

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

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

December 2018

December Servants

Acolyte

- 2 Sydney Harpel
- 9 River Hansch
- 16 Braxton Streich
- 23 Ross Jerabek
- 24 Sydney Harpel
- 30 Grace Lipke

Communion

Jan Messner

Altar Guild

Vonnie Schuett & Theresa Eitel

Ushers

- 2 Michelle Barley
- 9 Lowell & Sherry Rickheim,
Rich & Kerry Ward
- 16 Klark & Paula Katzenmeyer
- 23 Diana Lindeman,
Blair Hansch
- 24 Joyce Peterson & Worship
Committee
- 30 Vicki Herrmann,
Ben & Gloria Schuft

Readers

- 2 Steffie Gronlund
- 9 Joyce Peterson
- 16 Sharon Weber
- 23 Cheryl Schwarze
- 24 Tison Werner
- 30 Oather Martin, Jr

Greeters

- 2 Jim, & Shirley Lindeman
- 9 Keith & Jane Tongen
- 16 Darwin Frauendienst
- 23 Oather Martin Jr
- 24 Joyce Peterson & Grandkids
- 30 David & Sharon Carrigan

Christmas Schedule

Sunday School Program

December 16: Sunday School Christmas Program will be during worship at 8:45am

*There will be no Sunday School on December 23 and 30.
Classes resume as normal on January 6.

Worship Services

December 23: Worship with Communion at 8:45am

December 24: Christmas Eve worship at 5pm

December 30: Worship at 8:45am



Congregation Assessment

LEAD Congregational Assessment is ready to be taken online.

This assessment will help finding our congregation's strengths & opportunities for growth to help identify next steps moving forward.

To take the survey go to:

<https://waytolead.org/take-lead-assessment>

Password: **Assessment-cong** (this is case sensitive)

*The church computers are available for use if needed. Committee members & Sarah are available for any help. Paper forms are available and committee member can enter your responses.

Usher List for 2019

2019 Usher Lists are out and attached in this newsletter.

Ushering Duties have been revised. There are copies in the church.

Please make sure you are doing your part and do **ALL** the requested duties during your week.

Youth Group

Upcoming Activities:

- **Dec 9th:** Christmas party and shopping trip for the McLeod County Giving Tree
***Please Note Date Change!**

Mark Your Calendars!

January 27th, 2019: Annual Meeting

Please start preparing your Annual Reports. The church council will be putting the reports together at their January meeting... so if can please have them **turned in by January 9** it would be GREATLY appreciated. If possible, please email them to secretary. Any questions see Sarah Tongen.

Women of the ELCA

Guest Day was held on Saturday, December 1. The women would like to thank everyone who helped prior and during the event.

We are still looking for ladies whom may be interested in being a board member. Please see a current board member if interested.

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

November 14, 2018

Attending: Karla Trettin, Jan Messner, Nancy Deppe, Dave Wendlandt, Michele Gens, Jake Wendolek, Tim Olson, Keith Tongen, Brandon Yerks, and Pastor Hummel. Absent: Oather Martin

President Jan Messner called the meeting to order.

Devotions/Bible Study & Prayer

Pastor Hummel led devotions and prayer.

Special Report from Finance Keeper – Julie Olson

- Our record keeping system, Revelations, is no longer supported. The council voted to upgrade to Iconcmo or Iconrubix, a web based record keeping system, as it will interface with the treasurer's record keeping needs as well. Will use the trail period and then report back.

Secretary's Report:

M.S.C.: to approve the minutes of the October 2018 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

M.S.C.: to approve the Treasurer's Report

General Fund: October ending balance \$8,476.09

Memorial Fund: October balance \$3,083.98

Building Fund: October balance \$100.32

Memorial Fund CD: \$20,000.00

Building Fund CD: \$10,000.00

Total income for October \$8,074.25 total expenditures \$8,937.99

Line of Credit: \$0.00

Correspondence:

- Living Lutheran - \$19.95/yr. per person if interested in purchasing
- Mission Investment
- ELCA World Hunger – souper bowl of giving goes here, council also voted to donate the Thank offering collection to this cause this year.

