and make informed decisions
- ◆ Help people conserve personal finances
- ◆ Reduce demand for long-term care public funding

The analysis service is free and can connect you to resources you might need as well and help you decide the best for you or your loved one. Winter can be especially difficult, and help is available. Sharon Meier

See below info. on annual meetings over the next several months. Each of the meetings need 2 delegates representing Grace. Please let the office know if you can be a delegate

## Annual Meetings—Delegates Needed

**Crossways Camping Ministries**

Registration 9:30 a.m.  
Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 South Green Bay Road, Neenah

Saturday February 13, 2016  
Meeting 10:a.m.—1:00 a.m. With Lunch St.

**Lutheran Campus Ministry—Oshkosh**

All Saints Lutheran Church, Oshkosh

Sunday February 21, 2015  
Meeting 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Appleton Conference of the ECSW**

8:30 a.m.  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Midway Road, Menasha, WI

Saturday, February 20, 2016 Registration  
Meeting 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Our

**Fox Valley Lutheran Homes—Linwood Place**

Registration 8:30 a.m.  
Linwood Place, 425 N. Linwood, Appleton, WI

Saturday, April 23, 2016  
Meeting 9:00

**Synod Assembly**

KI Center, Green Bay, WI

Friday & Saturday, May 20-21, 2016

## Scripture Readings

### February 7 – Transfiguration of our Lord

Exod. 34:29-35    2 Cor. 3:12–4:2

Luke 9:28–36

### February 10 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2,12-17    2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 14    1 Lent

Deut. 26:1-11    Rom. 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

### February 21 – 2 Lent

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18    Phil. 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

### February 28 – 3 Lent

Isa. 55:1-9    1 Cor. 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9



## Mission Statement

### *Mission Statement*

*By grace, through faith, we follow God's word, share gospel of Jesus Christ and bring hope to others through worship, education and outreach.*



## Worship Assistants

### February

**Ushers:** Larry Baumbach, Mike Keeney, Phillip Keeney, Joe Wilharms

**Organist:** Diane Bailey

**Sound:** Robbie Johnson

### February 7 Transfiguration of our Lord

**Greeters** Gerry & Ed Kerwell, Mason Phyllis & Gary Schroeder, East

**Asst. Minister:** Tom Jensen

**Lector:** Gerry Kerwell

**Communion:** Dennis Pringnitz

### February 10—Ash Wednesday    6:30

**Asst. Minister:** Mandie Klauer

**Organist:** Diane Bailey

### February 14 – 1 Lent

**Greeters:** Millie, Joe & Lindsey Wilharms  
Mason

Karen Miller, East

**Asst. Minister:** Lois Hilger

**Lector:** Carey Mackesy

**Communion:** Ron Bailey

### February 21 – 2 Lent

**Greeters:** Ron Bailey    Mason  
Mary Kruckeberg/Mary  
Wheeler    East

**Asst. Minister:** Larry Baumbach

**Lector:** Cheryl Muggenthaler

**Communion:** Gene Krull

### February 28 - 3 Lent

**Greeters:** Nita Williams, Mason  
Mary & Tom Jensen, East

**Asst. Minister** Sharon Meier

**Lector:** Gene Krull

**Communion:** Marty Grow



# Joys and Concerns

- ~Selma Torbeck
- ~Muriel Tiedt
- ~Adeline Elias
- ~Donny Kassube
- ~Earl Breitenfeldt
- ~Henry Schoenborn
- ~Rev. Jennie Johnson-Wrege
- ~Marie Mueller
- ~Mark Catlin
- ~Rose Zinck
- ~Melissa Heins
- ~May Cook
- ~Ellen Holz
- ~Terry Bellile
- ~Judy Kurth
- ~Robyn Messenger
- ~Jim DeBraal
- ~Linda Knoll
- ~Joe Kunkel
- ~Joe

**Prayer Team**

**Do you have a need?** When you need prayers said for you or a loved one, we have Prayer Chain Teams. If you have a prayer request, please call Mary Hubers, 731-1428 or Carol Sievert, 734-4473.

