

# Grace Notes E-Newsletter

## AUGUST 2016

Vol. 11

The Newsletter of  
HISTORIC GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
714 EAST CAPITOL AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

***Find us on Facebook:*** Historic Grace Lutheran

### **HISTORIC GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT:**

*As disciples in Christ, we support our faith community, encourage spiritual growth in everyone, and serve all creation with Christ-like love.*

*We accomplish this by:*

- .. spreading God's Word*
- .. building relationships*
- .. serving the community*
- .. reaching out to those in need*

### **PASTOR'S FOCUS...**Pastor Christell

This is a special, special year at Historic Grace Lutheran Church. We will remember and celebrate the fact that 175 years ago—on September 19, 1841, Historic Grace (The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Springfield) was organized in the home of Pastor Francis Springer, across the street from the home of Abraham Lincoln.

Historic Grace has been a faithful witness to the love and Grace of God in Downtown Springfield and the larger community. This is truly a milestone to celebrate and allow it to be the beginning of the next phase of our mission and ministry, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

The Anniversary Committee has been working very hard to plan worship, celebrations, and events that will continue during the Anniversary year, September 2016—September 2017. Recently letters were sent out to the congregation with a schedule of things already planned. The schedule of activities will also follow this article. Continue to check out the Grace web site [www.gracelutheran-springfield.com](http://www.gracelutheran-springfield.com) as well as the Facebook page. In the near future you will receive information about the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon to be held at the Hoogland Center on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. If you have questions, feel free to contact Pastor Christell, JB George, or Kim Gietl.

Peace, Pastor Tom Christell

## **175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been working hard planning for this special year in the life of the Historic Grace Congregation. Here are some dates and activities to get on your calendars now.

The June 22<sup>nd</sup> Young Swedish Singers concert was a wonderful experience and a great way to begin our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**September 2016** we will begin collecting 175 “things” each month for various charities, schools, activities, continuing this through September 2017. In September 2016 we will collect 175 school supplies for kits that the WELCA group sends out. Please bring these to church when you come for worship and place them in the area designated in the Fellowship Hall. The items are as follows, but numbers are not limited to:

- 25 Spiral Notebooks (70 page wide or college ruled)
- 25 Rulers
- 25 #2 Pencils
- 25 Pens (black or blue ball point)
- 25 Crayons (16 or 24 count)
- 25 Lg Pink Erasers
- 25 Pencil Sharpeners
- 25 Blunt Safety scissors

### **September 18, 2016**

9:15 a.m. – Gather at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Madison by the Abraham Lincoln Museum. This is the place of the first church building of Historic Grace Church. Those who want and are able are encouraged to process from this spot to 7<sup>th</sup> and Capitol. There will be banners, bells, other instruments, choir, brass, clergy vested and ready to lead worship.

10:00 a.m. - Festival Worship Celebrating 175 years of the Mission and Ministry of Historic Grace Lutheran Church. Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton, preaching. This will be the only worship service during the Anniversary Weekend.

12:00 noon – Anniversary Reception and Luncheon at the Hoogland Center for the Arts.

**September 25, 2016** 3:30 p.m. – City-Wide Hymn Fest at the Carillon in Washington Park. This activity will be hosted jointly by Historic Grace and Trinity Lutheran Churches as they celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their congregations. The entire community of Springfield will be invited to join in the celebration.

**In October 2016** we will collect 175 cans of vegetables and 175 cans of fruit for the Grace Food Pantry. Please bring these to church when you come for worship and place them in the area designated in the Narthex.

**In November 2016** we will be collecting 175 undies and 175 pairs of socks for McClernand School. There will be boxes and baskets in the Narthex for those.

**November 6, 2016** 2:00 p.m. Rededication of the Organ and Recital, Benton Blasingame, Organist - Reception will follow.

**In December 2016** we will collect 175 hats, 175 pairs of mittens, and 175 scarfs for the mitten trees that will be given to various schools in District 186.

There are also a number of events being planned as we move into 2017. No dates have been set but we hope to have a performance of the Augustana Chamber Chorus, Dedication of the new Steinway Grand piano and recital, and finally a Bach Cantata that will include our choir, and guest musicians. This is not an exhaustive list as other things will hopefully happen that will help us really celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Historic Grace.

### **WORSHIP AT HISTORIC GRACE**

Worship is the central focus of what we do at Historic Grace. Worship is what strengthens and feeds us for mission and ministry. The staff at Grace works very hard to make worship uplifting and meaningful to all people, young and old. Please take time out of each of your busy weeks to take advantage of the special time to gather with others as we worship the Lord. With the Labor Day weekend our worship schedule changes. We will continue our Saturday worship at 5:00 pm and return to two services on Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Christian Education time happens between the services.

**On Labor Day weekend, September 3 & 4;** our Saturday worship at 5:00 p.m. and the Sunday 8:00 a.m. service will be held at Historic Grace.

The 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday will be outside (weather permitting) at the Schnirring Farm, with a congregational picnic following the service. Bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs, and fishing gear. There will be a sign-up sheet on the white board in the Fellowship Hall. Maps are available in the church office.

**ATTENTION:** If entering the hospital, please let them know that you are affiliated with Grace Lutheran Church so that Pastor may call upon you, or at least Kim will know that you are in the hospital and can get prayers out for you.

### **From the Desk of Director of Music JB George...**

What an exciting year we have coming at Historic Grace! Our celebrations have already begun this summer, with the superb Young Swedish Singers concert. I'm very impressed with our congregation's ability to promote and host these great events for our community.

Our ministry of hospitality was also evident with our much-appreciated hosting of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony Summer Strings camps and the Gloriana Chamber Choir rehearsals and concert. Someone mentioned to me after the Gloriana concert how great it is to see a downtown mainline church thriving and active and taking good care of its facility. Thanks be to God for the vision of downtown ministry that has been affirmed again and again in this place over these 175 years!

Let's get ready for the big day! September 18 is our anniversary festival service at 10:00 a.m. Since it occurs early in the fall, we will begin Wednesday evening choir and bell choir rehearsals already on August 3 to prepare for it. Bells will begin at 6:15; Choir at 7:00. Please consider joining one or both ensembles for this special event. I would love to see the choir seating area full for the service, and to be able to use more fully our newly refurbished set of hand bells.

Please let me know your availability for September 18 and the Wednesday evening rehearsals; you do not need to commit to the entire year.

The following Sunday, September 25 at 3:30 pm, we are co-hosting the Community Carillon Hymn Sing, along with Trinity Lutheran Church, at the Rees Carillon at Washington Park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and come sing some traditional hymns with an unusual accompaniment: the Rees Carillon, played by Carlo van Ulft. I will be the Song Leader for the event, and there will also be music by the Summer Concert Band from Trinity, which includes three of my children. We are so excited about this collaboration of two churches and the Park District, celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Trinity and Grace.

Our splendid pipe organ has undergone a tonal transformation with the major additions last year, and is now receiving some visual and mechanical updates. Most dramatically, the console will be on a moveable platform to facilitate a variety of uses. Now, an organ concert will easily be set up to have the organist up front and center. With that all now in place, we continue to celebrate our anniversary with an organ re-dedication recital on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 pm. Benton Blasingame, Assistant Organist at the St. Louis Basilica, will be our guest artist. I have seen his planned recital program, and I look forward to hearing the great versatility of sounds which our instrument will show!

The wonderful new Steinway grand piano has immediately shown itself to be an amazing instrument for leading worship and accompanying concerts. It will have a chance to shine in solo concert at a special dedication concert currently in the planning phase, for the spring of 2017.

Other anniversary concert events are also planned, such as a Bach Cantata with chamber orchestra in the late spring (another opportunity for a short-term choir commitment). Watch for these dates as they are finalized. With so many great things happening at Historic Grace, we are certainly offering these events in celebration, but also very much in a spirit of thanksgiving. We are very blessed, and may God continue to help us to be a blessing to others: to a world which so desperately needs beauty, joy, community, and most of all, the good news of Christ's Kingdom for all.

