

Grace Notes E-Newsletter

February 2016

Vol. 6

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

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

The New Year is in full swing. Committees are beginning to work with the goals they have drawn-up to guide their work this year. Committee job descriptions are being reviewed so that they are up to date and in line with the specific goals of the various committees.

The staff is already discussing what will unfold for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, looking at some creative and exciting ways for this upcoming special season of the Church year. Just so you don't get caught off guard - - Ash Wednesday is February 10th. Soon it will be time for Mid-week Lenten Dinner and Devotions.

Very soon the Anniversary Committee will meet and begin setting events and calendar for the 175th year of Historic Grace Lutheran Church.

An exciting year of mission and ministry is ahead of us. Please give some thought to how you might be an important part of our congregation. Here are some suggestions:

- Get involved with one of our standing committees.
- Connect with many of the Christian Educational offerings.

- Do you have some extra time to offer prayers up for other people and happenings within and outside our church walls?
- There is always something that needs fixing, or painting, or cleaned up. Talk with David and see where your special skills might be needed.
- Is this the year you serve the Lord at worship: usher, greeter, lay assisting minister, Altar Guild, communion assistant, etc.?

Let us all work, minister and worship together to make Historic Grace's 175th Anniversary an exciting and faith filled year.

Peace,
Pastor Tom Christell

DONATE A POT OF SOUP OR BUY A BOWL OF SOUP...

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, 2016 bring a pot of soup and/or cornbread to church. After the 10:30 worship service, for a free will offering, you can either eat a bowl of soup at church or take a bowl home. All the money will be given to our Food Pantry. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those willing to donate soup and/or cornbread and those willing to serve.

LENT

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. The Lenten Season offers all of us many opportunities for regular weekend worship, as well as mid-week dinner and devotions.

As is our tradition, we will offer two Ash Wednesday Services this year. One at 12:10 pm on Wednesday, February 10; and we hope to have permission to park in the Lincoln Bus Lot for that service. In the evening we will begin our Mid-week Lenten Dinner at 6:00 pm and then move to the Sanctuary for the service at 7:00 pm. Both services on this day will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Beginning the Wednesday of February 17th and continuing through Wednesday, March 16, we will have our Lenten Mid-Week Dinner at 6:00 pm and Devotions at 7:00 pm; both held in the Fellowship Hall. These are geared toward families of all sizes. If you have questions, contact JB George or Pastor Christell.

**Our Lenten Midweek Devotional theme:
The Journey Toward Easter: Exploring the Easter Vigil**

During Lent, we will again gather for food, fellowship and devotions on Wednesday evenings. Enjoying a meal together was one way the early Church expressed their unity in fellowship. Our Thursday Bible study on Acts has shown how important eating with someone (or NOT eating with them) was to first-century believers. We will come together to hear God's good words in the well-loved format of Holden Evening Prayer, but will include communion at the end of each devotion as well. Except for Ash Wednesday, the devotional services will be held in the fellowship hall. This, too, is reminiscent of the early Church, who met secretly in their homes, and provides an intimate setting for storytelling and singing together.

Also like early believers preparing for Easter, we will tell our stories of God's work of Salvation through history, and especially will be reminded of how our baptism connects us to that story. These are the stories of the Easter Vigil, which will build on our Jesse Tree experience during Advent. These devotions will help "unpack" the rich meanings in the most important liturgy of the Church year: The Easter Vigil. Whether you have never attended the Easter Vigil or if you always do, this Midweek series will help you experience something very old in a new way.

