

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

# Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

March 2018

## March Servants

### Acolyte

- 4 Tison Werner
- 11 Aaron Ward
- 18 Hunter Gens
- 25 Ross Jerabek

### Communion

Jake Wendolek

### Altar Guild

Jan Messner & Julie Olson

### Ushers

- 4 Neil & Melanie Winterfeldt
- 11 Larry & Jeanette Tongen
- 18 Joyce Peterson, Brandon & Sarah Yerks, Amanda Kottke
- 25 Chris & Kristen Hansch, Jeff Wendlandt
- 29 (Maun Th) Dave & Sharon Carrigan, Darwin Frauendienst

### Readers

- 4 Roxanne Wendlandt
- 11 Diana Lindeman
- 18 Brandon or Sarah Yerks
- 25 Kathy Engelsmeier
- 29 (Maun Th) Vicki Herrmann

### Greeters

- 4 Ben & Gloria Schuft
- 11 Darrell & Michelle Gens
- 18 Larry & Jeanette Tongen
- 25 Jim & Shirley Lindeman

## Easter Comes Quickly!

Lenten worship services continue through March. Wednesday worship will continue through the 21<sup>st</sup> and then the last week of March is Holy Week. See the calendar for all the worship services and times.

Easter is on **April 1** with our **6:30am Sunrise Service, 7:30am Breakfast, and 8:45am Easter Worship**. This is the biggest festival of our Christian faith! Come and rejoice in the good news!

## Helping Others... Food Packing Event

We want to make a difference for others. So we will have a food packing event again! Sunday, March 25, from 10-11:30am (after worship). Join us for whatever time you wish to help. All ages may participate. Cash donations also welcome to help purchase the food we are packing.



## Celebrations

We rejoice that these people have become members here – Gary Alsleben, Kim Bacon, Kathryn Worden, Tammy Maiers and her three sons: Nicolas Kosek, Bennett Maiers, and William Maiers (Bennett and William are associate members).

## Sympathies

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Diane Heil who died on February 10. We had a funeral at Grace on February 16. Thanks to those who served.

## **Council Highlights – February 14, 2018**

**Secretary's Report:** M.S.C. to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer was unable to be present and will bring the report to next month's meeting.

**Correspondence:**

1. Common Hope – summary of giving for 2017 and thanks also.
2. Thank you from Lutheran World Relief
3. Results received back on water levels, tested water levels passed inspection for drinking

**Pastor's Report:**

1. Welcome to new council members
2. Council Covenant – confidentiality, respect, okay to disagree
3. Email lists – opportunity to sign up to receive the synod enews
4. Overview of Church structure, reviewed maps
5. National Youth Gathering – representatives Paul and Theresa Eitel will be working as volunteers at the Gathering in Texas this summer.
6. Reminder that Thrivent Action Team program brings good financial support us. Already this year it will help with Food for Kidz food packing, Lenten meals, Care packages for college students.

**Calendar:**

1. March 15-16 - Pastor at Lilly Director's conference
2. March 25 - Food for Kidz pack/Palm Sunday
3. April 1 – Easter
4. April 26-29 - Pastor's Vacation – Linda P will sub, if unable, Joyce will fill in

**Old Business/Updates:**

1. Cemetery funds' investment – cashed in 1 certificate; Cemetery Board will have to meet and decide on investment of funds.
2. Replace damaged chairs was discussed
3. Painting sanctuary – MSC to have Julie Carrigan paint the sanctuary at a cost not exceed \$1500.

**New Business:**

1. Financial Secretary – Julie Olson will step into this position.
2. Our one acre – farmer/lease...Keith will discuss with Ron Lindeman regarding the acre of land that is farmed.
3. Memorial gift ideas were talked about. Some families are curious if we have any needs.
4. Communion schedule and Committee assignments were updated for the coming year.
5. Conference Assembly will be on March 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran, Gaylord.

### **Women's Group Officer Meeting Minutes**

The Grace Women of the ELCA officers met on Sunday Feb 18, 2018

- We agreed to purchase a electric sweeper for use in the church.
- We also agreed to purchase 2 Easter Lilly's.
- Work will resume on the Senior Quilts Tuesday morning the February 20. If you are interested in helping contact Tammy Kosek for future dates.
- A reminder that we have camp scholarship's available for any one wanting to attend Bible Camp.
- Spring Gathering is April 10th, 2018 at 5:30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in New Auburn.

The next Grace women's meeting will be on April 8th after church.