JB

**LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE...** recently had an article with suggestions on how to make people aware of what one's church has to offer. The article suggested each member speak to one person a week. This is the suggested phrase you could say in normal conversation once a week with four different people in August: "My church is celebrating our 175th anniversary in September and during September we are collecting 175 school supplies." Let us know your experience in saying this. Next month we'll give you another comment to use.

### **Dear Friends in Christ,**

Exciting events will be happening this fall at Historic Grace Lutheran Church. Indeed, through our ministry together, we are touching countless lives with the love of Christ. We will be embarking on an initiative that will help us grow in ministry and ways we can bring connections with people and Christ. This initiative is a three-year discipleship and generosity-growing opportunity for the whole congregation. Our ministry initiative is called "First, We Give of Ourselves".

As we consider the gift of grace in Christ, we will also explore the joy of giving in grace. This will be a three-year exploration of the wonderful gift of God's grace in Christ and the foundation of discipleship and giving.

This fall the focus will be "Giving in Grace". Then in the fall of 2017 our ministry Initiative will focus on "Giving in Gratitude". In the fall of 2018 we will follow through with the focus of "Giving in Generosity". These are all initiatives that will engage our sense of discipleship and invite us to grow in sharing.

Our Kick-off Sunday for the "First We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Grace" will be Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Our fall emphasis will culminate with a celebration of ministry and the sharing of commitments of how we can "give of ourselves" in ministry on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

You will be invited to be a part of the All Congregation Bible Study. These dates and times will be posted on our website and included in the weekly bulletin and future Grace Notes. We are looking forward to this ministry and sharing time together and learn, "First, We Give of Ourselves".

Rejoicing in God's Grace,

Historic Grace Lutheran Church, Stewardship Committee

### **Summer Fellowship Hour continues...**

As in years past, each committee and/or group at church takes a Sunday to host a fellowship time of great food following our 9:15 a.m. Sunday worship. To help with the Summer Fellowship time, we are also including a weekly sign up to those who are not on committees, but would like to bring something. This is similar to our Midweek Wednesday night meals. Check out the white board for the weeks to sign up today.

**ASK THE STAFF...WELCOME JOHN DAMBRAUSKAS,** if you haven't already, please say hello to John our new custodian. He will be in the building Sunday through Friday from 7:00am - 11:00am each week. We welcome John to the Grace family.

## **Memorial for Jerry from Washington Place...**

In May of this year, one of our dear friends from Washington Place passed away. Jerry was the first resident to move into Washington Place, he had a great sense of humor and he always had a story to tell. Jerry was a man of faith, attending to his lengthy nightly prayers and weekly church services. His loss is felt deeply by the residents, family and friends.

Becky Moore, formerly employed by LSSI, has been a good friend to Washington Place for many years, long after she left her role at LSSI. Becky wishes to honor Jerry by doing some landscaping at Washington Place in his memory. Jerry enjoyed sitting outside and would have been pleased with this idea. If there is anyone at Grace that would like to assist with this project, please call Robin Mahnken at (217) 638-1779. Volunteers are needed for labor, donations of plants, mulch... all would be welcome. *For those who might be unfamiliar with Washington Place, it is a community integrated living arrangement administered by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) for individuals who have been diagnosed with a genetic condition known as Prader Willi Syndrome. Prader Willi Syndrome is a neurological genetic disorder that causes a chronic feeling of hunger and an extremely low metabolism that can lead to excessive eating and life-threatening obesity and in most individuals, developmental delay.*

## **Food, Fellowship and Cardinal Baseball**

The St. Louis Heartland Region Thrivent Member Network is proud to sponsor the 2016 Christian Day at the Ballpark when the Cardinals face the Atlanta Braves. Special VIP tickets are available in the Pavilion and Terrace levels and can be purchased online for only \$17 at <http://Cardinals.com/thrivent>. We invite you to join our Thrivent Members for an exclusive pre-game event in the Riverview Corner at Busch Stadium to enjoy complimentary ballpark snacks, meet alumni players and to participate in a Thrivent Action Team.