Pastor's Report:

- Calendar of Activities
- Vision and Mission Committee Report

Calendar:

- November 25: Decorate for Christmas after Church Services
- December 1st: WELCA Guest Day
- January 27th 2019: Annual Meeting – will prep annual meeting packets January meeting

Old Business:

- Stained glass window maintenance – done
- Building supervisory duties have been added to weekly Usher duties
- Purchasing stoles for Worship services - \$1000 for all 5 colors needed, council voted to purchase the stoles so Grace owns its own stoles
- CD and Moving of money – CD's have been purchased with the Memorial and Building Fund money, Brandon and Jan are the signers and the CD's are in the safety deposit box

New Business:

- Mission Support for SW MN Synod – Benevolence
- New acolyte Robe to be purchased in a smaller size
- Confirmation crosses from Thrivent are no longer given to Grace – we will purchase the crosses now to be given to the Confirmands
- Designation of time for Annual meeting on January 27th, 2019
- Speaker system – rechargeable battery needed, system is out of date, new system would cost \$2500-\$3000
- Tim will talk to Eric Werner regarding snowplowing
- The WELCA requested permission to purchase and replace the toilet paper holders in the bathrooms. MSC to allow WELCA permission to do so.

Next Meeting: December 12th, 7:00 pm

M.S.C. to adjourn the meeting. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary Karla Trettin

Word from the Pastor

With the First Sunday of Advent on December 2nd, we have entered in a New Church Year.

As we arrive at this new church year, we leave behind the past church year with its many readings from the Gospel of Saint Mark—and encounter many readings from the Gospel of Saint Luke.



In both the Book of Ezekiel and the Book of Revelation, three animals and one human being are portrayed as praising God. Traditionally, the “winged-ox” has been the character selected among these four as an icon for the praise that the Gospel of Saint Luke offers to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

How will we hear the Gospel of Luke praising Christ this coming year? In many ways, Luke offers a testimony about Jesus that is very much like that in all the other Gospels—especially Matthew.

And yet there are some unique features to testimony of this Gospel. I am copying below some highlights (that have been well summarized by Elizabeth Harrington):

- The parables of the Good Samaritan and the prodigal son, the stories of the annunciation, the visit of the shepherds to the infant Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus are all well-known accounts that are **found only in Luke**.
- **More than any of the other gospel writers, Luke gives importance to the role of women.** He places Mary at the centre of his infancy narrative (unlike Matthew who focuses on Joseph); Luke pairs the men in his stories with women (Zechariah and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna). In Luke's story about Martha and Mary, Mary does what would have been unacceptable in Jesus' time - she sits at his feet as a disciple.
- Something that is particularly evident in Luke's gospel is the emphasis on **Jesus' ministry to those on the fringes of society, to the oppressed, excluded and disadvantaged**. This focus appears right from the start with Mary's song, The Magnificat, and Jesus makes it the central message of his first act of preaching: "He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk 4: 18). **The wonderful "lost and found"** stories (the stray sheep, the missing coin, the wayward son) are only to be found in Luke.
- Luke also gives an emphasis **to the activity of the Holy Spirit** that is not found in the other gospels. From the opening lines he describes people as being filled with or inspired by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is conceived by and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/learn/liturgy-lines/special-features-of-lukes-gospel/>

Let us rejoice and be glad in the testimony to our Lord, Jesus Christ, that is given to us in all four of our Gospels.

In this liturgical year, I invite all of us to rejoice, be glad and learn from Word of God in the Gospel of Saint Luke.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14 NRSV)

Pastor Leonard Hummel

McLeod County Giving Tree

The McLeod County Social Services Giving Tree is up! This gives us a way to show our love to children in McLeod County. Here are ways you can give: **1) Pick a tag(s)** from the Giving Tree & bring the gift(s) to church unwrapped with tag/s attached. **2) Bring ANY new toy(s)** donations appropriate for ages 0-17 and place in box by the Giving Tree. **3) Give a monetary donation.** Take a \$ tag or just place any amount Cash or Check in envelope to be put toward the purchase of gifts/toys. (Checks payable to: Women of Grace) All gifts & monetary donations must be at church by December 9th.

Area Happenings (see more info on bulletin board)

*Dec. 16 7pm Christmas Carol Sing-Along at Brownton Congregation Church

Common Cup Thrift Store Needs Help

Volunteers are really needed to work a minimum of 1- 3 hour shift per month. 10am – 1pm or 1 – 4pm on Tuesday – Friday and maybe an occasional Saturday. Please call Celine Swift at 320-296-9083 with names of potential volunteers.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30am WELCA Guest Day
2 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am Sunday School 10am Nominating Committee	3	4	5 4pm Confirmation	6	7	8
9 8:45am Worship 10am Sunday School 10am Choir Practice	10	11	12 1pm Bible Study 4pm Confirmation 7pm Council Meeting	13	14	15
16 8:45am Worship w/ Sunday School Christmas Program 10am Choir Practice	17	18	19 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Practice 8pm Vision & Mission Mtg	20	21	22
23 8:45am Worship/Communion January Newsletter Deadline	24 5pm Christmas Eve Worship	25	26 1pm Bible Study	27	28	29
30 8:45am Worship	31					

Church: gracebrownton@embarqmail.com
Pastor Hummel: pastor@gracebrownton.org
Secretary/Sarah: gracebrowntonsecretary@embarqmail.com
Treasurer/Brandon: gracebrowntontreasurer@embarqmail.com
Church Website: <http://www.gracebrownton.org>
 We are also on Facebook! Under Grace Lutheran Church

CHURCH COUNCIL:
Jan Messner, President
Dave Wendlandt, Vice President
Karla Trettin, Secretary
 Tim Olson Michelle Gens Oather Martin, Jr
 Nancy Deppe Keith Tongen Jake Wendolek

Grace Women of the ELCA meeting

The meeting was called to order by Co Chair Tammy Kosek with 8 women present.

The Secretary's report from July 29,2018 was read and approved.

Treasurer reported: Fall Festival Country Store brought in \$457 and the Basket Raffle \$534
Leaving a balance of \$2,065.83

OLD BUSINESS:

- Report from Fall Festival; Store did well there were less bake goods and more snacks but they are selling well. With left over breads given to conformation class. The Raffle Baskets were very nice and tickets sold well.
- Summer Campers were Riley Yerks attending Bible Camp Lebanon and Leyton Yerks attending Bible Camp Beauty.
- Women of Grace served a lunch for Bloodmobile workers on September 27th. Vonnie Schuett, Ardis Waller and Tammy Kosek prepared the meal

NEW BUSINESS:

- A Thank you received from Green Lake Bible Camp for \$100 for quilt auction
- Guest Day Hat's off to... Is in need of Military hats or any other hat's to be used to decorate Group 1 is serving, will plan for 100 guests. Thrivent funds will be requested.
- Thank offering is on November 18th Diana Lindeman will read scripture. The offering will be collected at the front of the church.
- Vonnie Schuett and Vicki Schlenner attended Fall Gathering
- New quilts will be brought to church to display for the Holidays
- Tammy Kosek will get 2 poinsettias for guest day decoration
- Gloria Schuft and Vonnie Schuett will do shut in basket's for Christmas
- 4 Quilts will need to be made for High School graduates. All quilting material was moved to back classroom.

Yearly Donations with a totaling \$1,000 dispersed

Giving Tree \$75, Mcleod Alliance for Victims of domestic violence \$50. Common Cup \$100, Brownton Nuttition Center \$100, Lutheran Social Services \$100, Mcleod County Food Shelf \$100, Heartland Energy \$50, Lutheran World Relief \$50, Lutheran Campus Ministry \$50, Noah's Ark Scholarship Fund \$200, with \$125 going to roof of church project.

A discussion of purchasing soap dispensers and new toilet paper holders was discussed, it was decided that the Church Board need-ed to approve this and then money could be revisited.

NEW OFFICERS: We are in need of New Officers, Ardis Waller will no longer be Co Chairing with Tammy Kosek. Tammy would be willing to Co Chair with someone wanting to learn.

Meeting Closed with The Lord's Prayer

2019 Ushers Calendar

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO USHER THE SUNDAY YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN PLEASE MAKE A CHANGE WITH ANOTHER MEMBER.
THANK YOU!

January

- 6 Norman & Cheryl Schwarze
- 13 Dave & Janice Mielke
- 20 Jeff & Tammy Kosek
- 27 Jeff & Deb Messner, Mark & Sara Katzenmeyer

February

- 3 Jim & Kathy Todd, Sara Ulrich
- 10 Jim & Shirley Lindeman
- 17 Mark & Becky Streich
- 24 Kevin & Sharon Weber, Tammy Kosek-Maiers

March

- 3 Neil & Melanie Winterfeldt
- 6 (Ash Wed) Kevin & Nancy Deppe
- 10 Mike & Stacey Waletzko, Michele Barley
- 17 Joyce Peterson, Brandon & Sarah Yerks Amanda Kottke
- 24 Chris & Kristen Hansch, Jeff Wendlandt
- 31 Lori Copley & Shalon Werner

April

- 7 Bob & Lori Lindeman, Bryce Lindeman
- 14 (Palm Sun) Tim & Julie Olson, Justin Olson
- 18 (Maundy Thurs) Darwin Frauendienst, Doug Karg
- 21 (Easter Sun.) Jim & Jan Plath,
- 28 Tim & Shannon Hahn

May

- 5 Dave & Roxanne Wendlandt
- 12 Dean & Stephanie Loncorich, Gary Alsleben & Kim Bacon
- 19 Todd & Lisa Lindemann
- 26 Ben Schuff families, Vicki Schlenner

June

- 2 Jan Messner, Jesse & Ashley Messner
- 9 Brad & Karla Trettin
- 16 Jim & Shirley Lindeman, Klark & Paula Katzenmeyer
- 23 Gerald & Vonnie Schuett, Paul & Theresa Eitel
- 30 Todd & Faye Ahlbrecht

July

- 7 Steffie Gronlund, Tyler & Terri Helland
- 14 Jeff & Deb Messner, Jesse & Ashley Messner Mark & Sara Katzenmeyer
- 21 Dave & Linda Pedersen
- 28 Tom & Mary Lemke

August

- 4 Dave & Sarah Lipke
- 11 Pat & Sarah Waller
- 18 Darrell & Michelle Gens, Eric Hahn
- 25 Kevin & Nancy Deppe

September

- 1 Ron & Mary Bullert, Jackie Bullert, Dean Katzenmeyer
- 8 Bob & Lori Lindeman, Bryce Lindeman
- 15 Joyce Peterson, Yerks, Kottke
- 22 Youth Group
- 29 Eric & Bev Werner, Lori Copley, Shalon Werner

October

- 6 Jake & Amber Wendolek, Doug Karg
- 13 Dave & Sharon Lauseng
- 20 David & Sharon Carrigan
- 27 Vicki Schlenner, Ben & Gloria Schuff

November

- 3 Jeff & Shannon Streich, Oather & Sandra Martin
- 10 Diana Lindeman & Sherry Husske
- 17 Brad & Karla Trettin, Rory & Mae Hansch
- 24 Keith & Jane Tongen, Sarah Tongen, Louise Tongen
- 28 (Thks. Eve) Youth Group

December

- 1 Michele Barley, Mike & Stacey Waletzko
- 8 Lowell & Sherry Rickheim, Rich & Kerry Ward
- 15 Klark & Paula Katzenmeyer, Jamie Erickson
- 22 Diana Lindeman, Blair Hansch
- 24 Larry & Jeanette Tongen
- 29 Vicki Herrmann, Ben & Gloria