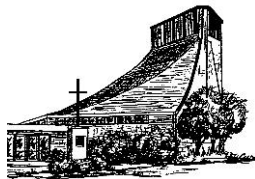

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Message of Grace

Web Version



Get on our email list. Send an email to office@gracelutheran1.org to let Sue know you want to be added to the list.

How to Pray

*"...for your Father knows what you need
before you ask him."*

-Matthew 6:8



As a pastor I often hear that people struggle with prayer and how to do it properly. Jesus noticed that people 2,000 years ago had this same problem. When Jesus decided to teach people how to pray he told them to start with the words "Our Father". When we pray it is important to remember this teaching. Jesus wanted us to understand that we have parental relationship with God. Remember when you first moved away from home? You probably did all sorts of things to try and stay in touch with your parents. You made phone calls, wrote letters or even emails. When we pray it's helpful to view it like a phone call home to our parents. Essentially, I feel that's what prayer is, a call home. You call home to your parents because you want to keep in contact with them. Ideally, a person would like to be home in the same room with their parents but that can't happen so we call home. By calling home we are able to learn more about our parents and our parents are able to learn more about us. We can share experiences and gain advice through these valuable phone calls until we can return home. I think that's what we should seek to do when we pray—make phone calls to God until we can return to home to be with Him.

The next time that you are feeling distraught, joyful, depressed or happy, make a phone call home to God. God is no different than our parents in the sense that the more we make these "phone calls" the closer we feel to Him. Just know that God loves us and wants to hear from us.

In Christ

Pastor Andy

Lenten Worship Planned



As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of simplicity and preparation. Read more about Ash Wednesday traditions at <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Learning-Center/FAQs/Imposition-of-Ashes.aspx>

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. The Service of Imposition of Ashes will be held at 7:30pm. Then each Wednesday in Lent through Mar 28th, we will hold a simple soup and bread supper at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall, followed by a service at 7:30. This year the theme is drawn from Luther's Small Catechism. Each week Pastor Andy will discuss a section of the Catechism and lend his insights into what it means for us as Christians and Lutherans. Please join us.

To learn more about Lenten practices go to the ELCA website at www.elca.org and search for 'lent'. To read Luther's Small Catechism online go to <http://www.cph.org/t-topic-catechism.aspx>

Worship and Music News

To encourage use of our new hymnals (and possibly save some paper), we will discontinue printing the words to the hymns in the bulletin beginning February 26th. They will still be displayed on the overhead screen for those who prefer that.

During Lent, beginning the week of February 19th, the People of Praise choir rehearsal will move to Mondays at 7:00pm due to the Lenten Services being held on Wednesdays.

Stewardship Ministry—Plans for Visit on Mar 25th

We are beginning to plan for our visit from the Rev. Kurt Nordby on March 25th. Pastor Nordby is Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod and Director for Evangelical Mission, which includes the [Stewardship Team](#), [Outreach Committee](#), Racial Justice Team, and he also serves as East Conference liaison. We will also have the Outreach Cafe that day so we can have breakfast and get acquainted with one of our synod leaders. Please put the date on your calendars.

We hope you are reading our Bible Verses and our Blessings each week in the bulletin. We appreciate all the blessings that were given us during our "Showers of Blessings" and wanted to share some of them with the congregation.

Stewardship Contact: Carol Jean Steadman kate@stans.com or 815-338-0490

Praise Report from the Properties Team

This is a much belated thank you to Brett Krause for restriping the parking lot this fall after the contractor finished the seal-coating. Brett not only provided his time, but also the equipment and materials required for this project. Thanks to Brett we saved the cost of having this work done by an outside contractor. ~*Bob Ketelsen*

From the Outreach Team

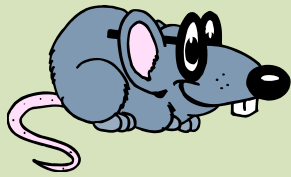


The **Outreach Cafe** serves breakfast on the fourth Sunday each month to raise money for our local food pantries, Habitat for Humanity and Haiti. We hope you enjoyed the International/Heritage Café in January! The response was wonderful and we took in \$300 in support of our missions. Our next café is **February 26th**. Please join us! See Tina Peterson about volunteering to work or donate food.

Please remember the food pantry! Donations have increased but the need is great. Thank you.

To donate or volunteer to serve for **PADS** February 2nd or March 1st, see Curt Bjorklund, email him at chbjorklund@hotmail.com or call 815-529-7746.

Outreach Contact: Chris Bjorklund dreamstar_00@msn.com, 815-675-2765



Bits and Pieces from The Church Mouse

Are you staying warm these days? I know I am trying to stay warm. I keep a sweater on and make sure I dress warm when going outside. I even made a snow angel the other day!! I will let you in on a little secret...I do think the snow is pretty!!

*If you know of anyone that is in need of a **place to sleep** and in **need of food** during these cold winter days, contact Curt Bjorklund at 815-675-2765 and he can assist you with information for PADS. Also, your donations for the **food pantry** are greatly appreciated.*

*The **Young at Heart Seniors** will be having their meeting on **Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 11:15 am**. The lunch will be catered by Billie's. They will be having mostaccioli, Caesar salad and maybe green beans. A lady will be providing the entertainment. So you don't want to miss out on the good eating and good time. I know I would not miss out on this. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 or Doris Rockenbach at 262-248-0577.*

*Did you hear that the High School RINGS youth group will be serving a **chicken dinner on February 13th at Crandalls** in Hebron? I was there once and the food is great! Cost is only \$12 for the whole meal. Could be a good excuse for a little early Valentine's Day celebration and it will help support the ones going to New Orleans in July. They have yummy food in New Orleans, too... HMMM - seems like all I can think about is food – must be the cold weather.*

*I have heard some people talking about the **Easter Breakfast**. I know it is a ways off, but they have been thinking about "who" they should contact and "what can they do to help out" for the Easter Breakfast. Well, since the Mouse has the "scoop", here are your answers to your questions: Your contact person is **Curt Bjorklund** and his telephone number is **815-675-2765**. You could assist by preparing food and setting up tables on Saturday. On Sunday, you could help by making coffee, bringing in a dessert to doing dishes and cleaning up. Your assistance is always a big welcome! I myself help with the clean-up process – to eat the crumbs on the floor! (By the way, Easter is April 8th this year – why does it keep moving?)*

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you! See you next month and stay warm!

Grace Lutheran Youth Group Fund Raiser February 13th

Support the RINGS HS Youth Group at **Crandall's Restaurant** in Hebron (Rt. 47, north of Rt. 173) on **February 13th**. Tickets are \$12 each for chicken, a vegetable, roll and drink. Proceeds go towards the RINGS HS youth group mission trip to New Orleans in July.

The **Youth Group meets** the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 at Grace. Hope to see you on **February 9th**.

Thanks for your help!

Dave and Shannon

Youth Contact: Dave Borst dborst30@sbcglobal.net, 815-385-6113

Help Wanted - Learning Ministry Needs YOU!

The Learning Ministry is looking for volunteers to join our committee and share your ideas. We are responsible for providing educational opportunities for adults (bible study) and children (Sunday School, confirmation, vacation bible school, etc.). We are growing rapidly and need your help shaping our future. Won't you please consider becoming a committee member? Ministry team meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at Grace.



Contact: Dave Popenhagen, davepopenhagen@yahoo.com,
815-687-4413

News from Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

A new month here so quickly and much to be done. The old saying, "time waits for no one" sure applies to us.

We are lining up dates for our various projects and are being careful not to conflict with events scheduled by another committee.

Our spring **bake sale on Palm Sunday, April 1st** seems to be a 'go' at this time. More details to follow in our March newsletter.

Another WELCA date to remember is our annual **salad luncheon on Saturday, April 21st**. This has been one our most well-attended functions bringing young and old, members and non-members and friends of our surrounding communities to gather ecumenically over a delightful few hours of fellowship, music, food and fun and, of course, our raffle. Can't forget about our talented vendors who hand-make/handcraft all items for sale.

The WELCA group is working with other committees of the church offering their support in their projects. It seems to be working very well joining forces when the extra help is needed.

The next WELCA meeting will be held on Monday, February 6th at 4pm at the church. Please bring your soup, salad, sandwich or fruit. Marga Burbatt and Joan Rzonca will be hostesses and provide dessert. please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 and she will arrange a ride for you.

WELCA Contact: Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516

Praise Reports

Thanks to all who answer the call to donate their time, talents and financial support to our church. Seems like our church is having a renewed spirit of giving and supporting. Everyone seems involved in pitching in and getting the job done. We do have a thriving and vibrant congregation thanks to all of you

January 22nd, our church held its congregational meeting. It was almost a packed house. A very orderly meeting was held. Questions were taken from the floor and answers given. Discussions were orderly and properly finalized. Amendments were handled and voted on. By paper ballot, we now have two new council members. Best to them and to all our council members for the fine job they do.

This is for Chris Bjorklund, our newsletter editor. You are to be thanked for the great job you do with the monthly newsletter. You are not only good at what you do, but you are very patient and understanding about all the reasons 'why' someone is late in getting all the news to you, etc., etc. You are to be commended for your time, which is hours, to get the news out to us all. There are times when you have worked into the wee hours of the night striving for accuracy before giving the go-ahead to print. Thank you for all that you do and for your cheerfulness in doing it

for us all. Bless You. (Ed.: *Aw, shucks, ma'am – it twern't nothin'. But thanks anyway!*)

Remember – Please continue your prayers for our shut-ins and those recuperating from an illness or recent surgery. A card or a visit can do wonders! We all need someone sometime to make us feel we are not forgotten, and we are praying for them and hope they will rejoin us soon.

This weather is a reminder to be careful in the snow, slippery pavements and icy roads.

This isn't a broken record but a reminder that we still have armed forces personnel here and abroad away from loved ones, family and friends. Please pray for them, for their safe return, and for the people who are home waiting.

The collections for the food pantries are going strong because you are bringing items to the church for distribution. Thank you for your generosity.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Council Meeting Notes January 10, 2011

At the regular Council meeting January 10th, the Council heard the findings of the Audit team consisting of Sue Dubs and Shannon Borst. They found everything in order but suggested a few procedural changes. You can get a complete copy of their report from the office. The agenda for the Congregational meeting January 22nd was approved as was the proposed budget for 2012 to be voted on at the meeting. Nominations were taken for the Nominating Committee who will furnish a roster of candidates for Council positions whose term ends in June to present at the June meeting. The Nominating Committee will be finalized at the Congregational Meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be February 21st. The joint team members meeting is February 7th at 6:30pm. Please attend if you would like to participate on one of the teams.

Grace Lutheran Financial Report – December 2011

Giving for December was \$19,950. We ended the year with all the bills up to date and a balance of \$5367. Praise the Lord and thank you for your faithful stewardship. Beginning next month we will report the total giving for the previous month as well as attendance at worship.

Congregational Meeting Notes January 22, 2012

Here is a brief summary of actions taken at the Annual Congregational Meeting January 22, 2012. Complete minutes will be available next month in the church office.

1. Reports were heard and accepted
2. Kelly Steadman offered her resignation from the Council and her role as President effective February 21st due to additional work responsibilities
3. From the slate of nominees to fill Council positions vacated by Dave Baker and Kelly Steadman, the Congregation elected Sue Fosdal and Ron Steadman.
4. A slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee for the 2012 elections was presented and elected in its entirety: Andy Mayer, Bob Ketelsen, Sue Kubic, Rita Popenhagen, Bernie Schert and Sandy Messick
5. The 2012 proposed budget of \$244,862 was reviewed and accepted

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2012				
Position	Feb 5 – 8:00	Feb 5 – 10:15	Feb 12 – 8:00	Feb 12 – 10:15
Lector	Jean Schenk	Tina Atwater	Marty Heynis	Kin Bokan
Assistant	Andy Mayer	Sandy Messick	Nancy O'Connor	Dave Oelert
Computer	Marty Heynis	Denise Lemke	Tom Ott	Katie Arizzi
Acolytes	Justin Haley Alexis Haley	Seth Billig Megan Grant	James LeJeune Anna Blaney	Matthew Borst Madison Woods
Counters	Ron & Sue Chandler		Sandy Messick & Deb Oelert	
Ushers	Jim Nor Buzz Pickering	Rick Rzonca Joe Steadman	Gary & Stephanie Haley	Bob & Linda Ketelsen
Greeters	Jan and Marty Heynis	Katie Arizzi Marjorie Harm	Joan Ehorn Ann Katzenberg	Sue Buchberger Pat Giannini
Position	Feb 19 – 8:00	Feb 19 – 10:15	Feb 26 – 8:00	Feb 26 – 10:15
Lector	Pam Johnson	Tina Peterson	Monica Heide	Dave Baker
Assistant	Sue Dubs	Jon Petersen	Dave Dennerhagen	Kelly Steadman
Computer	Ken Lapinski	Chris Bjorklund	Phil Giannini	Art Stoike
Acolytes	Cameron Bayer Blaine Bayer	Jacob Renz Rachael Hayden	Anna Carlson Dalton Wagner	Will Marshall Reed Marshall
Counters	Chris Bjorklund & Marty Heynis		Don & Colleen Vineyard	
Ushers	Wagner Family	Dave & Shannon Borst	CJ and Ron Steadman	Kim Bokan and Brian Morris
Greeters	Wagner Family	Terri Cooke	Marty & Jan Heynis	Mildred Orsolini Doris Rockenbach
Altar Guild for February	Richard and Carol Aird, Edel Ervin, Jan Heynis			

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 Services and Classes
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
Sunday Worship: Regular Services at 8 and 10:15 am
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:00 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am; Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am
Family Hour 4th Sunday of the Month w/Outreach Café: 9:00

February 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
In anticipation of Easter, Lent begins on February 22 nd with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 pm . Then each Wednesday of Lent through March 28 th we will have Soup Suppers at 6:30pm and worship at 7:30pm . Learn more about Lent at http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Planning/Lent.aspx			1 5:30 pm ALPHA 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	2 11:15 Young at Heart PADS St. Josephs	3	4
5 8:00 am Holy Communion Service 9:15 am Sunday Sch 10:15 am Holy Communion Service	6 4:00 pm WELCA	7 6:30 pm Ministry Teams joint meeting	8 5:30 pm ALPHA	9 5:30 - 7pm Youth Group	10	11
12 8:00 am Holy Communion Service 9:15 am Sunday Sch 10:15 am Holy Communion Service	13 Chicken Dinner at Crandall's to benefit Youth	14	15 5:30 pm ALPHA 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	16 Newsletter article deadline	17	18
19 8:00 am Holy Communion Service 9:15 am Sunday Sch 10:15 am Holy Communion Service	20 7:00pm Choir rehearsal NOTE New day during Lent	21 7:00 pm Council Meeting	22 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	23	24	25
26 8:00 am Holy Communion Service 8:45-10:30 am Outreach Café 10:15 am Holy Communion Service	27 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	28	29 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:30 pm Lenten Worship	Choir rehearsal moves to Mondays during Lent to accommodate the midweek services on Wednesdays.		