**Event Details:** Sunday, August 7, 2016—11:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Riverview Corner at Busch Stadium for private pre-game activities and snacks. Game starts at 1:15 p.m.

VIP ticket price \$17 Limited VIP tickets available

Please contact your local Thrivent Representative for any questions. Your local representative can be found here

<https://connect.thrivent.com/>

## **50+ Lunch Bunch**

Will return in October....look for details!

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

## **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL/ADULT FORUM/CONFIRMATION CLASSES/BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!**

**Rally Day** for the Sunday Church School will be September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, then the weekend after is the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration, where we will only have one service and no classes. We will begin normal Sunday School classes September 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:10 a.m. with Confirmation in the youth room in the basement. SCS will meet upstairs at the end of the hall beginning at 9:15 a.m.

**Adult Forum** will resume on October 2, 2016 in the Fellowship hall. The last weekend in September Pastor Tom is officiating at his niece's wedding. The plan at this point is to spend a few weeks with Pastor Tom talking about how he handles various types of pastoral care responsibilities; weddings, baptisms, hospital calls, funerals, etc. There may be a few speakers offering their expertise in specific areas that help Pastor Tom and all of us at certain life moments.

**Confirmation Orientation** will be held on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Historic Grace. We will continue using the Collaborate curriculum we used last year. Chris Venaas will teach the Bible portion of Confirmation on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Christell and Chris Venaas will teach the Lutheran Doctrinal and Lutheran Identity courses at a time and day agreed upon by staff and parents. It is really important for youth and parents to be present for the orientation. Confirmation at Grace is designed for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will resume on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 12:10 p.m. We continue our exploration of the Acts of the Apostles, as we watch the young church grow and deal with issues good and not so good along the way. This continues to be a popular Bible Study group at Historic Grace, so grab your lunch and a friend and join us. Questions? Contact Pastor Tom Christell.

**August 13 & 14, 2016** during both services, Kids and teachers bring your backpacks, lunch boxes, computer bags and the like.

### **Grace Nursery**

During the summer we have staff Sundays from 9:00—10:30a.m.

**Grace Library update...** We have a lot of books for children, youth-teens and adults on many subjects, fiction and non-fiction that may fill some of the down-time over the summer. Feel free to borrow and take on vacation too.

## **ATTENTION ALL YOUTH**

Youth Group "End of Summer" Gathering: Sunday, Aug 28th, 2:00 p.m., Hoogland Center for the Arts presents GODSPELL!! We would like to get a group of youth (those entering 6th through 12th grades) together to see this show as an end of the summer youth outing. But of course all are welcome.

About the play: Presented by HCFTA, Over the Moon Productions, and Edward Jones, "Godspell" tells the story of a small group of people who help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and a hefty dose of comic timing. This is a great show! All of the on-stage seating for this performance is still available (24 seats) if anyone is interested in that! :) Or we could just get normal seats. I will keep an eye on ticket sales and let Kim know to get the number of seats we need. Tickets are \$18 for students and seniors (age 60+) & \$20 for adults.

### **A Thank you from the Animal Protective League...**

Dear boys and girls;

All the needy animals at the Animal Protective League's shelter thank you very much for your recent donation (collected through the Sunday School offering). These cats, dogs, puppies and kittens come to our shelter because they have no home. Some of them are sick or injured. Your gift will help them so much! Eventually, they can be adopted into new homes where they will be loved by boys and girls like you. All they want is to be a part of a happy family.

Sharon Corbin, APL Volunteer

### **PRAYERS OF GRACE MINISTRY**

**There are a couple of ways to request prayers from the Prayer Chain or if you would like to join the Prayer Chain list.**

1. Call the church office (522-3965)
2. Email Chris Venaas ([cvksos4363@gmail.com](mailto:cvksos4363@gmail.com)), Sara Oehlert ([soehlert@aol.com](mailto:soehlert@aol.com)), or Pastor Christell ([prchristell@aol.com](mailto:prchristell@aol.com))

**PRAYERS STILL NEEDED...** for Erica Trinh, the young mother fighting brain cancer. You have the option of going on the website that Ben Trinh has developed [prayforericatrinh.com](http://prayforericatrinh.com). Please keep her, her husband, Ben, and daughter, Sarah, as well as Mike and Elaine DiGiovanna and family and friends in your prayers.

**Did YOU KNOW??** The new building at the Springfield Muni Opera has been dedicated to Gene Rubley and Carl Lundergan for their years of service to the Muni. Well done, gentlemen!!

## **ELCA NEWS**

### **FREED & RENEWED IN CHRIST: 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION**

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly will meet at the Ernest N. Memorial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA, August 8-13, 2016 to conduct the business of the Church. The Churchwide Assembly is the primary decision-making body of the Church. This year the assembly will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation under the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ" and the accompanying tagline "500 years of God's Grace in Action". As part of the observance, visitors and non-voting members are invited to attend the Grace Gathering (held in conjunction with the assembly) August 10-13, 2016.

Over the course of the assembly, voting members will:

- Hear reports and review the work of the churchwide officers, leaders and units;
- Receive and consider proposals from Synod assemblies;
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution and bylaws;
- Establish ELCA churchwide policies;
- Worship together;
- Adopt a budget;
- Conduct other business of the churchwide organization.

Voting members to the churchwide assembly from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod include: Bishop Roth; Ms. Kim Alberts; the Rev. Greg Busboom; Mr. Jason Fisher; the Rev. Phil Lund; Ms. Sandy McAuley; the Rev. Youngshim Pitcher; Ms. Jeanne Rapp; Ms. Lynn Smith; Mr. Mathew Spencer; Mr. Bob Tyler; and the Rev. Amy Zietlow. Live streaming of the assembly will be available on the ELCA website:

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**SEW 'N SOWERS STUFFED ANIMAL PROJECT...**We make stuffed animals and donate them to local agencies. If you know any agency or individuals who would like to have stuffed animals let us know. We meet the second Saturday of every month from 9:00- noon. You can come as time permits. Cutting out and sewing can also be done at home. We are also in need of people to deliver the animals. Questions may be referred to Charlotte, 546-5573.

## **THANK YOU!!**

- The property committee thanks all those who participated in the Church Work Day on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Most of the tasks were completed due to the labor of the attendees. A few small jobs are still outstanding and the property committee will engage those tasks. Thanks also goes out to Thrivent Financial (with Jackie Matteson's assistance) in providing the funding, donuts and t-shirts for the day.
- Thank you to Linda Kaufmann for the gorgeous flower arrangements she provided for church services the weekend of June 4-5. They were presented in honor of her mother, Dorthia Turnbo. A second thank you goes out to Kim Gietl who brightened our weekend with the delivery of one of the arrangements honoring Ms. Turnbo. John Rigg
- Thank you to those who came out to Nicoud Insurance to help the Food Pantry with the **Ultimate Drive for Hope**. As well as Jim Turner for coordinating the event.
- **WELCA—GERMAN DINNER** Was another hit!! Eighty folks gathered for our annual German dinner of brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad and cake on Saturday night, July 16. If you didn't make it this year mark your calendar for next year. The polka service preceded dinner at 5 PM with accordion, bass, drums and the keyboard. Very lively! As always a BIG thank you to all who helped from our brat griller; Chuck Weyhenmeyer, to the cake bakers; Anna May Handshy, Joyce Abrams, Karen Duckworth, Pat Casper, and Ardina Voelker. Several helpers also made the evening a success including Charlotte Blumle, Judy Wollett, Carol Morris, Tom and Rosie O'Fallon and John and Toni Klit. Donna Thannen once again designed and printed our tickets and Karen Carlson made the posters to advertise. This is the second year that a friend of Grace who lives at Concordia Village has provided our German potato salad with the help of Lyn Kennedy and Marge Hanner. Finally a big thank you goes to Thrivent for their donation of \$250 towards the food. WELCA will be receiving the proceeds of the dinner. **THANKS TO ALL!!!**
- **On Wednesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>** Historic Grace Lutheran hosted the Young Swedish Singers for a concert and overnight stay in Springfield. A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of this event: to the volunteers who made the dinner and reception possible, the folks whose hospitality overnight was vital to the success of this event, and to the Grace staff. From Parish Life
- Thank you to those who came out to the **Ice Cream Social** that helped support the Summer Nutrition program that Velma Lawson coordinated and raised \$650 for the summer nutrition program -- they had \$150 left on a Thrivent card that covered expenses for the event and \$500 from freewill offerings. Thank you to Velma and Joanne Howe for their great efforts.
- Thank you for the flowers and all your prayers. I'll be thinking of you also and wish you health and happiness. Christine Hutmacher

## **COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The June Council meeting was held on June 28. Pastor Christell's report was presented and accepted. Further information concerning Council action can be seen in the Financial and Attendance statistics below.

- Committee reports were given but no action was needed.
- Mark Anderson did a color coded map of all members and their locations around town and surrounding areas.
- Long Range Planning has begun getting estimates on all the windows being replaced as well as the HVAC units being replaced in the future.
- Swedish Singers were a great success. Thank you to the Parish Life committee for all their hard work.

### **FINANCIAL/ATTENDANCE REPORT**

#### **Month June 2016**

Estimated giving \$35,337  
Actual giving \$23,833  
  
Budget Income \$35,337  
Budget Expense \* \$35,042  
  
Actual Income \$23,833  
Actual Expense \$35,324

#### **Month June 2015**

Estimated giving \$34,054  
Actual giving \$20,723  
  
Budget Income \$34,054  
Budget Expense \*\$33,900  
  
Actual Income \$20,722  
Actual Expense \$32,790

**YTD Income \$191,746    YTD Expense \$187,233    *Surplus \$4,513***

\* Includes offerings, plus parking lot income, distributions from Trusts, etc.

#### **Attendance records (based on weekend attendance)**

#### **Attendance June 2016**

527

**2016 AVG. TD: 142**

#### **Attendance for June 2015**

487

**2015 AVG. TD: 152**

**REMINDER:** Committee chairs and/or secretaries please stop at the work room every week so that you can sign off on transactions vouchers.

Thank you for giving your time.

#### **Random act of kindness...**

- Several of our members deliver Meals on Wheels one or more days year round.
- One couple was not available for the church Work Day. They called in advance, got a work assignment and had it completed before the scheduled Work Day.

## **FUN FELLOWSHIP FACTS: August 2016**

On Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had a large group gather at Danenberger Winery in New Berlin for a little fun, fellowship, and yes, wine! We had a wonderful time. Some sat outside and enjoyed the band, some stayed in the very well air-conditioned interior, and some wandered back and forth between the two. Great job Denise. We will definitely plan similar outings in the future. There's another winery in Loami called Sheedy Shores – I've heard only great things, and it looks amazing, so next time maybe we'll give them a try.

Our next event was held on June 18, 2016. The Hoogland Center hosted Dual Pianos, featuring the musical talent of Mark Gifford and Damien Kaplan. We had a great turnout, and even decided to meet at the recently reopened Norb Andy's for a nice dinner before the show. We are so fortunate to have The Hoogland Theatre and wonderful restaurants so conveniently located to our church. Thanks Allison – that was a very fun event.

Mary and Sharon put up sign-up sheets for Muni's "South Pacific", and New Salem's "Hello Dolly", but there just wasn't any interest this year, which has never happened before. Thanks for your efforts ladies.

Our next event has been very popular in the past. We always have a large group who join us at Augie's for dinner al fresco. I have made a reservation for Thursday, August 25 at 6:00 p.m. We have a reservation rain or shine, and a Thrifty Thursday menu will be available, as well as any of your favorite items from Augie's regular menu.