### **Church Contacts & Internet Information**

**Church:** gracebrownton@embarqmail.com

**Pastor Andrew:** pastor@gracebrownton.org

**Secretary/Sarah:** gracebrowntonsecretary@embarqmail.com

**Treasurer/Brandon:** gracebrowntontreasurer@embarqmail.com

Our church website is: [www.gracebrownton.org](http://www.gracebrownton.org)

\*We also have a Facebook page!

Like us so we can reach you with updates!

## Word from the Pastor

### **“Change that Will Help our Church’s Future”**

Last year I did a series of temple talks informing you of the current situation of pastors in the ELCA. Here are two important statistics that sums up some of the issues we face. First, 2/3 of the current active pastors are over the age of 50. Second, it is not unusual for a pastor going to their first call to have educational debt load of \$50,000. (This is not a problem only pastors face, the cost of higher education has risen faster than inflation for many years and without increased support, students going into other professions also have had to bear the burden by taking out more loans.) There was a time when seminary education was free because the church (the denomination) paid for the education to assure they would have pastors, and also pastors not heavily burdened by debt. When I was a seminary student, things were changing; still I was fortunate. While I had to take out loans, get scholarships, and do work-study jobs, the cost was manageable. I had none costs students see today. I don't know how young pastors can make it.

Well, it is not all hopeless. As we get word out about this issue, there is reason hope. I will lift up three things. First, our synod's congregations and people are donating to help lower the burden on pastors with debt relief. We have a fund called the Ministerial Excellence Fund and donations to it have brought help to 45 pastors in the last two years! Second, the ELCA has a Fund for Leaders that is growing. It's goal to be large enough to provide free seminary education to those who wish to be pastors in our church. They received a recent gift that will provide 60 full ride scholarships to seminary students in the next three years! Third, seminaries are finding new support from donors who want to see students helped now. Here's where it is making a difference ... Luther Seminary in St. Paul announced that those starting seminary this coming year will pay no tuition!

We can rejoice at these developments. It will help the ELCA and our synod. It may also help Grace to have a pastor who will serve you well when my time comes to move on. We pray that people in our church will be called to the ordained ministry, so we may have more pastors serving our church now and in the future. And for those that are called, we are thankful that people are stepping forward to help them keep their debt low and their spirits high.

### Congregation Invitation

You are invited to share in the joy of the wedding of Teresa Hermodson-Olsen and Andrew Bettmann.

- You may come to the wedding ceremony at 4 p.m., Friday, April 27 at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, St. Paul. After the wedding ceremony there will be light refreshments in the church lobby. Please RSVP to Rosine (328-4365) by March 30 if you plan on attending the April 27 ceremony.
- On Saturday, May 12, there will be a reception for Teresa and Andrew here at Grace Lutheran from 2-5.

Thanks for your prayers of support!

### Lutheran Marriage Encounter Enrichment Weekend in St. Cloud

For the first time a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend will be held in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, April 6-8 at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn. This marriage enrichment experience will be presented by three lay couples, plus Pastor Linda and Dave Pedersen from our synod. Married couples will listen to topics by presenters, including how to enhance communication skills, and then have the opportunity to talk in the privacy of their own room. This ministry can benefit married couples of all ages and years of marriage. Cost is \$100 registration fee plus a free will offering. Pre-registration is required by March 26. Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org) where you can learn more. For information contact Peter & Phyllis McMahon at [mcmahonp@comcast.net](mailto:mcmahonp@comcast.net) or 763-561-1575.

### Grace Women of the ELCA

We will have our Womens First General meeting of the year will be April 8 after worship service.

The Spring Gathering is April 10 at Immanuel in New Auburn. Registration at 5:30pm w/meal (cost \$8). Meeting is at 6:30pm. There is a poster to on the bulletin board w/ paper for sign-up. We need to RSVP by 4/3.

### Grace Lutheran Youth Group

Thanks to the families who provided for the Lenten suppers. It provides great fellowship to our faith community.

### Educational Series

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six session education program that equips caregivers with the tools needed to take care of yourself as you care for a family member. It is sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. It meets each Thursday from March 22-April 26, 1:00-2:30, at Peace Lutheran Church, Hutchinson. Pre-Registration is necessary. Call Sarah Doering at 320-221-4513.

# March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School	<b>5</b> 6pm Local Broadcast	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9am Bible Study (Shade Tree) 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:15pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	<b>12</b> 6pm Local Broadcast	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:15pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School	<b>19</b> 6pm Local Broadcast	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Bible Study (Shade Tree) 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:15pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Palm Sunday</b> 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Food Packing Event	<b>26</b> 6pm Local Broadcast	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7pm Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>30</b> 6pm Good Friday Service	<b>31</b>