

GRACE NEWS

Pastor Vicki Fink

Grace Lutheran Church

900 N. Mason, Appleton, WI. 54914

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January, 2016

Pastors Message

Epiphany

The star that led the wise men to Jesus marked the beginning of a worldwide realization of God's grace being poured out. At the baptism of Jesus, his identity became clearer. Finally on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white. "This is my Son, listen to him" the voice from the cloud pronounced. These are the highlights of the Sundays after Epiphany. During this time we celebrate Christ being made known to the whole world. It is a season for mission and witnessing.

Two different congregations that I have served followed a German tradition for Epiphany. One night after Christmas, the trees used in the sanctuary for decoration were taken down and drug outside. Some members brought their trees from home and piled them on top as well. A bonfire was lit which blazed in the dark. We sang and prayed out in the cold, sparks flying everywhere. The drama of that practice reminded

us of the great light God showed to the magi which led them to the Christ child. Now as Christ's church, our lives are what shine forth the brightness of God's glory and reveal God's mercy and love. This is an exciting and challenging calling.

Epiphany means "making manifest." How is Christ made manifest through us? What about our lives might indicate the nature of God to others? How is God being revealed to us as we grow in faith? The light of insight and direction for mission are gifts we are given by God. Where is God calling us? Calling this congregation?

These are important questions, especially poignant at this time of transition. It's a good month to make some space for quiet and reflect on where God is at work among us. What is God drawing us toward in this New Year?

Pastor Vicki

Who is Grace?

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 for the sake of the world

"God's Work , Our Hands"



Good News

Welcome New Babies

Samuel Timothy Nieft, son of Eric and Bethany and brother of Hadley.

Liam Robert Hoerning, son of Bryan and Jennifer and brother of Emma.



Update – Thank you for the prayers for my sister Robyn Messenger. She had a scan after finishing her treatments and the good news is that the tumor has not grown. Her condition will be monitored with another scan in 3 months. Thank you for your prayers. Deb Baumbach

A Huge thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents in 2015 to make sure everything runs well at Grace. It is impossible to calculate the number of hours that are given generously, but to each of you, thanks. Every minute of time you give is appreciated and those minutes add up to many hours.

Mission & Outreach

Grace is involved in a number of outreach missions listed below. If you are interested in getting involved please see the person named

Salvation Army—Do you have time on the second Thursday of each month to help at the noon meal at the Salvation Army? Preparation and setup starts at 10:00 a.m., with the meal served at 11:30 a.m. with cleanup and done by 1:00 p.m.. Any help is appreciated, even if you cannot be there the whole 3 hours. If you would like to help, please talk to **Dave Wiese**.

Faith In Action—Trinity Lutheran sponsors a dinner each week at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. All are welcome and volunteer help is always needed. Call Trinity, Appleton and ask how you can help.

Grace collects food and household items the first Sunday of the month. Take a green bag from the entrance home with you if you want to make contributions each month. If you are interested in helping distribute the food, contact Shari Waldron.

“Cheeses for Jesus” West High School Lunch at Grace. Each Thursday as many as 150 students from West’s three lunch shifts walk over to Grace to enjoy grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup and brownies in a relaxed, safe and supportive space. Could you help make, grill, serve and/or clean up? Contact **Susan Pringnitz**.

Quilting—Tuesday mornings during the school year a group meets in the lower level to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are shipped around the world and used by those in need in a variety of ways (www.lwr.org). The group makes approximately 300 quilts a year. If you want to get involved in this project, contact **Dorothy Dallmann**. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**. They can use fabric and old sheets if you have those materials to donate.

Salvation Church of God Congregation—This Hmong-American congregation meets Saturday mornings in the sanctuary at Grace. Their singers have shared their gifts on several occasions with Grace and their members’ wonderful egg rolls have become favorites. More ways to serve God together are hoped for in the future.

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes, this senior apartment complex in Appleton is supported by area Lutheran Churches, has 30 hot water heaters that need replacing. Grace would like to replace one of them. The cost is \$631 each. To date, Grace has collected \$470 dollars in our goal to replace one heater. Donations can be made with your regular offering by clearly marking the amount you would like to go toward this project on your offering envelope.



Year End Reports

Boards & Leaders: it is not too soon to collect your thoughts and data in review of 2015. Even though year-end reports are not published until the semi-annual June meeting, this is a good time to reflect on 2015 activities. Thank you for your diligent leadership in the mission and ministry of Grace.

Year End Giving Statements—Your generous gifts for the life and ministry of Grace are greatly appreciated! Giving records for 2015 will be available by January 31, 2016. If you wish yours mailed, let the church office know.

2016 Offering Envelopes Look for your 2016 offering envelopes on the table in the gathering area. **Discontinue** using 2015 envelopes in 2016 as numbers change.

Thrivent Members! Grace can receive funds through the Choice Dollars program! Call [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) to direct this FREE money. If you are a Thrivent member, this benefit is available! Please call Thrivent to direct your benefit to Grace and they can answer your questions.

Technology

It's a word we hear all the time. Grace realizes the need to move further into the age of our younger members.

We need several individuals who know and understand today's technology and would serve on a **short term** advisory team to help us discover what we can do to upgrade our website, newsletter, a facebook page, technology in worship and other areas that can make us a better congregation to our members and to reach out to others in our community. If you can help, please let Pastor Vicki know.

Volunteers

There are volunteer needs at Grace. If you can help with one or more of these needs, please see Pastor Vicki or anyone in office.

Our Newsletter is getting a face lift. We eventually hope to attach it to our web site along with e-mailing it out. The online one and e-mailed one will use color to make it more appealing. However, we need a little help in the mechanics of Publisher or some other program that will allow us to improve it. If you have knowledge of such programs please talk to Cheryl Muggenthaler.

Property Team has projects that could use some help. Talk to **Dave Lease** and see where help is needed. We have a number of painting projects that can use some help.

With the heavy rains in the last couple of weeks several roof leaks have appeared.

Thank You to so many people who were thinking of our less mobile members this holiday season. This year's donations showed a nice variety of items, and they brought smiles to many faces, 20 in fact. We also thank the people who delivered the bags and shared their time and smiles too.

Sharon Meier, Care Team

A Survey was handed out at the semi-annual meeting on December 13 asking each family member to complete one and indicate your 3 most important assets in a new pastor. This can include children. If you would like a survey, please let the office know or go to www.glcsurvey.com If you have questions talk to any of the call committee members.

Mark Balkman Call Chair

Gather Together

OUR NEXT C-O-N-N-E-C-T DINING EVENT will be at Home Run Pizza, 1216 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton, at **5:00 P.M. on Sunday, January 31.** **Sign up** on sheet on the narthex desk by Sunday, January 24. Along with pizza, there is a list of sandwiches, dinner items, soup, salad bar, desserts and a kid's menu for those under 12. Connect is a simple way to grow in community together by going out to eat.

Joy Circle—will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 11 at Mark's East Side.

The 2016 WELCA spring event will be at Zion in Appleton the first part of April. Plans are being finalized and information come after the new year. Leslie Fens conference coordinator

Joys and Concerns

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

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.

Worship Assistants

January

Ushers: Bob Meier, Art Peterson,
Dennis Pringnitz, Gary Schroeder
Organist: Diane Bailey
Sound: Robbie Johnson

January 3 – 2 Christmas

Greeters: Mary & Ray Hubers, Mason

Joyce Learman, East
Asst. Minister: Ron Williams
Lector: Haley Fens
Communion: Dennis Pringnitz

January 10 – Baptism of our Lord

Greeters: Joy & Jim DeBraal, Mason
Marty Grow / Dirk DeBraal, East
Asst. Minister: Laury Grow
Lector: Laury Grow
Communion: Ron Bailey

January 17 – 2 Epiphany

Greeters: Carol Aldinger /Bonne Planner
Mason
Luann / Jon Seidl, East
Asst. Minister: Deb Baumbach
Lector: Deb Baumbach
Communion: Gene Krull

January 24 – 3 Epiphany

Greeters: Verla Koerner/Sue Anderson -
Mason
Mary Boldt—East
Asst. Minister Mark Balkman
Lector: Brian Klauer
Communion: Marty Grow

January 31 – 4 Epiphany

Greeters: Sharon & Bob Meier—Mason
Mandy Klauer—East
Asst. Minister Sharon Meier
Lector: Mary Jensen
Communion: Gene Krull



Scripture Readings

January 3 – Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Eph. 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 10 – Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17– 2 Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 24 – 3 Epiphany

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6,8-10 1 Cor. 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

January 31 – 4 Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Cor. 13:1-13

Luke 4:121-30



Worship With Us

Grace Lutheran Church,

900 N. Mason
Appleton, WI. 54914

Rev. Vicki Fink

920/450-7796

Office 920/733-9135
Email Grace54914@gmail.com
Web Site New website coming

Worship Times

Sunday 8:30 a.m. and
10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

Children

There will be no classes on January 3rd. Classes will resume January 10th.

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

Adult Study beginning Sunday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Vicki will lead a 4 week study on Worship held in the PAC.

Synod Workshop- Equipping Ministry in a Diverse World: Listening Deeply to the other.. Plan to attend one of these sessions January 16, then the full day event February 6. Call the church office to register for one of the sessions below.

St John's Lutheran Church

2700 Babcock Road, Green Bay

Gathering 8:30 — Workshop 9:00 -12:00

Calvary Lutheran Church

2580 W. Ninth Avenue, Oshkosh

Gathering 1:30 — Workshop 2:00 -5:00

Saturday, February 6 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church

209 S. Allen, Appleton

Gathering 8:30— Workshop 9:00—3:00 with lunch.

The conversation will continue with Judith Roberts the ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice, and flow into our 2016 Synod Assembly and beyond as we seek, too, to build bridges across differences that divide.

Council President

A Word from our Congregation's President

For Christians, Advent and Christmas mark the time we remember the day that God's Grace physically came to Earth; to set in place the plan that God promised to Adam and Eve. Our congregation has also marked the beginning of the Advent season with the beginning of a new chapter in our history. After twelve years of service Pastor Judy has retired and has begun enjoying the fruits of her retirement. The call/transition committee is hard at work compiling the information needed to begin the search for a new Pastor. Lastly, but certainly not the least, Pastor Vicki Fink has been hired as our supply pastor to shepherd Grace until our new pastor arrives. Pastor Vicki is not a stranger to our congregation or its members. She is a previous member of Grace and celebrated her ordination in our sanctuary. Her first Sunday leading worship was Dec. 6th. Please take a moment to greet and introduce yourself to Pastor Vicki over these next weeks.

Just as God's plan of salvation needed 33 years to be completed by Jesus, so will our transition take time and, at times, hard work. I encourage you to volunteer when asked to help complete the many tasks that will be needed during this transition. I ask for your patience when we mess something up and for your encouragement when things are going well. Your opinion and voice are important; so I ask for your participation in completing the surveys coming from the call committee. Finally I ask for your prayers as we begin this new chapter at Grace, striving to do God's will and looking ahead to the final chapter when Christ arrives all over again.

Tom Jensen

Congregation Council

Executive Committee

Tom Jensen , President	830-6421
Cheryl Muggenthaler, VP	730-1980
Ron Williams, Secretary	731-2195
Dennis Pringnitz, Treasurer	733-7591

Boards

Jon Seidl, Rep Edu.	59-2760
Dorothy Dallmann , Fin.	739-0684
David Lease , Prop.	843-1364
Rev. Jen Johnson-Wrege, W & M <i>Worship and Music</i>	740-1476
Sharon Meier, Care Team <i>Care Team</i>	739-4291
Larry Baumbach, Ten. Adv.	358-8695

Call Committee

Mark Balkman, Chair	734-5934
Carey Mackesy, Vice-Chair	733-6115
Susan Anderson	740-7546
Marilyn Catlin	731-8286
Robbie Johnson	858-8007
Gene Krull	739-3880
Sharon Meier	739-4291
Cheryl Muggenthaler	730-1980
Larry Radloff	734-5289
Jon Seidl	759-2760
Rev. Jennie Johnson- Wrege	740-1479

Call Committee

Call Committee Update

Grace's Call Committee continues to lay the groundwork and do the steps necessary to call a new pastor for our congregation. So far this fall the committee has met five times, including once at a joint meeting with the Congregation Council, Bishop Mansholt and synod Mobility Team member Darlene Kalfahs. The Committee is currently focused on completing the Ministry Site Profile document which provides a description of Grace, our mission, challenges, financial picture, etc.

To complete this document we need your help. We have a short survey asking you what you think are the main attributes you feel a new pastor should have and the areas of mission you think are most important.

We handed them out at our semi-annual meeting. In addition they have been put on our website for your completion. If you did not get one or are unable to use the computerized one, please call the church office and we will get one out to you.

We have asked your age group on this survey as we want to make sure we include all our members in this survey and it is important for us to take into consideration the needs of all age brackets and genders. You may also go to www.glcsurvey.com and complete on line. Each member of your household is encouraged to complete one, including those children who are old enough to have an opinion.

Mark Balkman



November Financial

Beginning Balance	\$ 27,271.20
Income	\$ 19,955.63
Expenses	\$ 16,165.37
Ending Balance	\$ 31,261.46
Mortgage:	\$113,001.25
Line of credit	\$ -0-
Thrivent Choice (YTS)	\$ 3,272.47
Benevolence (YTD)	\$ 15,339.00
Savings	\$ 3,947.00

Website Update

As of December 31, Thrivent is no longer hosting Lutherans on Line and our website is gone. We accepted an offer of change.

Several people are beginning to work on the design. We need some help. We want a website that is appealing to our members, those looking for a church and to younger individuals and families.

If you can help, let Pastor Vicki, Larry Baumbach, or the office know.

At the same time we will be setting up a way for our newsletter to attach to the website. We could also use help in updating the format of our newsletter.

WINTER IS HERE

While it is a little late for a white Christmas, it has arrived. Please be mindful if you have elderly neighbors (or any neighbor who may need assistance) to check on them. It is a good time to help one another with shoveling, plowing, or trips to the store. A little kindness goes a long way. Be safe and take care of each other.