Below is a calendar of events for the remainder of 2016. Please join us for a little food, fellowship and fun. If you have any suggestions or ideas for future fellowship events, please contact a member of the committee. If you'd like to participate in one of our meetings, you are welcome to join us on September 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**August: Dinner al fresco at Augie's** – Thursday, August 25, 2016– 6:00p.m.

**September: Sunday 9/4/16 - Labor Day Picnic/Schnirring Farm**— 12:00 noon – Potluck immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service

**October: Progressive Dinner** – Saturday October 1, 2016 – watch for a sign up sheet

**November: Paint Night** – details forthcoming

**December: Advent Season Wednesday Suppers/Services** – Wednesday, November 30 through December 21, 2016 – Fellowship will provide the entire meal on 11/30 and 12/21 6:00 supper prior to 7:00 services

**Caroling** – Sunday 12/11/16 – time to be determined – carol to homebound members, with Fellowship to follow at the Wheaton's

## FOOD PANTRY REPORT

*Helen Appleton*

*As Christ fed the multitudes, the mission of the Historical Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry is to feed the hungry.*

In May of 2016, we served 467 families composed of 1102 individuals compared to 322 families composed of 758 individuals in 2015. In June, we served 464 families composed of 1055 individuals compared to 367 families composed of 803 individuals in 2015. Many more people are using the Food Pantry as a source for emergency food, which means that we are spending a lot more money. Thus far in 2016, we have spent over \$21,000 more than we have brought in, so we expect that we will have to do some extra fundraising this fall.

This has been a busy summer for the Food Pantry! Our Summer Nutrition Program, which has been funded by grants from the national WELCA, the ELCA, St. John's Lutheran Church and others provided 330 extra bags of nutritious food to 436 children in June. The program continues through July and August. The bags contain milk, eggs, cheese sticks, bananas, apples, oranges, tomatoes, recipes, nutritional information, a health oriented coloring book, and crayons. The recipes and coloring supplies were provided by genHkids and funded by St. John's Children's Hospital and Kohl's Cares. Our Parish Nurse, Diana Weyhenmeyer, collected the packets of nutritional information and games. Thank you, Diana.

Please note, the Summer Nutrition Program is being funded through grants and has not contributed to our shortfall for the year. We have been fortunate to have an influx of new volunteers who have done the extra shopping and work to make the Summer Nutrition Program a success.

We have many generous people in our community! The Food Pantry has been the recipient of \$339.00 raised through our fundraiser with Chili's Restaurant and \$250.00 plus 100's of canned and boxed goods from the Nicoud "Ultimate Drive for Hope." The Butler Community Endowment Fund contributed \$1500 to the Summer Nutrition Program.

**ATTENTION GARDENERS...** When you have excess vegetables and flowers consider bringing them to church on the weekends. There are members who are willing to make a donation to the Food Pantry in return for your plants and produce.

**POP TABS...** we dropped off 14 1/2 pounds of pop tabs at the Ronald McDonald House last month. Since starting this recycling program in 2008 we have collected 73 pound. This program has raised millions of dollars for the Ronald McDonald House to subsidize the cost of parents of hospitalized children to stay at the House. Our collection container is in the kitchen off the Fellowship Hall.

## **YOUR HEALTH NEWS**

### **Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer**

I came across this article on caregiving the other day and thought I'd share it with you. This comes from Living Beyond Breast Cancer and Insight pamphlet. The entire pamphlet was dedicated to caregiving. Veronica Cardenas, PhD, a licensed psychologist from San Diego purposes the following suggestions using cognitive behavioral therapy for caregiving. G.R.A.P.E.S. is the easy way to remember it:

**G= Gentle.** Be **kind to yourself** in your thinking and replace self-criticism with **gentle thoughts**.

**R= Relax or rest.** Give yourself some **downtime** to unwind.

**A= Accomplishment.** Do something you need to cross off your **own** "to do" list, like pay a bill.

**P= Pleasure.** Include **fun and enjoyment** in your day. Do something that makes you smile or laugh.

**E= Exercise.** Add movement and **physical activity**, even if it's just walking the halls while the person you're caring for receives treatment.

**S= Socialize.** Maintain **personal connections** with friends and family.

She also suggested some other ideas for self care that include:

Running walking, to improve physical condition.

Writing to express your feelings.

Handcrafts, knitting, coloring are restful activities.

Prayer or meditation can be calming.

Massage, reiki, yoga can be comforting.

In Christ's Love, Diana

***REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED THE THIRD WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH!***

**\$250...**may be available for a project you are working on this year, e.g. Animal Protective League, scouts, school supplies, Grace Food Pantry, etc. If Thrivent approves your application for funds, you will receive a credit card for \$250 to purchase advertising, supplies, etc. For further information contact Charlotte Blumle, 564-5573.

## **WELCA**

**All women of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.**

### **Please note the following schedule for what is happening:**

**Faith Grace Circle** August 3rd at 12:30 p.m. at Grace in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any other questions, please contact Charlotte Blumle.

**Ladies Night Out** August 8th at Chesapeake Seafood House 6:00 p.m. This is for **ALL Ladies at Grace** and any friends or relatives, no participation in any group is required. PLEASE join us. No meeting, just conversation and a good time. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call Charlotte Blumle, 546-5573.

**Sew n' Sowers** August 13th in the church basement from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

**Ruth Circle** will attend Ladies Night Out, no additional meeting scheduled. Contact person is Sara Oehlert.

**The third quarterly meeting will be held in October.** We will put together the school kits at that time and prepare for mailing.

### **The WELCA service project for 2016 is school kits.**

WELCA is again asking the congregation for assistance in the collection of the items to place in the bags. These items can be placed in the cabinets over the coatrack in the Fellowship Hall. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, please mark it for school kits. This is the complete list of items that we need for the school bags:

- ♥ Pencil sharpeners and blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades)
- ♥ Rulers One with inches on one side and centimeters on the other. (30 centimeter)
- ♥ Notebooks 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8 inches by 10 ½ inches.
- ♥ Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- ♥ Black or blue ballpoint pens (NO GEL INK)
- ♥ Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ♥ 2 ½ inch eraser

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Ekle or Pat Casper.

**TWISTED STITCHERS: August 2** The Twisted Stitchers will meet on Tuesday August 2 at 7:00 pm.

**CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE...**The insurance company that covers Historic Grace has asked to request Certificates of Insurance from all staff and members who use their personal vehicles for church business. When using you vehicle for church business your private insurance is the primary coverage for any, God forbid, accidents. Those volunteers who should provide this certificate would include: persons who pick up food for the food pantry, either from the Food Bank or from other stores, persons who might transport youth or adults for church activities, person delivering flowers after worship, lay communion ministers, etc.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT**

<b>Administration/Finance</b>	Tom Appleton, Susan LeMasters, Ben Schlouch
<b>Christian Education</b>	Chris Venaas
<b>Community Ministry</b>	Carolyn Nelson
<b>Evangelism</b>	Mark Anderson, Claudia Cross, Jim Hobbs
<b>Fellowship</b>	Mary Schofield
<b>Long Range Planning</b>	Phil Galloway, Ed Wollet
<b>Mutual Ministry</b>	Ed Wollet
<b>Parish Life</b>	Bill Hansen
<b>Property</b>	Jack Wheaton
<b>Stewardship</b>	Jim Turner
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	Chris Venaas
<b>Youth</b>	Dustin Janssen

**REMINDER:** Committee chairs and/or secretaries please stop at the work room every week so that you can sign off on transactions vouchers. Thank you for giving your time.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**June-August**

Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 9:15 am

**September-May**

Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Our church is ACCESSIBLE for wheelchairs and a Listening Device system is available.

A nursery area is available at all worship services.

Please call the church office for any information.

Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00...522-3965 (voice mail available); Fax...522-5841

The **Food Pantry** operating schedule is:

Mon, Tues, Thu 11:00-2:30, Wed 11:00-1:00...522-9707

**E-mail addresses**

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