JB

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER SCHEDULE

February 10, 2016

ASH WEDNESDAY

12:10 pm Service of Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes

6:00 pm Supper

7:00 pm Service of Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes/ Chancel Choir

February 17, 2016

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 pm Supper

7:00 pm Worship

February 24, 2016

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 pm Supper

7:00 pm Worship

March 1, 2016

12:30 pm Faith/Grace Circle

March 2, 2016
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 pm Supper
7:00 pm Worship

March 5, 2016

10:00 am FIRST COMMUNION CLASS
Parents Invited

March 9, 2016
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 pm Supper
7:00 pm Worship

March 12, 2016

10:00 am FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

March 16, 2016
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 pm Supper
7:00 pm Worship

March 19, 2016

9:00 am Decorate Sanctuary for Palm Weekend
10:00 am FIRST COMMUNION CLASS & REHEARSAL

March 19, 2016
PALM SATURDAY: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

5:00 pm Procession with Palms
with Holy Communion and First Communion

March 20, 2016
PALM SUNDAY: THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

8:00 am Procession with Palms
with Holy Communion and First Communion
9:15 am Sunday Church School Intergenerational
10:30 am Procession with Palms with Holy Communion
First Communion
2:00 pm Easter Food Basket Packing

March 22, 2016
Deliver/Pick Up Easter Food Baskets

March 24, 2016
MAUNDY THURSDAY

12:10 pm Holy Communion and Anointing with Oil
7:00 pm Holy Communion and Anointing with Oil/Stripping of the Altar

**March 25, 2016
GOOD FRIDAY**

12:10 pm Good Friday Liturgy
7:00 pm Tenebrae - Service of Darkness

**March 26, 2016
HOLY SATURDAY**

9:00 am Decorate Sanctuary for Easter Services
Hosted by the Worship and Music Committee
1:00 pm Jr. and Sr. Youth Set-up for Easter Breakfast
5:00 pm EASTER VIGIL with
Affirmation of Baptism and Holy Communion

**March 27, 2016
EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

7:00 am EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE of Holy Communion
Resurrection Choir
8:30-10:00 am Easter Breakfast
Hosted by Youth (Proceeds will feed others on Easter)
10:30 am FESTIVE EASTER SERVICE of Holy Communion
Chancel Choir

**Hymn Festival with David Cherwien
& the National Lutheran Choir
Friday, February 19 - 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church 135 NE Randolph Ave.
Peoria, IL 61606 (309) 676-4609
Psalms and Spirituals: A Hymn Festival
Free (a free-will offering will be taken)**

J.B. and family will be going. Let's organize carpools from Grace!

Email J.B.: CMJBGeorge@gmail.com

The National Lutheran Choir (www.nlca.com), led by artistic director and organist David Cherwien, presents a unique blend of choral music, spoken reflections and congregational hymnody. Experience the artistry of the National Lutheran Choir as they perform songs of faith, and join together in singing well-known -- and perhaps new -- hymns with the choir! This special concert features works by James Miller, Moses Hogan, Andre Thomas, as well as Stanford and Cherwien.

The choir was founded in 1986 by Dr. Larry Fleming and is celebrating its 30th anniversary. It seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature.

The choir performs literature from the entire spectrum of sacred choral music, with and without instrumental accompaniment. The choir's rich and diverse repertoire ranges from early chant to new compositions and from simple folk anthems to complex orchestral masterworks. Members of the National Lutheran Choir are drawn from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and beyond for weekly rehearsals and local and national performances.

The ensemble presents a wide range of choral works in concert and worship settings, leads workshops in choral techniques, hymnody and liturgy, commissions and publishes new compositions, and broadcasts and records extensively.

David Cherwien, artistic director of the National Lutheran Choir, is a nationally known conductor, composer and organist. Recognized for his contributions to the field of church music and liturgy, he is in demand as a clinician and hymn festival leader across the country. David serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for creative high quality liturgy and music. He also serves as editor of the National Lutheran Choir Series of choral music published by Morningstar Music Publishers. David is a founding member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and has served in its leadership in a variety of capacities, including as National President from 1993 to 1997. He is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, American Guild of Organists, Chorus America and Choristers Guild.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Regularly scheduled classes are each week at 9:15 am.