# Gather Together

**DINE and C-O-N-N-E-C-T** with friends at Spats, 733. W. College Ave. in Appleton, at **5:00 p.m. on Sunday February 21.** Sign up on the sheet on the narthex desk by Sunday, February 14. It will be a "Spat-tastic event, so join us!

**The 2016 WELCA** spring event will be at Zion in Appleton in April. Plans are being finalized and information come after the new year. Leslie Fens Conference Coordinator

**Fox Valley Lutheran Homes—Lenten Services.** The Lenten Services will include Ash Wednesday (with ashes), February 10th and Maundy Thursday. Neenah and Appleton congregations will be included. Worship at 11:30 a.m. followed by soup.

**Love to Craft?** Get together with "friends" to work on projects. Here is an opportunity to do that—We will hold a craft weekend Friday, February 19th (4:00 pm—11:00pm) and Saturday, February 20th (8:00 am—11:00 pm) Fees for the weekend are \$15 for Friday and \$25 for Saturday. Fees offset the cost of meals for the weekend as well as fund charitable causes. Hope to see you there. If you have questions, please see **Julie Lyons.**

# Sunday School

## Children

**Sunday School** is held Sunday mornings from. 9:30—10:30 in the lower level of Grace. Children from the ages of 3 to 6th grade are *welcome to attend.*



# Adults

**Friday Bible Study**— Each Friday at 9:00 a.m. a group meets to study the lessons for Sundays Service. All are welcome!

This is a great time to study the lessons for Sunday. The group is diverse including several that are not members of Grace.

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## One Body, Many Members:

A journey across Race,  
Class and Culture



Saturday, February 6,  
8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Trinity Lutheran, Appleton

The ECSW is sponsoring this event for congregation members. Judith Roberts, the ELCA Director for Racial Justice will lead the conversation on ways to build bridges across differences, not divide. Lunch included. Just \$5.00. Register by February 1 in office.

## Be Safe this Winter

**Winter has arrived. Be careful as you move around and watch for ice. At the back door of the church in the elevator room is a bucket of ice melt. If you see a spot that could cause a fall, please put a little melt on it.**

## Council President

### Grace Council

I thought it would be worth sharing some things from the January meeting of the Congregational Council. In the opening devotion Pastor Vicki quoted a passage from Hebrews reminding us that we are always surrounded by the faithful who have gone before and that we should draw strength from their example. She concluded by noting that we are surrounded and supported daily by the faithful still on Earth. The meeting agenda was our normal fare but did include time for a report and discussion with the Call Committee. The meeting was also attended by members of the property committee. On a cold January night 18 people filled the conference room. Prior to the meeting, and the mad search for additional chairs, the room was filled with laughter, smiles, fellowship and concerns for Rev. Jen. Robbie Johnson mentioned how great it was to see so many people in attendance and equated it to how great it felt when we ran out of service bulletins for Pastor Judy's farewell. We learned from the Call Committee that people took the time to complete and return 49 surveys many with hand written comments. We learned of the continued work of the property committee to evaluate the needs of our aging building. We learned that many simpler repairs are being done by volunteers to save dollars for more vital repairs. We also discussed the need to hire an office secretary and other things important to the ultimate calling of our new pastor. When the meeting was ended we had just seen and participated in the proof of what Pastor Vicki's devotion was all about, that we are indeed surrounded by the faithful. All striving to do their part in not only the work of Grace Lutheran Church but also the work Jesus has called us to do beyond the walls of our congregation.

Tom Jensen, Chair

## Call Committee

### Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to work towards their goal of identifying and recommending a call for a new pastor. The process is somewhat slow and methodical. The committee is considering all aspects of congregation needs and the right pastoral fit. At the January Congregation Council meeting the Call Committee presented a summary of the recent congregational survey on most desired pastor attributes. 50 people completed the survey. Grace members were asked to identify their top 3 choices from among 24 possible pastoral attributes. The congregation identified 3 key attributes among these 24 possibilities. 21% of all respondents said "preaching" was one of their top 3 choices. 18% said leading effective "worship" services. 12% said being an "interpreter of theology" was in their top 3. The other 21 choices had lower priorities for the congregation. We know preaching, worship and interpreting theology are not the only skills the committee should consider in identifying potential pastoral candidates. But those three are the highest, based on the stated preferences from the congregation. The Call Committee thanks all who completed the survey. If you have any questions about the survey results, please see me or another member of the Call Committee.

Mark Balkman

Grace Call Committee Chair



### About The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.7 members in more than 9,300 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work, Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther*

## New Voting Requirements

Do you have an acceptable form of ID for voting? If not, **contact Sharon Meier at 739-4291** or the church office at 733-9135. The Grace care team is willing to provide rides to the Department of Motor Vehicles if you need to obtain a free Voter Photo ID. What is needed? It must be a government-issued card that expires some time after November 4, 2014. It can be a Wisconsin driver's license, a Wisconsin ID card (free), a passport, or college ID card plus proof of current enrollment. If you have legally changed your name since your current card was issued, it must be updated with your new legal name.

What to do:

- \*Go to local Department of Motor Vehicles. Remember rides are available.
- \*Bring your social security number (don't need original SS card) PLUS ORIGINAL documents that prove your date of birth, identity, US citizenship and WI residency. Call your local municipality clerk, the church office, or Sharon Meier to see which documents qualify.
- \*Fill out the WI ID card application.

Voting is a right you don't want to forfeit so make plans to take care of this today. If you plan to vote absentee, you need to enclose a copy of your voter photo ID unless you are in a care facility. Requirements are different there, and the same sources can tell you what to do if living there.

PS: Volunteer drivers are also needed.

Call Sharon Meier if you can help.



## NEW WEBSITE!



[www.gracelutheranappleton.org](http://www.gracelutheranappleton.org)

It will take time to complete but feel free to look at it. You will find the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. We will continue to have printed ones available at church.

## Congregation Boards

### Executive Committee

Tom Jensen, President  
Cheryl Muggenthaler, VP  
Ron William, Secretary  
Dennis Pringnitz, Treasurer

### Boards

Jon Seidl, Representing Education  
Dorothy Dallmann, Finance  
David Lease, Property  
Rev. Jen Johnson-Wrege,  
Worship and Music  
Sharon Meier, Care Team  
Larry Baumbach, Tenant Advisor

### Call Committee

Mark Balkman, Chair  
Carey Mackesy, Vice-Chair  
Susan Anderson  
Marilyn Catlin  
Robbie Johnson  
Gene Krull  
Sharon Meier  
Cheryl Muggenthaler  
Larry Radloff

## December Financial

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 31,261.46</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 14,606.02</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,675.19</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 21,271.55</b>
<b>Mortgage:</b>	<b>\$112,268.11</b>
<b>Line of credit</b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>
<b>Thrivent Choice (YTS)</b>	<b>\$ 3,272.47</b>
<b>Benevolence (YTD)</b>	<b>\$ 16,647.00</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$ 4,315.00</b>

# Worship at Grace



**All are  
Welcome**

## Grace Lutheran Church

**900 N. Mason Appleton, WI 54914**

**Pastor Vicki Fink**

**920/450-7796**

Office 920/733-9135  
Email Grace54914@gmail.com  
Web Site www.gracelutheranappleton.org

### Worship Times

Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

Communion celebrated at both services

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Lower Level  
Adult Forum 9:30 a.m. February 14—March 13  
Parish Activity Center

## Lent at Grace

### Ash Wednesday Worship

February 10, 2016 - 6:30pm

Plan to participate in this service of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Mark the beginning of Lent by being reminded of the traditional Lenten Disciplines and reflecting on how they might help foster growth in grace this year. Mid-week worship will not be offered this year at Grace. Join the group on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for a Lenten class, *Open My Life, Lord* (February 14- March 13) or participate in mid-week worship at another area congregation or Fox Valley Lutheran Homes.

### Open My Life, Lord

Sundays 9:30 a.m.

February 14- March 13



This year the focus for Lent will happen at the Learning Hour on Sundays instead of a mid-week evening worship service. Our eyes, hands, ears, hearts- our whole lives have been opened by God, but for most of us, more openness in all these areas would be welcomed! The lives of Paul and Lydia, Jesus' ministry and the church in Galatia will be used to help participants reflect on God's action in and among us. God has opened the way to eternity for us, what does that look this Lent? Youth and adults are welcome to make this hour their Lenten practice this year. Are you a person open to trying new things?