

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

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

February 2018

February Servants

Acolyte

- 4 Aaron Ward
- 11 Ross Jerabek
- 14 (Ash Wed) Tison Werner
- 18 Hunter Gens
- 25 Brent Lipke

Communion

Oather Martin Jr

Altar Guild

Sharon Weber, Jan Beich, &
Jessica Hermodson-Olsen

Ushers

- 4 Kevin & Sharon Weber
- 11 Mark & Becky Streich
- 14 (Ash Wed) Eric & Bev Werner
- 18 Jim & Shirley Lindeman
- 25 Jim & Kathy Todd,
Sara Todd

Readers

- 4 Sharon Weber
- 11 Joyce Peterson
- 14 (Ash Wed) Cheryl Schwarze
- 18 Tison Werner
- 25 Oather Martin Jr

Greeters

- 4 Darwin Frauendienst
- 11 Joyce Peterson & Grandkids
- 14 (Ash Wed) Keith & Jane Tongen
- 18 Norman & Cheryl Schwarze
- 25 Oather Martin Jr

The Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 28. The 2018 ballot was approved as the nominating committee had prepared it. The 2018 budget was passed after it was revised to move Pastor Andy's salary from a 1% to a 2% increase. Under new business, the congregation voted to limit the number of burials per plot in our cemetery to two cremation urns or a casket and a cremation urn. After the annual meeting, the new council met to organize. The council welcomes the following new members – Nancy Deppe, Jake Wendolek, and Keith Tongen. Our new president is Jan Messner and our vice-president is Dave Wendlandt. Karla Trettin will continue for a second year as the secretary.

Lenten Worship on Wednesday

We have a great tradition here at Grace of congregational suppers and Lenten services featuring Holden Evening Prayer. Again in February and March, we undertake this special Lenten disciple of Wednesday worships services starting on February 14. We will again have 5:30pm supper and 6:30pm worship. We thank our youth group families and our youth group advisors for helping to provide the suppers on Wednesdays. The message at worship will include a readers' theater, so volunteers to help with the reading are being sought. Talk to the pastor.

2017 Picture Directory

The picture directory we had done for 2017 is now in the office and members are asked to pick theirs up! May you enjoy this snapshot of our faith community's life.

We apologize in advance for any errors in address or phone numbers. Please contact the church office if you have corrections so we can have it correct in our database.

Prayer Tree

Grace is starting a prayer tree. On the tree you may put a note with someone's name or something you would like the members of Grace to pray for.

If you want Pastor Andrew to pray for this person on Sunday morning, you will need to inform him. He will not be responsible to check the tree for prayer requests.

Celebrations or Sympathies

- Audrey Tongen celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house on January 7.
- Our sympathy to the Alan Jerabek family who became ill suddenly after Christmas and died on January 5.
- Our sympathy to the Delphine Lindeman family who died on January 17.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights
Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.

January 17, 2018

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

Treasurer's Report: General Fund: December ending balance \$6490.03
Total income for Dec was \$18,933.82; total expenditures for Dec were \$17,373.56.
Line of Credit: \$0.00; M.S.C. to approve the Treasurer's Report

Correspondence:

1. Various thank you's have been received from our benevolence gift giving.
2. Brownton Fire Department annual request – M.S.C. to donate \$75.00.

Pastor's Report:

1. Thank you to outgoing council members.
2. Pastor encouraged conversations and consideration to reach out to Immanuel Lutheran, New Auburn regarding their pastoral changes. Possibly will discuss the future.
3. Equipping Congregations – Feb. 10 in Willmar. Anyone from the council or congregation is welcome to attend. A great resource for learning.
4. Lenten Season plans are underway as we consider the theme, liturgy, and suppers.
5. Thrivent Action Teams are being used for a variety of events and have brought good support for us to do different things – Women's Guest Day, Christmas program breakfast, Lenten suppers, and Sunday school service project.
6. Needing servants for various positions at both conference and Synod positions which congregation members can volunteer.

Calendar:

January 28 – Annual Meeting
February 14 – Lent begins
February 25- Building Use. Contact: Roxanne Wendlandt
March 15-18 - Pastor at Lilly Director's conference
March 25 - Food for Kidz pack/Palm Sunday
April 1 – Easter
April 26-29 - Pastor's Vacation

Old Business/Updates:

1. Congregational directory – should be here to be handed out at our annual meeting.
2. Cemetery funds' investment – cashed in 1 certificate. We can discuss in Feb. more about investing funds.
3. Gehrke Bequest – sharing the news - will present information in the annual report of how money has been allocated so far.
4. Replace damaged chairs needs to be discussed at a future meeting. Information on cost and place of purchase is being finalized.

New Business:

1. Financial Secretary opening
2. We will have a New Member Sunday. The pastor is planning on having it on Feb. 11.
3. The Annual Meeting agenda was discussed.
4. A Thank You dinner for outgoing council members and our treasurer will be held at Feb. 1, 6pm at church. Jan Messner will line up the caterer. Spouses are welcome.

Committee and Group Reports:

Property & Management Cmt – received bid for painting the sanctuary-\$1200 labor only
Auditing Cmt – meet January 21 to review 2017 income/expenses report
Nomination Cmt – ballot is set for the annual meeting

Next Meeting: February 14, 7:30pm

Word from the Pastor

We read about hospitality in the Bible. It was a strongly engrained practice whereby you invite and care for travelers and strangers without even being asked to do so. There is a story of Abraham and Sarah showing hospitality to travelers in Genesis 18. They ended up entertaining angels unaware (Hebrews 13:2). Jesus received the hospitality of others as he travelled and taught. Those who cared for Jesus had no idea that he/she was inviting the Son of God into their house!

In the name of God, we also show hospitality. Christian hospitality. You can show Christian hospitality in your private lives as you help people in need and use your resources to care for others. We also show hospitality as a church when we host people at special moments in their lives. Most often it is for funerals. (Maintaining our building is important that we may show hospitality). We need not ask if our guests deserve hospitality. It is not about them; it is about who we are as God's people. In Jesus' name, we are welcoming. In Jesus' name, we are generous. God shows hospitality to the world and we reflect that to others in our actions. I am thankful that when we have funerals or other events, we have the opportunity to share the Gospel in preaching and show them God's care in our hospitality.

Grace Lutheran Youth Group

The youth group, with their parents and youth advisors, will serve our Lenten meals. Information has been distributed to the families. Any questions or changes should be addressed to the advisors: Vicki Herrmann, Steffie Gronlund, and Karla Trettin.

Green Lake Bible Camp

Green Lake brochures are here if you wish to start thinking about summer camp. See the pamphlet rack to pick one up. Last year the women gave two scholarships to camp attendees.

Grace Women of the ELCA

The Women's Group Executive Board will be meeting in February to set dates for the general meetings for 2018. Watch the bulletin for these dates.

2018 Officers:

Ardis Waller & Tammy Kosek, Co-Presidents
Vicky Schlenner, Secretary
Gloria Schuft, Treasurer

Missions: Vonnie Schuett, Deb Messner, & Vicky Schlenner

Common Cup Report

We have been regular supporters of the Common Cup ministry that has operated in our county for 18 years. They have offices in Glencoe and Hutchinson. In 2017, approximately 3000 people were assisted in some way! Some of their programs are: Monthly Diaper Distribution, Warm Coat Distribution, School Supply Distribution, and many acts of assistance to people who have specific needs. Common Cup also assists with the Weekend Backpack Food Program which helped 209 children in our county.

Volunteers are always welcome. If interested call Bev Bonte (320-234-8344). We thank Kerry Ward for being our Common Cup representative.

Message to the Congregation

We would like to acknowledge and thank Pastor Andrew, Vicki Herrmann and the choir, those who provided and served food and the entire congregation for the outpouring of thoughts, prayers, music, flowers and food provided during Alan's hospitalization, visitation and funeral. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

The Family of Alan Jerabek

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Lutheran Marriage Encounter will be held this month in Brooklyn Center (Feb. 16-18). The next weekend offered is April 6-8 in St. Cloud. Whether you're newly married or have been married for decades, good communication is the key to keep your love relationship vibrant and strong. Marriage Encounter teaches a unique and effective set of communication tools that can help you. See more at godlovesmarriage.org.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Council Dinner	2	3
4 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School	5 6pm Local Broadcast	6	7 9am Bible Study-Shade Tree 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	12 6pm Local Broadcast	13	14 Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Council Meeting	15	16	17
18 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	19 6pm Local Broadcast	20	21 9am Bible Study-Shade Tree 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service	22	23	24
25 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School 1pm Building Reserved 2pm Conference Assembly	26 6pm Local Broadcast	27	28 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service			