We will have an Intergenerational Event on Palm Sunday March 20.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum is involved with a study of I & II Peter. We begin at 9:30 am and end at 10:15 am. These are informal discussions about Peter's letters that he sent to cities where the young church was getting started.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday Church School Confirmation continues at 9:10 am on Sundays. Chris Venaas, with the help of Cameron Dees, teach the Bible portion as the youth study the New Testament.

We will be meeting on different days during Lent, since we have Mid-week Dinner and Devotions on Wednesday. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 3 & Thursday, Feb. 18, Thursday, March 3 & 17, Wednesday, April 6 & 20, and Wednesday, May 4

Both Pastor Tom and Chris have these dates on their calendars and hope everyone can make it work. Thank you.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY is held on Thursdays at 12:10 pm. 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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES TO BE OFFERED

First Communion classes for young people who do not yet receive the sacrament will be offered the 3 Saturdays before Palm Sunday. Each class builds on the others so that youth are able to grasp Holy Communion at their age level. A lot of youth in 1st grade have taken advantage of this class, as well as youth younger than that. If you would like to discuss your child's readiness to participate in the classes this year or have decided you child will participate, please contact Pastor Tom Christell as soon as you can. Classes begin March 5, 2016

Grace Nursery Update

Beginning in February we will have a paid staff for the nursery from approximately 7:45am—12:00noon during services and Sunday school. This young lady has been a long time member and is eager to serve in this manner. We welcome Kenzie Schlicht in the role for the rest of the school year. Any questions please call the church office.

Youth News 2016

Thank you for all those Youth and friends who joined us for the Lock-IN. It was a great time. A Big Thank you to Pastor Tom and Chris Venaas for chaperoning the night.

February 7 ALL YOUTH SKATING

The next all Youth Event will be held the afternoon of Sunday, February 7. We will meet at Skatelend from 1:00—4:00pm for some skating fun! Sign up today and please bring friends.

March 26 at 1:00 pm and March 27-Youth prep, cook, serve and clean-up for the **Easter Breakfast**. Proceeds support the Easter Holiday Baskets.

In addition to these already scheduled events other opportunities for youth to get together are being planned. Some suggestions have been concerts, movies, sporting events, etc.

▷ **CONSIDER THIS...**when your children have birthday parties would they like to suggest on the invitations in lieu of birthday presents to bring the invitee's favorite non-perishable food for the Grace Food Pantry. When this has been done, some parents have continued to give food and/or money to the Food Pantry.

Dear Parents with Young Children in Church...

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them. And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary.

I hear the echoes of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome and that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family -- with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy -- are not simply tolerated; you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

Cookbook Update

RECIPES... we still would like to receive at least 150 more recipes. The categories for which we especially need recipes are Breads and Rolls, Beverages, Vegetables, Side Dishes, Candy and Soups. But please do not restrict your submissions to just these categories. The more recipes we have the better our cookbook will be. Please print your recipes on the special form available at church. IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FORM BEFORE WRITING ON IT. Favorite recipes you have from deceased members may be submitted. We have received comments, since this cookbook is tied to our 175th anniversary, it would be nice to have recipes from some former members.

HOW DO WE PLAN TO PAY FOR THE BOOKS AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE FOOD PANTRY?

1. PATRONS... there will be a page in the cookbook where we will list the names of members who are patrons. Patrons are members who donated a minimum of \$20.00 to apply toward the cost of producing the book.
2. DISPLAY ADS.... we will contact businesses to offer them a full page display ad for \$100.00.
3. THRIVENT... we will apply for \$250.00 from Thrivent.

All such additional funds will enable us to keep the price of the cookbook at \$15.00 and make the cookbook a successful fund raiser for the Grace Food Pantry.

PICTURES...If you have photos of any of the "Food Events" that picture more than one person, e.g. Chili cook-off, packing Christmas cookies, circle meetings, etc., please see Charlotte Blumle.

FUN FELLOWSHIP FACTS February 2016

Happy New Year! The Fellowship Committee has planned many wonderful events for 2016. At the request of the Long Range Planning Committee, each committee was asked to identify their value, write a mission statement and develop goals for 2016. Here's what we came up with to describe our mission. "The Fellowship Committee's overall goal is to provide ample opportunities for members to meet in a casual manner to build new relationships and strengthen existing relationships. In addition to the committee's responsibility of organizing the following family events: Wednesday evening dinners prior to Advent and Lenten season services, the Labor Day Family Picnic, and Christmas caroling to home bound members – the committee will strive to plan events throughout the year that are affordable and encompass a wide range of interests geared towards the adult members of Grace Lutheran Church." Our actual goals have been developed and will be compiled with the other committee's goals by Long Range Planning and shared at a later date. In preparing the Annual Report for 2015, I counted 16 events sponsored by Fellowship! That's pretty impressive. Our committee met in January to start planning for 2016. The Chili Cook-Off, Progressive Dinner and Valentine's Dinner are all very well attended events, but also require a lot of planning, and if held every year, tend to lose their charm. The committee agreed that we would hold a Progressive Dinner this year in October, and then in 2017, we will again sponsor a Chili Cook-Off. We won't plan another Valentine's Dinner until February 2017. We did not plan any events for January, but the Lenten Season pre-service suppers are fast-approaching. We will host 6 dinners beginning Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016. As we have done for the past several years, Fellowship will provide the entire meal on 2/10 and on 3/16. We will serve lasagna with salad, bread and dessert on 2/10 and provide a chicken and beef taco bar on 3/16. These are very special evenings that offer a great opportunity to sit, relax, catch-up with old friends, and perhaps make some new friends. In April we are planning an International Potluck. We haven't held one for several years, but they have always been well attended and everyone enjoys tasting foods from all over the world. As a fun activity during this luncheon, we are asking anyone who is willing, to provide us with a baby picture and a current picture. We'll see who can make the most matches. Details will be forthcoming. The committee will meet again in April to review local event calendars and plan some fun summer activities, so stay-tuned. Following this article is a list of some of the events we have planned for 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.

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Feb./March: Lenten Season Wednesday Suppers/Services

6:00 p.m. 2-10, 2-17, 2-24, 3-2, 3-9 & 3-16,
prior to 7:00 p.m. services

April: 4/24/16 International Potluck – 12:00 Noon

immediately following 10:30 a.m. Worship

May-August: To be determined, but will include a trip to a local winery
and dinner at a local restaurant

September: 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

Dec./Nov: Advent Season Wednesday Suppers/Services

beginning Wednesday, November 30 6:00 supper
prior to 7:00 services

Caroling – Sunday to be determined – carol to homebound members,
with Fellowship to follow at the Wheaton's

Stewardship 2016

I enjoyed Pastor Tom's children sermon on Sunday Jan. 17th talking about what gifts the children were given. It was based on the Second Reading from 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, in which Paul writes how we are all given spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit and there are a wide variety of gifts with each of us receiving a special one. The children were sharing some of their gifts such as sports and playing soccer. One was good at pumping the swing, and another one with drawing. They talked about how J.B. George has a gift of music that he shares with the congregation with his skills on the organ, piano, singing and directing choirs. Pastor Tom was blessed with his gift to prepare and give meaningful sermons. Our congregation is filled with members who have different gifts they are using to help with the mission of Grace Lutheran Church. Please come and share your special gift whether it is being an usher, singing in the choir, delivering flowers, cooking a special meal, helping with the youth or the 50 plus group. Let us trust the Holy Spirit that we all have special gifts to use to support our faith community and that the Holy Spirit will give us the strength and courage to share our gifts. As in the song portraying Samuel's calling : "Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me."

Long Range Planning 2016

This year the Long-Range Planning Committee has been working with the fourteen standing committees of the church to write goals. It's been an exciting process and is nearing completion. It's been great working with all of the committee members. Grace has a wonderful congregation. Reports from committees still working on goals will be made available to the congregation. It's important to remember that this will be a continuing work in progress and suggestions from members of the church will be an integral part moving forward. Each committee report will have a purpose statement, programs and activities sponsored by the committee, and the committee goals. As you read through these reports, perhaps you will find a committee that you'd like to join. If so, please contact Pastor Tom or Kim. They can direct you to the committee chair. God bless you. Ed

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016 the Congregational Council held its regular meeting. Reports were received from Pastor Tom, Treasurer and various committees. The proposed Budget for 2016 was voted on, approved, and is now going to the Congregational Meeting.

The Nursery will be getting cleaned, updated and now staffed for the school year. Kenzie Schlicht will be a paid staff from 7:45am—12:00noon each week.

FINANCIAL/ATTENDANCE REPORT

December 2015

Estimate of giving \$27,950
Actually given \$32,185

Month December 2015

Budget Income \$34,054
Budget Expense \$33,900
Actual Income *\$61,089
Actual Expense \$29,055

December 2014

Estimate of giving \$27,875
Actually given \$34,019

Month December 2014

Budget Income \$34,007
Budget Expense \$33,384
Actual Income \$31,959
Actual Expense \$32,544

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

Attendance records (based on weekend attendance)

Attendance for December 2015

2015 AVG. YTD 142

Attendance for December 2014

2014 AVG. YTD 142

Average attendance, year to date: this is the total number of worshippers divided by the number of weekends in the year to date.

(i.e. Total attendance 800 divided by 6 weekends=133 members in average attendance).

PRAYERS OF GRACE MINISTRY

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

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), Sara Oehlert (soehlert@aol.com), or Pastor Christell (prchristell@aol.com)

PRAYERS STILL NEEDED... for Erica Trinh, the young mother fighting brain cancer. You have the option of going on the internet on the website that Ben Trinh has developed prayforericatrinh.com Please keep her, her husband Ben, and daughter Sarah, as well as Mike and Elaine Giovanna and family and friends in your prayers.

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 December of 2015, we served 264 families composed of 624 individuals compared to 260 families composed of 589 individuals in 2014. The numbers in December are always low as we close for two weeks over the holidays.

While we were closed, Joyce Abrams organized a group for an annual cleaning of all the shelves, refrigerators, and freezers. We disposed of a lot of clutter and the Food Pantry looks much nicer! Thank you to Joyce, Ann Evans, Lorraine Bivin, and Colton Scott (Karen Duckworth's grandson who helped in order to earn service hours).

As a reminder for those who need something to do during the continuing cold weather, this is great time to clean out your cabinets and donate extra boxed and canned goods to the Food Pantry. Did you know that most boxed dry goods can be used and/or donated for up to a year after the "sell by" or "best used by" date? For canned goods, depending on the product, some of them are good for two to five years after the "best used by" date as long as the can is not dented or damaged. We follow Food Bank guidelines in determining whether a food item can be used.

Do you come back from trips with extra shampoos, soaps, and lotions from hotels? These can always be added to the items that we give our clients.

SOMETHING NEW FOR HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS... in order to include more members and families of Grace in the packing and preparing Holiday Easter Baskets that will go to 60 families who have students at McClernand Elementary and Franklin Middle schools we will gather to prepare and pack the baskets on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Grace. There will be sign-up sheet on the white board in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the ministry that feeds the hungry of our larger community.

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 in February.

Faith/Grace Circle - February 3rd at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

Sew'n Sowers February 13th from 9 to noon in basement. Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

Ruth Circle - February 23 Contact person is Sara Oehlert.

Bold Women Day - February 28

WELCA First Quarterly Meeting will be held March 5 at 9:00am. Ruth Circle will host. Speaker will be announced.

The WELCA Service project for 2016 will be School Kits. We have a source for fabric remnants that the board hopes to acquire soon. This will be a great help if the fabric isn't a large part of the cost. There are three or four ladies who have volunteered to make the bags but if you would like to help in this way, it would be appreciated. If you have any questions, you may ask Pat Casper or one of the WELCA board members. Thank you for your help with this project.

WELCA is 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 coat rack in the Fellowship Hall. IF you would prefer to give a monetary donation, please mark it school kits.

January we are collecting 70 sheet Notebooks of wide or college ruled, approx. 8 X 10 ½ inches.

February we will be collecting rulers with inches on one side and centimeters on the other (30 centimeter)

BUTTER BRAIDS...we're sorry the November Butter Braid sale which appeared in last month's Grace Notes was incorrect. The correct information is WELCA's profit to date is \$540.20. Our supplier had a new packaging arrangement which resulted on our ordering more items than we had advanced orders for; consequently, we still have 5 Apple-Cinnamon rolls and 10 Blueberry rolls to sell at \$10.00 each. Tell your relatives and friends about them because that will be another \$150.00 WELCA can give to local agencies. A lady who just bought two more Blueberry rolls said "They are delicious. The blueberry flavor is mild and not overwhelming." Non-members who purchased Butter Braids also donated \$148.00 to our Food Pantry.

On February 28, Women of the ELCA from all around the world will be celebrating Bold Women's Day. "Be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Jesus", said Martin Luther. And that is what we celebrate through Bold Women's Day: women who are bold, women who take risks on account of the gospel, and women who believe more boldly still in Jesus.

This year WELCA is pleased to honor Pat Casper as our newest bold woman. Pat joined Grace in 1986 when she and her husband, Dan, moved to Springfield from Beardstown. They have one daughter, Jennifer, and an eight year old grandson named Parker. While living in Beardstown, Pat was very active at First Evangelical Lutheran Church and enjoyed teaching Sunday school and singing in the choir.

For six years Pat participated in a national Bible Study Fellowship program that was held at First United Methodist Church in Springfield. She also became a children's preschool leader at the church and taught classes to the little ones on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

While at Grace, Pat has substituted for Sunday school teachers, been a member of Faith Grace Circle, participated in the 50+ luncheons, been a lay reader, a greeter, and helped with special luncheons and church dinners.

From 2012-2015 Pat was the state WELCA coordinator for the Central Southern Illinois Synod. At Grace, Pat served as our WELCA secretary from 2010-2014 and is currently serving her second year as our WELCA vice president. When it comes to bold acts of faith, Pat has certainly earned the honor of becoming this year's Bold Woman.

TWISTED STITCHERS

February 2nd - The Twisted Stitchers will meet on Tuesday February 2nd at 7:00 pm at Judy Wollet's home.

YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

Pneumococcal pneumonia is not a cold or the flu. It's an illness that is caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, a common bacteria that can spread through the air from a cough or a sneeze or from close contact with an infected person.

Pneumococcal pneumonia symptoms appear quickly and can be severe. For some people, certain symptoms like cough and fatigue can last for weeks or longer—even after treatment with antibiotics. Many people dismiss pneumonia as an illness that only the elderly or sick people get in the hospital. That's not always true.

Pneumococcal pneumonia can occur in otherwise healthy people outside of hospital or health care settings. And even people as young as 50 may be at increased risk. Symptoms may occur quickly and include the following: chest pain with difficulty breathing, high fever with shaking chills, excessive sweating, fatigue and a cough with phlegm that persists or gets worse.

The CDC recommends that adults 65 or older receive the PREVNAR 13® vaccine to help protect against pneumococcal disease. Prevnar 13 protects against 13 strains of Streptococcus Pneumoniae and Medicare pays for it.

If you're 50 or older, vaccination is one way to help protect against pneumococcal pneumonia. Even if you have already been vaccinated with a different pneumococcal vaccine, PREVNAR 13® may help provide additional protection. I've had both the regular pneumonia injection as well as the Prevnar 13.

PREVNAR 13® should not be given to anyone with a history of severe allergic reaction to any component of PREVNAR 13® or any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine. Because PREVNAR 13® is given by injection, the most common side effects reported in clinical trials were injection site reactions: redness, swelling, pain at the injection site, and limitation of arm movement.

Other side effects include: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, decreased appetite, chills and rash. The normal pneumonia vaccine is usually given twice PCV 13 and PPSV23 and usually a year apart. Prevnar 13 is one injection and no boosters, while the others require boosters.

Stay healthy, in Christ's love,
Diana

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

IF: Gathering for Women February 5-6, 2016

The IF: Gathering seeks to gather, equip, and unleash this generation of women to live out God's calling on their lives. We are a generation of women that believes God at His Word; that He called us to our places and will use us for His glory and for the good of His people. Our goal is to make the name of Jesus great in and through the women of our church, neighborhood, and city. There will be two locations in Springfield at Cherry Hills Baptist Church and Hope Church. More information at ifgathering.com or reach out to Katherine Galloway, galloway.katherine@gmail.com or 553-3958.

PUPPET CLOSET...If you like to clean, purge and just get rid of stuff, then do we have a job for you. We will be cleaning out the Puppet closet in the choir room on **Saturday February 13** at 8:30am. Join us for some time if you are able. Any questions call the church office.

Thank You's

- ♥ Thank you to all those who gave our family and myself Christmas cards, baked goods and gifts. We are so appreciative to our Grace family. Kim Gietl
- ♥ We just want to say thank you for the beautiful poinsettia from the Christmas garden that Charlotte Blumle delivered last weekend. It's always such a special feeling to be remembered so many times during the year! Our hope is that everyone will have a very happy and healthy NEW twelve months!! Roger and Norma (Browning) Gordon
- ♥ Thank you to all the Persons who rang bells for Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. By volunteering, the Army does not have to 'pay' to have a Bell Ringer at a given location. They Need more volunteers each year so if you are in any service organizations or similar, please spread the word and contact: tsaspringfield.org to sign up online or you can call Salvation Army at 525-2196
- ♥ A huge thank you to all of you who donated new or gently used cold weather items for Salvation Army's Christmas Castle. Annually, it is a very 'Sad Eye Opener' to see how great the needs of others are! We served hundreds of families again and unfortunately ran way short of needed items even though we teamed with various sources for donations. We would love to ask Grace members to join this important mission in our community again for 2016. I buy socks, hats, gloves, coats, etc. when the Big Sales start and of course garage sales and consignment shops are also great sources to find wonderful, usable items. God Bless each of you for helping others stay warm this winter! Kendal Hoselton
- ♥ To members of Grace Lutheran Church, thank you for the beautiful poinsettias brought to our home by Carolyn and Verne Nelson on January 3. We are enjoying them. Cris & Woody Shadid
- ♥ Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers bouquet given by Ann Evans and delivered by the best conversationalist ever--John Rigg...You both made my day more pleasant!!!! Betty Fowler
- ♥ A BIG THANK YOU to JB George, Velma Lawson, Joyce Abrams, Mike and Susan Shaw, Ed Wollet, Sally White, Lorraine Bivin, and Carol Weyhrich for helping assemble the Annual Reports— You guys rock!
- ♥ Thank you to Karen Hawker for all your work with the event posters.

50+ Lunch Bunch is still looking for a cook

The 50+ Lunch Bunch is looking for someone willing to prepare the main dish for approximately 30 people in April. The group pays for all ingredients and they prepare the vegetable, salad and dessert. Please contact Charlotte at 546-5573.

50+ Lunch Bunch for February

We will meet Sunday, February 21st, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The menu is Cheesy Vegetable soup, cherry pie. Friends and relatives are always welcome. Cost is \$3.50. Please sign up on the reservation sheet in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, February 14th.

ASK THE STAFF...*How is Historic Grace disposing of recyclable materials due to the Lake Area drop off site closing?*

That is an excellent question. Staff have made some inquiries with other waste haulers as to cost of regular garbage pick and recycling. One of the biggest problems for us is of course the corrugated cardboard that is quickly accumulated at Grace due to the Food Pantry needs. There is the possibility of getting an additional container for cardboard and paper, however if we want to recycle both we would have to rent two additional containers; one for paper and one for cardboard in addition to our regular container. The major problem with that is we don't have room for the one or two additional containers. The staff is working on this. If anyone has any ideas please contact Kim at church and she will share it with the rest of the staff. Thanks for your support, The Historic Grace Staff

*Share the LOVE— since Valentine's Day falls on Sunday this year we will have a Love offering taken on both Saturday and Sunday for the Red Cross to help those in natural disasters. Share God's love and **bring your change and cash.***

SEW'N SOWERS STUFFED ANIMAL PROJECT... We make stuffed animals and donate them to various places in town.

VALENTINES GIFTS... we have stuffed animals made out of fabric with valentines printed on it. They will be available through February. Suggested donation is \$3.00 for small animals and \$5.00 for larger animals.

We meet the second Saturday of every month from 9:00 am–12 noon. Fabric which the Sew'n sowers use to make stuffed animals may be placed in the cabinets over the coat rack in the Fellowship Hall. Questions may be referred to Charlotte, 546-5573. Donated money is used to purchase supplies and all excess donations are given to the Grace Food Pantry.

The \$3.00 Initial Offering... envelopes which follows the December envelopes in our packets of offering envelopes helps defray the cost of the envelopes. Your help in covering the expense is much appreciated.

Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area Experience Summer 2016

Several men have indicated an interest in a wilderness experience July 22—29. This will be an adult backcountry experience involving canoeing, portaging, exploring. Any questions or suggestions would be appreciated. Feel free to ask Randy Heidorn 217-725-0546 or Pastor Tom.

2016 FLOWER CHART...is available in Fellowship Hall. The cost of flowers is \$20 one vase or \$40 for both vases. Please fill out a form under the chart for special memorials or dates. If both vases are spoken for, a spray in the center altar area can also be provided.

BALANCING THE BOOKS... A CPA decided to open a journal with God. He created a debit and credit book where he would list everything God had given him and that he gave God. If someone did him a favor, he noted that as God's gift to him. Similarly, he credited God with his health, his friends, his food, his rescue from depression, and a thousand other undeserved blessings. He also put down what he did for God. In the end, though, he gave up the bookkeeping project, saying, "It's impossible to balance the books. I find that God is completely my creditor and what I have done for God is next to nothing."

A FAITH THAT SMILES

Give us a faith in the worth of ourselves, and faith in our fellowman,
Give us a faith that right will prevail in the infinite over-all plan;
Give us a faith in the future a farmer's faith in the sod;
A faith in eternal justice, a faith in the love of God;
Give us a faith for the journey of life a strength for the winding miles,
a Faith to sustain - but above all, Lord, give us a Faith that smiles.

by Helen Louise Marshall

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 your 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.

EVENT POSTERS...Karen Carlson Hawker creates great posters about worship services and events at Grace. If you know of any places where we can display posters about events at Grace contact Charlotte, 546-5573.

\$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, 546-5573 or Karen Fifer, 523-3302.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT

Administration/Finance	Tom Appleton
Christian Education	Denise Behl, Chris Venaas
Community Ministry	Jean Scherer
Evangelism	Claudia Cross, Jim Hobbs, Ed Wollet
Fellowship	Denise Behl
Long Range Planning	Ed Wollet
Mutual Ministry	Tom Appleton
Parish Life	Bill Hansen
Public Relations	Marilyn Dees
Property	Jack Wheaton
Stewardship	Jean Scherer, Jim Turner
Worship & Music	Carolyn Nelson, Chris Venaas
Youth	Cameron Dees

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

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

June-August Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 9:15 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

prchristell@aol.com-Senior Pastor

cmjbgearge@gmail.com-Director of Music

k.gietl15@yahoo.com-Church Secretary

david.squires93@yahoo.com-Custodian

www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchIL