

Grace Notes E-Newsletter

January 2016

Happy New Year!

Vol. 5

**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 year **2016** is upon us...

It comes with the world in bad shape...

Global warming...

Acts of terrorism abroad and close to home...

Wars and hunger...

Political comments that call our basic rights into question...

Something needs to happen...

The world and the people in it...

Deserve better...

Can do better...

How can that happen...

I don't have all the answers...

What I do have is some food for thought...

Consider what three different people have said...

The first person is my cousin, Pastor Roy Christell...

He posted the following on Facebook...

The Bible has a phrase running from beginning to end, "do not be afraid. " So much talk and so many proposals coming to us recently find their basis in fear. As a Christian leader I object to all proposals that will discriminate against any group of people based on the fear of a small group of people. We cannot give in to fear and thus lose freedom and liberty for all. We cannot. Please do not.

Jesus gave His followers this instruction, a challenge no doubt, "love your enemies and pray for those who hate you." What are we going to do with His Words?

Then a good friend of both Pastor Roy and myself, Pastor Jane, made this comment...

I like the Bible, too. Lots and lots, as a matter of fact. But today I take great comfort in another document that God gave us, the US Constitution. I live and thank God for the first of our freedoms, articulated in the Bill of Rights, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, nor limiting the free exercise thereof. I think that is God's great provision.

Then I remembered a poem that was written post WWII...Martin Niemöller, (1892–1984) was a prominent Protestant pastor who opposed the Nazi regime. He spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. During his post-war lecturing he included a poem that took on many variations at times.

I share it with you, with some adaptations of mine, that I believe Pastor Niemoller would not object to...

First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Japanese and I did not speak out because I was not Japanese.

Then they came for the Muslims, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Muslim.

Then they came to detain immigrants and I didn't speak out because I wasn't an immigrant.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.

We cannot sit quiet or idle, we must each search our hearts and minds...

We must turn to God in prayer for strength and guidance...

To help us make 2016 a year of peace and freedom in the name of **GOD**...

In Christ's Name, Pastor Tom

Annual Meeting... Sunday, January 31, 2016 between worship services. All active confirmed members should be present to share in this important meeting. The agenda will include, but is not limited to, election of Council members, Grace Trust trustees, and the 2016 Nominating Committee. We will also receive and act on the proposed budget for 2016. **ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE...** All reports for the Annual Meeting are due, on or before January 17, 2016. If you can email them to k.gietl15@yahoo.com, that would be extremely helpful. If you have questions contact Kim Gietl or Pastor Tom Christell. There is a sign-up sheet to help assemble the Annual Report if you are able. Treats will be provided.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Historic Grace will offer opportunities to celebrate Christmas with a variety of worship services.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015 CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

4:30pm Christmas Prelude

5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion,
Chancel Choir and Candle Lighting

10:30pm Christmas Prelude

11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion,
Christmas Choir and Candle Lighting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2015 CELEBRATION OF THE INCARNATION

9:00am Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

9:15am Sunday one service only

NO SERVICE ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 26, 2015

Thursday, December 31, 2015

6:00 pm New Year's Eve First Night Springfield

Historic Grace will be a First Night Springfield venue once again and we will be making our lot at 7th and Capitol available for free parking. We do not know yet know who will perform at Grace and will let you know as soon as we do. What we do know is that we need 2-4 host/hostesses at Historic Grace to be a welcoming presence during the various shifts of the evening. There is a sign-up sheet on the white board in the Fellowship Hall and it would be great if you could help out with this important outreach to our community. This is a great night for the whole family, come support downtown and enjoy all the entertainment. If you have questions contact Pastor Christell.

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

The Morning Star of Our Dark World

After the whirlwind of December activities, culminating in the twelve-day festival celebrating Christ's birth, we come back to regular, everyday schedules. It's still cold and dark, decorations have come down, and the mood has changed. We are in the "January blahs." Even in the church year, we call this season after Epiphany "Ordinary Time" (like the long season after Pentecost). The Holy Child within the Manger grows up quickly in the church year, and by January 10, we see the adult Jesus Christ beginning his ministry in our Sunday Gospel readings. There is nothing ordinary about it, though. These "Ordinary Sundays" after Epiphany explore ways in which God-Among-Us, delivered at Christmas, has changed everything.

Remembering God's presence among us is a help to me through the dark days of January, and God's promises are a light to our hearts through any difficult times. Many have been inspired by the "Footprints" poem, where we find out after the fact, that Jesus has carried us through the most difficult times of life.

Another way of expressing this trust is in the great hymn, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (ELW #308/LBW #76). "For Christ goes with us all the way—today, tomorrow, every day!" and "What joy to know when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last..." (from stanzas 5 and 6)

Both text and music of this famous hymn, known as the "Queen of Chorales," were by Philipp Nicolai, a sixteenth-century Lutheran pastor. (Nicolai also wrote "Wake, Awake," which is called the "King of Chorales.") Pastor Nicolai could speak with experience in trusting God's presence through difficult times. During a six-month period, his small town experienced a plague in which 1,700 people died. Seeing graves constantly being dug in the churchyard outside his parsonage window, he was inspired to write a series of meditations called "Mirror of Joy," in which both of these great hymns first appeared.

CALLING ALL HOLIDAY (UN)DECORATORS... We will un-decorate following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, January 3, 2016. This should not have to be a long adventure. Tree and wreaths out. Lights and ornaments put away. Vacuum and sweep up the needles. DONE. Please plan on helping with this. Questions call Chris Venaas or Pastor Christell.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Regularly scheduled classes are each week at 9:15 am.
We will not have class December 27.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 am.
We will not have class December 27.

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. Bi-weekly classes, that will explore Lutheran History and the Catechism, will continue on Wednesday evenings. The schedule for 2016 is: JANUARY 6, 20 and FEBRUARY 3. (Feb 10 is Ash Wednesday. We need to find a different time or day in February because of Midweek Lenten Services)

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.

Youth News 2016

January 8 – All youth Lock-in at church. Times, events, activities etc. to be announced soon.

February 7 – All youth bowling, skating or Glow Golf

March 26 & 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. If somebody has an idea please talk with Cameron Dees.

Long Range Planning 2016

Twenty-six congregants representing the Evangelism, Grace Trust, Stewardship, Worship & Music, Parish Life, Christian Education, Fellowship, Property, and Admin/Finance committees met December 10 in Fellowship Hall. Committees not represented were P-R, Community Ministry, and Youth. Sharon Knop explained SMART goal setting and Pastor Tom reviewed monies available to the committees from the church budget. Then committee members broke into groups to beginning writing goals for their committees. Each committee has been asked to set a January meeting date in order to finish writing their goals. Committee goals will be compiled into a booklet for distribution to each committee member and other interested congregants. If anyone is not currently a member of one of the committees but is interested in attending a committee meeting or giving other input, please contact Ed Wollet (217-620-8468).

Community Ministry

We are grateful that there are many opportunities for us to be of service during the winter season! Thank you!

Fellowship Events 2016

Please join us whenever possible and support local restaurants, drama performances and events that are going on in Springfield and the surrounding communities along with events here at Grace.

Stewardship 2016

Thank you for returning your time and talent and commitment sheets.

Please turn them in if you have not done so to help our church continue with its mission: spreading God's Word, building relationships, serving the community, and reaching out to those in need. Besides being good stewards of our time, talent and gifts, we need to be good stewards of the earth.

We pray: Lord please help us to be good stewards of our resources and our earth. Thank you Lord, for the 200 nations meeting in France that pledged to slow global warming and to fight climate change. Please give us courage and strength to stand up and protect our earth so that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty that you have created for us. Amen.

RECYCLE REMINDERS...Old printed religious materials may be placed in the cabinets over the coat rack in the Fellowship Hall. We give them to an organization which distributes them to people who do not have the resources to purchase these materials.

TABS from soda cans may be placed in a container in the kitchenette off the Fellowship Hall. We give them to Ronald McDonald House. Over the years they have raised millions to subsidize room rates at their houses.

GREETING/CHRISTMAS CARDS may be placed in the cabinets over the coat rack in the Fellowship Hall. Some of the new cards are used by Faith/Grace Circle to mail to homebound members. New cards are given to prison inmates to use. We are researching where we can use recycled cards.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On Tuesday, December 15, 2015 the Congregational Council held its regular meeting. Reports were received from Pastor Tom, Treasurer Bryan Knop, and various committees.

Many positive activities and events are happening at Historic Grace during the holiday season. Join us whenever possible.

Some other highlights included: 79 Christmas baskets were either picked up or delivered to students' families from McClernand, Franklin Middle, and Black Hawk with members from both Grace and Blended Atonement working together with hopes of future partnerships.

A proposed budget was presented and will be voted on at the Congregational meeting, January 31.

The Mitten tree is getting full and the Christmas party with the Washington place residents was a great success. Thank you to all those in attendance and for those who purchased gifts.

Ed Wollet will be meeting with all committees for Long Range planning and the goals for 2016 to go along with the new mission statement.

FINANCIAL/ATTENDANCE REPORT

November 2015

Estimate of giving \$27,500

Actually given \$30,345

Month November 2015

Budget Income \$34,054

Budget Expense \$33,900

Actual Income *\$39,769

Actual Expense \$29,409

November 2014

Estimate of giving \$27,500

Actually given \$30,698

Month November 2014

Budget Income \$34,007

Budget Expense \$33,384

Actual Income \$40,616

Actual Expense \$23,674

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

Attendance records (based on weekend attendance)

Attendance for November 2015

2015 AVG. YTD 144

Attendance for November 2014

2014 AVG. YTD 140

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 and seeing updates at www.giveforward.com or 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.

I Don't Know What to Say to God

By Suzie Eller

December 3, 2015

"... the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26 (NKJV)

For all of us, there are moments when words simply do not describe how we feel, what we need or what we so desperately desire from God.

Romans 8:26 reminds us there is someone who has studied us. The Holy Spirit knows us well. He is aware of our strengths, but He's also keenly tuned in to our weaknesses. When we are unable to express in words what we hope for so desperately, the Spirit Himself steps in and clearly places our deepest needs before the Father. We don't have to have the right words. We don't have to know the exact details of what is needed in a situation. We don't have to try to explain how it makes us feel. He already knows.

Today, if you have no words, be encouraged. When you step into that place of prayer, the Holy Spirit sees your heart. He understands what you want to say, even when it's still a mystery to you. The moment you place your trust in God, your deepest needs are already being shared. Perfectly. Succinctly. With all the right words.

Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. I might have no words, or struggle to tell You what I need, but You already know. I'm so grateful the Holy Spirit knows my heart, and intercedes for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - See more at: <http://proverbs31.org/devotions/devo/i-dont-know-what-to-say-to-god/#sthash.jyQxJTVu.dpuf>

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 November of 2015, we served 486 families composed of 1139 individuals compared to 412 families composed of 1003 individuals in 2014. The number of clients has increased for the last two months and is back to what we have typically done in past years.

The Food Pantry will be closed from December 18, 2015 through January 3, 2016. We will reopen January 4, 2016.

The Sound Celebration Chorus – Sweet Adeline's, a talented and generous group of women, donated \$926.44 from the profits of their concert in October.

During November, the Food Pantry was fortunate to be the recipient of two major food drives. St. John's Church, which routinely donates about 500 items per month, had an extra food drive and donated about 3000 items! Then Our Savior's Church and School had a food drive and donated over 4000 items as well! We are well stocked. We also learned that Atonement, in addition to their regular monetary donations, had given Ken Hersemann, a former Shop N Save manager who shops for the food pantry using discounts that are given to retired employees; about \$4600 during 2015 to help pay for the groceries. Thank you to St. John's and Our Savior's and Atonement! We could not operate without the support we receive from all the area Lutheran Churches. However, when we are feeding over 400 families per month, the food goes quickly and we are ALWAYS in need of additional monetary and food donations.

PARKING IN 15 MINUTE FOOD PANTRY SPACES... Members can no longer park in the 5 Food Pantry spaces on the south side of the parking lot. The Springfield police and Lincoln Home rangers are not allowing persons to park in front of the Food Pantry, primarily for safety reasons. So we must leave the 5 spaces on the south side of the lot empty when the Food Pantry is open; Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 11:00 am-2:30 pm and Wednesday 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Thank you for you cooperation.

WELCA

ALL WOMEN of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.

The last quarterly meeting of WELCA was held Saturday, December 5th in the basement of Historic Grace Lutheran Church with breakfast and cookie packing. Everyone had a good time.

Often we are timid...when it comes to sharing our faith or talking about it with others. We feel other may think we are "fanatical." There are some things we can do, however. We can listen...truly listen to others. Listen to all ages, young, old, and in between. Don't judge. It will help us and them.

They will see our faith and know we live our faith. Invite others to the group. If they don't come, invite them again and again. Most will say they do not have time, but ask again. WELCA provides aid for the challenges of life. It gives support for their faith. Ask them to help. Many are interested but do not participate unless they feel they are needed. When they do come to any activity accept them and their ideas and incorporate them into the group.

We can all learn from each other. We all can use a "spark."

We all need each other. There is an old saying..."No man is an island"... neither is a woman.

Please note the following things happening in January

Faith/Grace Circle - January 6th at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

Sew'n Sowers - January 9th from 9:00 am to noon in the basement - Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

Ruth Circle - Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00 pm, at Grace. This will be the planning meeting for the year. Please join us to help select the programs for 2016. We expect 2016 to be another great year of Ruth Circle activities. All women of Grace are welcome!

BUTTER BRAIDS...Thanks to everyone who sold Butter Braids. WELCA's profit was \$671.90. We have applied for \$224 in matching funds from Thrivent. This will allow WELCA to give several local agencies at least \$100 each. Gene Blade and Lorraine Bivin were a tremendous help in distributing the 398 items sold. 22 non-members donated \$199.50 to our Food Pantry. **Extras are still for sale:** \$10.00 each. 5 apple-cinnamon rolls and 12 blueberry rolls.

YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

2016-a new year and new beginning for everyone.

When my office moved, in my cleaning effort I came across "Fitness" from weight watchers. It had some ideas for musical activities and exercise I would like to share with you. Important keys to remember is to start and be consistent. They include:

T Make exercise seem easier. Music can boost your mood and squash anger, tension, and other negative emotions.

T Music can help you work harder when you sync to the music.

T Music can improve your skills and ups the fun factor.

T It can put you in "the zone" where you ignore everything else and sweat and forget.

T Mix it up with music and keep it upbeat.

Make an exercise plan

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

How many minutes? What activity?

Where will I exercise? Who can help me?

Happy New Year, in Christ's Love, Diana

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

Random Acts of Kindness...

© *A person who is not a member of our church but worships regularly with us saw one of our senior ladies unloading boxes, which appeared to be heavy, from her car and stack them by the church door. The person carried all of them to the basement. This same person bought a Butter Braid and asked that we give it to someone who could use it.*

© *Someone washed the communion cups that hadn't been washed.*

© *Someone noticed the altar was not set for communion and set it up.*

Servant Opportunities

- Give mittens or hats for the tree.
- Deliver poinsettias to the homebound
- Help assemble Annual Report
- Provide soup and/or corn bread for Souper Bowl

Thank You's

- * To all the Grace members who prayed for our daughter and our family during her surgery and after, we give our most sincere thanks. We felt the power of those prayers in the skilled hands of her surgeons, her nursing care in ICU and on the surgical floor at Swedish Hospital in Denver, CO. Biopsies have come back benign: praise God! She has returned to work as a pediatric nurse practitioner and is getting her strength back gradually. She will be monitored with MRI's and blood work every 6 months. God bless you all!
Dan Kendal and Rachel Hoselton
- * A SPECIAL THANK YOU...The Stewardship Committee and the Congregational Council thanks all who have returned their filled out Covenant Cards and Time and Talent Sheets to support God's mission and ministry at Historic Grace Lutheran Church in 2016.
- * To Jim and Sharon Turner for putting together and mailing out Time, Talent and Treasure packets.
- * First of all, we want to thank Pat Ekle for bringing us the Altar Flowers on December 6th which were given by her family. The arrangement was truly beautiful and we do so appreciate the thoughts that went with them, Happy Birthday to Lisa! Secondly, we want to thank WELCA for the delicious cookies, delivered last Saturday by Diana Weyhenmeyer! They were scrumptious: so much enjoyed and appreciated! Also, the Grace Carolers were here at Brenden Gardens last evening and we had a really nice reunion listening to all the beautiful voices! Thanks so much to them and Pastor Tom for coming. Jean Merano really enjoyed it, too!! We pray that everyone will have a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2016! Thanks again for thinking of us! *Roger and Norma (Browning) Gordon*
- * To Claudia Cross for making new "Busy Bags" for the kids.
- * To all those who bought presents for the people of Washington Place and for all those who attended the party. Thank you for spreading God's love and bringing joy.
- * Thanks to all the WELCA ladies that made such delicious Christmas cookies and to Mary Plymire for delivering them. One of my Wyndcrest friends and I had afternoon coffee and cookies and she thoroughly enjoyed them, too. She says "thanks" too. I also enjoyed the carolers this afternoon--what a large lively group. Thanks again and I wish all of you a blessed New Year. And thanks to my Ruth circle secret pal for all the great surprises. You made me feel so special. *Betty Fowler*
- * *Pastor Tom and Patti* want to thank all of you for your Christmas prayers, gifts and cards.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET Memorials and Honorees

The Hoselton Family—for prayers answered in Rachel's' successful surgery

Anonymous— in appreciation of all the members who through donations, physical labor and decision making remodeled our fellowship hall, adjoining rooms and Sunday school space

Salli Shields—in memory of the Pope family, Shields family, and McVey family

Karen Carlson-Hawker—in memory of Marlene Carlson

Curt & Valerie Benanti—in memory of John and Clara Benanti, Edna Nation, and Betty & George Clough

Tom & Rosie O'Fallon—in honor of all our loved ones, living and at the great Feast in Heaven

We thank all those who gave of time or treasure for the Food Baskets at Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. You are a blessing to all those in the community!

Cookbook Update... We are publishing a cookbook which will be available September, 2016. We have approximately 300 recipes. We would like to have at least 150 more. Please give us more recipes and follow the instructions on the back of the form available at church.

Reminder...we are having a contest to name the cookbook. The person with the winning name will receive a free cookbook. Keep those recipes coming and submit a name by December 27th! Next cookbook meeting will be **January 10th** at 9:15 am.

50+ Lunch Bunch is still looking for cooks

Would you be willing to prepare the main dish for 30 people? 50+ lunch bunch pays for all the ingredients and they prepare the vegetable, salad and dessert. Please contact Charlotte Blumle, 546-5573 if you are interested in April or May.

50+ Lunch Bunch for January

We will meet Sunday, January 17th, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The menu is meat loaf, corn, jello salad, and an assortment of pies, including grapefruit. Friends and relatives are always welcome. Cost is \$3.50. Please sign up on the reservation sheet in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, January 10th.

IN OTHER NEWS...

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.

SEW'N SOWERS STUFFED ANIMAL PROJECT... We make stuffed animals and donate them to various places in town. We meet the second Saturday of every month from 9:00 am–12 noon. There are U of I patterns: stuffed animal for the fans in your life. We have also made stuffed animals with rice. They can be placed in the microwave for hot packs or in the freezer for cold packs. They are nice to have on hand for scrapes, bruises, swelling, etc. Suggested donation for the rice pack is \$5.00. 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. All profits go directly to the Grace Food Pantry.

Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area Experience Summer 2016

Are you interested in spending some time in the bush canoeing, fishing, and exploring the Northwood's premiere wilderness next summer? Several men have indicated an interest in a wilderness experience in late July early August 2016. This would primarily be an adult backcountry experience involving canoeing, portaging, exploring and, ideally, we will need to arrange our permits by Mid January. 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.

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.

SUGGESTED READING FOR JANUARY... The book of Proverbs has 31 chapters. If you read one chapter a day in January it might be a great start to 2016.

TWISTED STITCHERS January 5th - The Twisted Stitchers will meet on Tuesday January 5th 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 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

cmjbgeorge@gmail.com-Director of Music

k.gietl15@yahoo.com-Church Secretary

david.squires93@yahoo.com-Custodian

www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchIL