

“Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.”

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

January 2018

January Servants

Acolyte

- 7 Tison Werner
- 14 Ross Jerabek
- 21 Hunter Gens
- 28 Brent Lipke

Communion

Michelle Gens

Altar Guild

Shirley Lindeman &
Jeanette Tongen

Ushers

- 7 Norm & Cheryl Schwarze
- 14 Jeff & Tammy Kosek
- 21 Dave & Janice Miellke
- 28 Jeff & Deb Messner,
Jan Messner

Readers

- 7 Keith Tongen
- 14 Jeff Kosek
- 21 Rosine Hermodson-Olson
- 28 Steffie Gronlund

Greeters

- 7 Darrell & Michelle Gens
- 14 Larry & Jeanette Tongen
- 21 Alan & Sandy Jerabek
- 28 Jim & Shirley Lindeman

The Annual Meeting

While we gather in worship weekly, we gather to for an important meeting at least once a year to make decisions together. This year the meeting will be held **after worship on January 28**. Good attendance not only shows that we care about our church, but it also gives us the ability to listen and work together for the benefit of our mission. We will consider the 2018 budget and the ballot the nominating committee has put together. One item on new business is the burial policy of our cemetery that needs to be clarified, namely, the number of cremated remains shall be allowed in each plot. We will also hear from the church council how the gift from the Merrill and Delores Gehrke estate has been used to benefit our ministry and the ministry of others.

We had a great turn-out for the December 17 Christmas program



Help shape the Lenten Series

As the pastor prepares for Lent to start in February, he thought a good theme could be found by asking the congregation what is on their minds. The theme Pastor Andy is proposing is this "Stories and Inquiry in our Faith" for our Wednesday evening worship services. Here is how you can participate: 1. You can submit a Bible story you would like to see lifted up. 2. You can submit a question about the faith you would like to see pondered. (multiple questions could be considered on a Wednesday) 3. You could volunteer to give a talk about what is an important Bible story to you and why it is. (here's your chance!) Forms will be present in the pews in the coming Sunday's for you to give your feedback to the pastor. Lent begins on Feb. 14.

Celebrations

An open house for Audrey Tongen's 90th birthday will be on Sunday, January 7 at Grace from 11am-3pm. Congratulations!

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights
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December 13, 2017

Secretary's Report: M.S.C.: to approve the minutes of the November 2017 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund: November ending balance \$1289.18. Total income for November: \$13,734.48; total expenditures for November: \$9,563.23. Line of Credit: \$5,000. M.S.C.: to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence:

1. Video message from our Synod's bishop answering the questions "What's a Synod good for?!"
2. Letter from Security Bank – invite to open house to meet new staff.

Pastor's Report:

1. Planning for the future – reevaluate our identity as a church
2. Assembly of Annual reports – January 17, meeting at 6:30.

Calendar:

1. January 7 – Fellowship Hall reserved: Keith Tongen contact person
2. January 28 – Annual Meeting

Old Business/Updates:

1. Congregational directory – we have a proof to check over. Should be ready to hand out at annual meeting.
2. Garbage service – old service with Waste Management is cancelled, new service is with West Central Sanitation.
3. Discussion on Cemetery funds' investment. Guest Neil Winterfeldt.
4. Gehrke bequest – We will share what was done with the bequest in January. Joyce will present to congregation at annual meeting.

New Business:

1. 2018 Budget – Finance Committee will be called to meet to draft a budget for next year.
2. Christmas wreath donation – voted to accept the donation which will be mounted on our canopy. Tim will contact the donors.
3. We will put away the Christmas decorations on the evening of January 10. Jane Tongen is helping to coordinate. There will be a light meal.
4. New Sunday School costumes for the Christmas program are needed. Karla will purchase new costumes.
5. Some chairs stored in the garage were damaged by mice. There was a discussion on cleaning, repairing, or replacing some of them.

Committee and Group Reports:

The nominating committee has met and is working on the ballot for 2018.

Giving Tree Results

33 of the 36 ornaments were used to purchased gifts for children in our county. Thanks for your support! Cash donations and a Grace Women's donation helped to purchase gifts of ornaments that were not picked up by individuals. Members of our youth group did some of the shopping with the donated cash. So many people came together to make this project happen.

Donation for Homeless Ministry

A Thrivent Action team card was obtained to help provide a breakfast after the Sunday School Christmas program. That means that all of the free will offering at the Dec. 17 breakfast could go to the designated cause of homeless ministry. \$150 was given to Caring and Sharing Hands and \$150 was given to "Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness" which as it suggests is a cooperation of Minneapolis downtown congregation who shoulder a large burden of ministry to the homeless.

Word from the Pastor

As we start a new year, we are mindful of the passage of time. The Bible has two ways to regard time. The first is chronological time which we measure with clocks and calendars. We move from one year into another and we wish each other a Happy New Year! This kind of time is flat in a sense, by which I mean that one moment is much the same as another.

The second way time comes to us in with opportune time. We hear this spoken of in Ecclesiastes when it says... "there is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest, a time to kill and a time to heal ...". These times are not measured by a clock as much as by the opportunity presenting itself. "In the fullness of time" is another way the bible speaks about opportune time. When the time comes, it is full of opportunity and it is time for you to act because you don't want to the opportunity to pass you by.

As we consider God's call to us, we are asked to think about the opportunities God raises up for us and the need for us to act. What opportune times have we let slip by in the past year? What opportune times did we seize? What are we waiting for still? These are the reflections of a Christian as we start a new year and want to make something meaningful of our lives.

Pastor Andrew Hermodson-Olsen

Grace Lutheran Youth Group

Watch Bulletin for any upcoming events.

Green Lake Bible Camp

Green Lake brochures are here if you wish to start thinking about summer camp. See the pamphlet rack to pick on up.

Grace Women of the ELCA

NOVEMBER 19, 2017 Meeting

- Call to order by Co-President Ardis Waller. Secretary report read by Ardis W. (MSC)
- Treasury report by Jody Genz: \$2286.50 in fund. Donation from Betty Katzenmeyer funeral received \$150. Gave \$75 each to youth Riley Yerks and Dustin Trettin who attended summer Bible camp. Fall Festival Theme baskets raised \$ 541, Country Store raised \$ 428.15 (MSC)
- Thank-You to Fall Festival helpers: Decorating, theme baskets, country store, dessert table, etc. Much appreciated!
- Correspondence received from "Good Gifts Catalog", Thank-you from family of Betty Katzenmeyer. We will need to send to Conference the list of new 2018 ELCA Officers.
- New Officers starting 2018: Co-President= Ardis Waller & Tammy Kosek, Secretary = Vicky Schlenner, Treasurer = Gloria Schuft, Missions = Vonnie Schuett , Deb Messner, Vicky Schlenner.
- Pastor Report: OK to have a Thrivent Action team for Guest Day which will give money to help pay for the meal. Request from Shade Tree for volunteers to come and help with activities.
- Guest Day: December 2. Program 10:30 am. "Christmas Program Memories"-designed by Ardis W. Group 2 serving, Jan Messner organizing meal with Lori Lindeman and Deb Messner. Thank-you to many volunteers for reading, performing music, decorating, making invitations, greeting visitors, and more. Thank-you Pastor for Devotions.
- Women of the ELCA will purchase a poinsettia for Christmas. Joyce Peterson will make order form and purchase poinsettias for congregation.
- Graduation quilts: 4 are needed. Batting needs to be purchased. Jean squares for quilts need to be cut.
- Winter/ Christmas baskets for shut-ins will be delivered.
- Grace WELCA annual donations: Giving Tree – \$75; McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence –\$50; Common Cup – \$200; Luth Social Services – \$100; McLeod Food Shelf –\$100; Heartland Energy –\$50; Luth World Relief –\$50; Luth Campus Ministry –\$50; Family of Congregation-\$200; Jane Tongen's Triennial Convention Registration –\$75. Also: defibrillator donations previously made to church (no longer a fund-raiser) are to go to Brownton Fire Dept. / 1st responders for a designated need. Treasurer will confirm the \$500 total. The Executive Committee will approve the pay-out once confirmed (MSC). Meeting closed. Watch church bulletin for date of next WELCA meeting.

Secretary, Jan Plath

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6pm Local Broadcast	2	3 3:50pm Confirmation	4	5	6
7 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School 11am-3pm Audrey's 90th Birthday Open House	8 6pm Local Broadcast	9	10 3:50pm Confirmation 5pm Put Away Christmas Decorations	11	12	13
14 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	15 6pm Local Broadcast	16	17 3:50pm Confirmation 6:30pm Copuncil Meeting	18 6pm S. Africa Partnership Meeting	19	20
21 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	22 6pm Local Broadcast	23	24 3:50pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 8:45am Worship/Communion 9:45am Annual Meeting 10am Sunday School	29 6pm Local Broadcast	30	31 3:50pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice			