

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

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

April/May 2018

April Servants

Acolyte

- 1 (6:30am) Brent Lipke
(8:45am) Aaron Ward
8 Tison Werner
15 Ross Jerabek
22 Hunter Gens
29 Brent Lipke

Communion

Oather Martin Jr

Altar Guild

Kathy Todd & Diana Lindeman

Ushers

- 1 Bob & Lori Lindeman,
Bryce Lindeman
8 Tim & Shannon Hahn
15 Lori Copley, Shalon Werner,
Eric & Bev Werner
22 Jim & Jan Plath
29 Tim & Julie Olson,
Justin Olson

Readers

- 1 (6:30am) Kerry Ward
(8:45am) Sharon Weber
8 Paula Katzenmeyer
15 Keith Tongen
22 Doug Karg
29 Rosine Hermodson-Olsen

Greeters

- 1 (6:30am) Keith & Jane Tongen
(8:45am) Joyce Peterson &
Grandkids
8 Darwin Frauendienst
15 Oather Martin Jr
22 Ben & Gloria Schufft
29 Darrel & Michelle Gens

South African Partnership Clothing Drive

A spring clothing drive will again be held here at Grace to benefit our partnership with the Lutherans in the Vryheid Circuit in South Africa. It will be held in May. You may bring clothing, shoes, purses, hats, belts, bedding and any type of material. Please place in tall plastic kitchen bags with drawstrings.

In the past, we have sold what we collected and used the money to thousands of packaged meals (similar to what is packaged in Stewart with Food for Kidz). This food is distributed through certain Lutheran churches in the Vryheid Circuit.

The next South Africa Partnership meeting will be from 6-8 on April 19 at Zion Lutheran Church, Arlington. You are invited to take part in this enjoyable work with the Lutheran church in the Vryheid Circuit. Contact Pastor Andy, Dave Pedersen, or Oather Martin to learn more and to share a ride



These are volunteers our MN Valley Conference have supported as they work with the ill and poor in the Vryheid Circuit, South Africa. Some of the meals that our clothing drive helps buy is given to them to use in their work.

May Servants

Acolyte

- 6 Aaron Ward
13 Tison Werner
20 Hunter Gens
27 TBD

Communion

Tim Olson

Altar Guild

Paula Katzenmeyer & Jan Plath

Ushers

- 6 Dave & Roxanne Wendlandt
13 Dean & Steph Loncorich
20 Todd & Lisa Lindeman
27 Ben & Gloria Schufft
And Families

Readers

- 6 Steffie Gronlund
13 Joyce Peterson
20 Cheryl Schwarze
27 Tison Werner

Milestones Coming Up

On April 22 we will have First Communion for some young Christians in our community of faith. Scheduled to take the first communion class held in April are River Hansch, Nicolas Kosek, and Dustin Trettin. The students will meet with Pastor Andy to learn about the importance and meaning of this sacrament.

We will also honor our high school graduates at a Sunday yet to be determined (likely in May). This year's seniors are Emily Ward, Carson Streich, Emmi Jerabek, and Lexi Hansch. We are fortunate to be able to have these young adults in our congregation and look forward to honoring them at this special time. The date will be announced in future bulletins.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

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Council Highlights – March 14, 2018

Secretary's Report: M.S.C. to approve the minutes of the February 2018 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer provided a report of the last two months.

January: General Fund ending balance: \$7,177.96; Memorial Fund balance \$23,354.74; Building Fund balance \$8,874.32. Total income for January: \$13,140.54; total expenditures for January: \$11,541.95.

Line of Credit: \$0.00. M.S.C.: to approve the January Treasurer's Report.

February: General Fund ending balance: \$3,810.50; Memorial Fund balance \$23,409.74; Building Fund balance: \$8,874.32. Total income for February: \$6,750.96; total expenditures for February: \$10,093.12.

Line of Credit: \$0.00. M.S.C.: to approve the February Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence:

1. Results received back on water levels, tested water levels passed inspection for drinking
2. SW MN Synod – mission support acknowledgement for 2017.

Pastor's Report:

1. Correction on annual meeting ballot: Audit Committee nominee to be elected is Julie Olson, not Neil Winterfeldt as was reported on the ballot.
2. New Member: Ashley Messner will be welcomed into membership on March 18.
3. First communion class will be offered, and First Communion Sunday will be April 22.
4. Conference Assembly was held on March 4. Oather was elected as the new Conference chair.

Old Business/Updates:

1. Cemetery funds' investment – Nancy looking into investment options.
2. Replaced 6 damaged chairs. New chairs have been ordered.
3. Painting sanctuary – schedule for the week of April 9th. Diane Heil memorial money is designated to help pay for the painting.
4. Memorial book – Jan volunteered to work on it.

New Business:

1. Policy manual: Our policy on Handling Church Offerings was reviewed and edited.
2. Easter breakfast. It was asked that a thank you be sent to Michael Foods for egg donation. Karla will send. M.S.C. to designate offering collected from the Easter breakfast to Paul and Theresa Eitel for their trip to Texas to serve at the National Youth Gathering.
3. Sunday School kids will make signs for the Easter breakfast.

Word of the Pastor

Our new life in Christ

A young person who is still growing may buy clothes that are still a little big for them. "I'll grow into them," the young person can say. That's may be an illustration for us as Easter people. Christ is put on us like a set of new clothes. We are may not feel it fits at first. But we will grow into it! It is a new life that is marked by faith, service, and giving.

I was listening to a researcher who studied what makes humans happy. At the end of the interview, he was asked to briefly summarize what he learned. He responded that he found human beings generally need four things in life to be happy. When he said them, I was struck by how they fit with Christian teaching. Here are the four things needed for happiness with my comments added: 1. We need something to do. (In Christian teaching, we talk about this as our vocation; God creates us to do something with our lives.) 2. We need someone to love. (need I say anything more about this!) 3. We need something to look forward to. (Christian teaching is that God calls us into a future with hope) 4. We need something to give back. (Christian teaching is that we are to be stewards of what we have and be able to be generous with what we have been given).

Our motivation in faith is to know and service God, not simply to find happiness. Yet it is encouraging to know through human study that what we believe are the virtues of a godly life are also what make for a pleasant life.

Grief Seminar

The 28th annual "**Beyond Grief**" seminar will be on Thursday, April 12 from 7-9pm at Peace Lutheran Church, Hutchinson. This year's speaker is Linda Lehmann and the title of her talk is "Life is a Journey and Loss is a Detour: How to Help Someone Find their Way Back to Life". See bulletin board for more information.

Birthdays of Shut Ins

There are 2 of our members that will be celebrating birthdays in April.

Della Schultz on April 17 AND Jerome Penk on April 25

Please think of them as they celebrate their upcoming birthdays.

Celebrations

Congratulations to Crew Jeffrey Messner who was baptized into Christ on March 18. He is the son of Jesse and Ashley Messner. Also, welcome to Ashely Messner who joined our congregation on that same day.

Grace Women of the ELCA

The Women's Group will be/met on April 8th following worship for their first meeting of the years.

Spring Gathering will be on Tuesday, April 10 for those who signed up to attend.

Looking Ahead: If interested in donating a theme basket for the Fall Festival, a sign up will be hung up at the end of April.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp brochures are available in our pamphlet rack at the church. You can also visit Green Lake Lutheran Ministries website for information and registration. (gllm.org) Financial support to children attending camp is available from our Grace Women's group, so please take advantage of the support offered. Talk to Pastor Andy with any questions.

Grace Lutheran Youth Group

We had wonderful meals on Wednesday during Lent which gave us a chance to dine together as family and friends. Thanks once again to our youth leaders and the families of our youth group for making this possible. Through the donations that came in, the youth group raised about \$500 after expenses were paid.

"Sound the Alarm, Save a Life"

On Saturday, May 5, the Red Cross will be **installing FREE smoke alarms** in McLeod County homes as part of the "Sound the Alarm, Save a Life" event. Fire departments from Brownton, Stewart, and other cities are partnering with the Red Cross to do this. More volunteers are also needed to install what may be more than 1,500 smoke alarms.

To volunteer – visit soundthealarm.org/mn or call 612-460-3670.

To have a smoke alarm installed – visit getasmokealarm.org or call 612-460-3674.

Upcoming Bridal Shower

A bridal shower for Sara Todd will be from 10:00-1:00 on Saturday, April 28. Sara and Chris Ulrich will have a June wedding.

Congregation Invite:

Teresa Hermodson-Olsen and her husband, Andrew Bettmann, will be at Grace on May 12 for an open house wedding reception from 2-5pm. Come and share your congratulations. They will be married April 27 in St. Paul.

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter 6:30am Easter Worship/Communion 7:30am Breakfast 8:45am Easter Worship/Communion	2 6pm Local Broadcast	3	4 9am Bible Study at Shade Tree 4pm Confirmation	5	6	7
8 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School 10am WELCA Meeting 7pm Committee Meetings	9 6pm Local Broadcast	10	11 4pm Confirmation 7pm Council Meeting	12	13	14
15 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	16 6pm Local Broadcast	17	18 9am Bible Study at Shade Tree 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice	19 6pm South Africa Partnership	20	21
22 1st Communion 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School	23 6pm Local Broadcast	24	25 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice	26	27	28 10am Bridal Shower for Sara Todd
29 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	30 6pm Local Broadcast					

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9am Bible Study at Shade Tree 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School	7 6pm Local Broadcast	8	9 7pm Council Meeting	10	11	12 2pm Wedding Reception
13 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	14 6pm Local Broadcast	15	16 9am Bible Study at Shade Tree 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday 8:45am Worship	21 6pm Local Broadcast	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:45am Worship/Communion	28 Memorial Day NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! 6pm Local Broadcast	29	30	31		