

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2010

Position	Feb 7 - 8:00	Feb 7 - 9:30	Feb 14 - 8:00	Feb 14 - 9:30
Lector:	Marty Heynis	Kim Bokan	Pam Johnson	Tina Peterson
Assistant:	Nancy O'Connor	Tom Weaver	Dave Popenhagen	Clark Atwater
Computer:	Ken Lapinski	Linda Poehlein	Phil Gianinni	Katie Arizzi
Acolytes	Dana Cecce Sarah Bassett	Steven Coutteau Will Marshall	Taylor Woods Morgan McAndrews	Michael Borst Chase Woods
Counters:	Deb Oelert and Pat Petersen		Don and Colleen Vineyard	
Position	Feb 21 - 8:00	Feb 21 - 9:30	Feb 28 - 8:00	Feb 28 - 9:30
Lector:	Dave Nor	Pat Petersen	Marty Heynis	Elise Livingston
Assistant:	Sue Dubs	Dave Oelert	Andy Mayer	Kelly Steadman
Computer:	Denise Lemke	Chris Bjorklund	Marty Heynis	Art Stoike
Acolytes	Jarod Lemke Cole Baker	Eric Krause Sam Spyra	Sarah Schenk Rachel Spencer	Jillian Townsend Alexis Haley
Counters:	Dennis and Edel Ervin		Chris Bjorklund & TBD	
Altar Guild for February: Rich and Carol Aird, Edel Ervin				

Visit our Website: www.gracelutheran1.org. You'll find congregation news, special service times, contact information, links to the Daycare and more. Look up member photos, phone numbers and addresses. Password: martin

Get on our email list to receive special service and event information. Send an email to office@gracelutheran1.org to let Sue know you want to be added to the list.

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Services and Classes

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**Sunday Worship: Regular
Services at 8 and 9:30 am
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:00 am
Firelight Sunday School: 9:15 am
Adult Bible Study: 10:30 am**

February 2010
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month preceding publication
office@gracelutheran1.org

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FIND US: 8000 Broadway St
Richmond, IL 60071
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Fax: 815-878-2123
www.gracelutheran1.org

Message of Grace



Blessings to you and your family.
Drop your family celebration items or
comments in the basket outside the
office or email
office@gracelutheran1.org. Forms
are also available on our website!

Special Services in Observation of Lent
Wednesday, Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
Wednesdays of Lent: Carry in Supper at 6:30pm
Mid-Week Lenten Service at 7:30pm

LENT: Come Let Us Worship the Lord! ***Share the Journey of Spiritual Growth: The Body of Christ.***

The Mid-Week Lenten series this year is *The Body of Christ*. Wednesday by Wednesday we will take the time to seriously consider our Lord's humanity. The hands, feet, mouth, the eyes, ears and the heart of Christ will be included in our meditation on Christ's person.

We traditionally speak of Christ as truly human and completely divine. The divinity of Christ is somehow easier to grasp than his humanity. Hopefully we will have a better sense of what it was to know the Christ of God as Jesus of Nazareth, who lived daily, for thirty three years, as a human male of Jewish decent. The scripture tells us that to see Jesus is to see God. We are invited to take time to meet our creator redeemer in "The Body of Christ".

Prior to our Mid-Week worship you are invited to share a carry-in meal. In keeping with the food traditions of the Lenten season, the supper will be simple in nature. Those joining in the meal are asked to bring a casserole, a pot of soup, salad or bread to share. We will forego dessert as a way of participating in a partial fast in preparation for the celebration of Resurrection richness.

Supper will be served beginning at 6:30pm on each of the Wednesdays of Lent beginning February 24. Worship will begin at 7:30pm.

The journey of Lent is important preparation for greeting the Risen Christ who brings the Light of God's love into our midst.

Come, Let Us Worship the Lord.

Blessings,

P. Rob

Want to Help with the PADS Program?

Contact Curt Bjorklund at 815-675-2765, chbjorklund@hotmail.com

Outreach Team – First Outreach Café a Success!

The grand re-opening of the Outreach Cafe was met with enthusiasm on Sunday, January 24th. The cafe served breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m. until the start of the congregational meeting. Located in Luther Hall, the cafe is a nice, cozy corner to have a cup of coffee, a little breakfast and some good conversation. It is our sincere hope that you will all stop by on the fourth Sunday of each month to join us, and please, bring a friend, a neighbor or some family by too. All proceeds will be used to fund Outreach ministry efforts throughout the year. The cafe hours will be 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on the fourth Sunday of every month.

I'd like to thank Kim Bokan, Curt & Chris Bjorklund, Denise Lemke, Carolyn Bolman, Dean Peterson, Ginny Foust, Jeff Darling, Marie Pickering and Linda Poehlein for their help and support. If you would be interested in helping out, or if you have a group that would like to help out, please contact Tina Peterson at 815-678-4335.

"Pop In For A Prayer" in the library from 9:10 until 9:25 a.m. Sunday mornings. Hosted by Jeff Darling and Curt Bjorklund, you are invited to join us for prayers for yourself, or you can join us in praying for others. All of our servants on the Prayer Ministry team are invited to come by for a booster prayer for you in your daily prayer ministries.

A new small group is forming, led by Denise Lemke, for those of us who are facing job loss/underemployment issues. If you are interested in coming together to discover ways to face these challenges together, please contact Denise at 815-405-0634.

Contact: Tina Peterson, tinap59@hotmail.com or at 815-678-4335



Couples Renew Marriage Vows on Valentine's Day

I'd Do It All Over Again

Couples who have been married 5 years or longer are invited to renew their wedding vows, Sunday, February 14, 2010 at either 8:00 or 9:30 service.

If you would like to be part of this celebration, please return the bottom of this form to the church office, drop it in the offering plate, or email your response to office@gracelutheran1.org no later than Wednesday, February 10th

Names: _____

Which service would you prefer? 8:00 a.m. _____ 9:30 a.m. _____

Date of marriage: _____ How many years have you been married? _____

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Bits and Pieces from The Church Mouse

I've come to the conclusion that this weather is only good for 'snow birds', which I am not. The heating here has been hit or miss. Just trying to stay warm is an effort for me, but I must look on the bright side of things, spring is just around the corner. Which one, tell me? Many things are being planned for our church and details will be forthcoming in future announcements and bulletins. Fellowship, Outreach, Youth Group, Worship and Music Ministry, Sunday School, PADS, Property, Alpha Confirmation, Adult Education, Learning Ministry, Halt, and Child Care Ministry, etc. all have ideas and projects pending and will need your support. I do know that the "Young at Heart" will be having their first meeting at the church this coming Thursday, February 4th at 11:15a.m. They will be having Pot Luck provided by those whose last names begin with the letter A through M. We are expecting "The Frothy Boys", a male Acappella Singing Group to provide the entertainment. Hope to see you at our first meeting of the New Year. (I promise to clean up any droppings) You are probably asking yourselves, "how does this mouse know all this stuff?" It's easy folks, you just need BIG EARS. Must go now and get comfy. It's game time soon!

Praise Report: Thank you to all those who served on the Transition Team and the newly selected Call Committee. Remember them and our congregation in your prayers!

Do YOU have a praise report? Bring it to the church office or email office@gracelutheran1.org.

Remembering – Now more than ever, our church needs your help with collecting canned goods and staples for our food pantry in Richmond. There is a collection area in our Narthex for these items. The Sentry receipts have also been a source of raising money for our food pantries in Richmond and Twin Lakes. Please continue to save these receipts and put them into our collection box in the Narthex. You can also ask your neighbor/s to save these receipts for you. Those little tabs from cans have been adding up because you have been saving them and asking friends and neighbors to save them at work, at school or at home. Please help with these simple ways to earn money. In most cases we receive matching funds from Thrivent Lutheran. It takes only a minute to do and it brings so much to others.

Please remember prayers for our shut-ins and those recovering from an illness. A card or a call can make a person's day so much brighter.

May we never forget our service men and women of our Armed Forces who proudly serve our country. We are often reminded of the sacrifices they are asked to make each and every day for our safety and freedom. In each case someone leaves behind family members or some loved ones in order to serve their country. Never stop your prayers for our service men and women for their safe return in mind, body and spirit Be thankful for what you do have. It only takes seconds to lose what we cherish dearly.

GOD BLESS US ALL AND GOD BLESS AMERICA

Dates to remember: February 12th – Lincoln's Birthday


February 14th – Valentine's Day – Renewal of Marriage Vows at both services

February 15th – President's Day


February 17th – Ash Wednesday – Lent begins

February 22nd – Washington's Birthday

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Rooted in Grace</p> 	1	2 7pm Church Council Meets	3 5:30 pm ALPHA 7:00 pm People of Praise	4 11:15 am Young at Heart <hr/> PADS at St. Joseph	5	6
7 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:15 Firelight 9:30 Holy Communion	8 7pm WELCA	9	10 5:30 pm ALPHA	11	12	13
14 Same as above Renewal of Marriage Vows 10:30 Adult SS RINGS at Nativity	15 Newsletter article deadline	16	17 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	18	19	20
21 Same as above 10:30 Adult SS	22 7:00 pm People of Praise	23	24 6:30pm Carry- in supper 7:30 Lenten Service	25	26	27
28 Same as above 10:30 Adult SS OUTREACH CAFÉ 8:30-11:00 RINGS at Nativity	<p>Growing in Faith: The 'Church Year' continues with Lent, the period 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. For more about Ash Wednesday and Lent, go to http://www.elca.org/Growing-in-Faith/Worship/Learning-Center/FAQs/Imposition-of-Ashes.aspx</p> <hr/> <p>To find out more about the ELCA response to the Haiti earthquake, go to the Synod website at http://www.nicynod.org/ or http://www.elca.org/. You can also read more about Ben Larson, the young ELCA seminary student killed in Haiti that Pastor Rob spoke of on Jan 24th.</p>					

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Fellowship Team

Our team has made Intentional Fellowship after Sunday Services an important goal of our committee. With your help we will be able to provide not just coffee and snacks, but a feeling of community and camaraderie throughout our family of faith. Please share your time and talents by providing a snack and coffee service at least once per year. There is a signup sheet at the Welcome Center and each week a member of the Fellowship Team is available for questions and assistance. With a push of a button, coffee is made by the pot and we will be available to show you where all the supplies are stored. If you have any questions, see the team member listed: Jan Heynis, Sue Fosdal, Chris Hammerstrom, Linda Poehlein, Linda Ketelsen, Sue Kubic or call the church office.

CANCELLED Feb 7th Chili Luncheon – its Super Bowl Sunday!

Contact: Sue Kubic at 815-678-4842

News from Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Our first meeting of the New Year was held at Marie Pickering's home and got off to a good start. The date for our third annual **Salad Luncheon** is **Saturday, April 24th** at 11:00am in Fellowship Hall. This has become a very successful endeavor for us and, therefore, the response to have another has been acknowledged. There will be a \$6.00 charge payable at the door. Signup sheets will be available the beginning of March. We will be asking for donations of your favorite salads or desserts. Vendors from our past luncheon will be invited again to participate. Mary Starzinski will be asked once again to provide music during our luncheon. What more could you ask for?

Discussion about keeping the Project Linus program going was had. We will bring the homemade blankets to NIMC where they will be used for young patients needing special comfort and which they may take home with them. Of course, young people of our church will be provided a blanket whenever one is needed or requested. More on this program in future newsletters.

Dorothy Washow will be contacting Crystal Zeeman of Marengo to make arrangements for another altar cloth to be made.

A presentation was made to our President to date, Carol Heuer. Buzz Pickering handcrafted a gavel and a tapping board. He had a bronze plate engraved with - W.E.L.C.A. President and placed it on the gavel, which will be passed along to future Presidents of W.E.L.C.A. Thank you Buzz for taking on this project and for the many projects you have completed over your long years of service and dedication to the church.

The prayer shawl ministry was discussed and knitters have committed to making these shawls. Anyone wishing to donate yarn may do so as these shawls take several skeins of yarn to complete. These shawls will be distributed to those needing comfort and caring. A prayer message will be attached along with the knitter's individual affiliation, church, school or organization. You do not have to be a member of W.E.L.C.A. to participate in this project. Instructions for making these shawls will be made available to you. Please contact Carol Heuer for further information.

The next meeting of W.E.L.C.A. will be Monday, February 1st at 7:00p.m. at the church. Our hostesses will be Pat Mayer and Marga Burbatt. We would love to have you join us and welcome you to share your ideas with us.

WELCA Contact: Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516

From the Properties Team

Since your new Properties Committee assumed responsibility for the church property in August, we have focused on identifying and completing those projects that needed to be addressed before winter to maintain the church building structural integrity and eliminate hazards. A number of projects were completed, but a few had to be deferred to the spring due to the cool and rainy fall.

I want to thank all of the committee members, as well as the other various members of the congregation and WELCA that donated their time, materials and financial support to complete these projects.

There is still much work to be done. Your Properties Committee is now beginning the planning for spring/summer project work, and working on the development of a systematic approach to recurring and preventative maintenance. We also intend to discuss setting up an adopt-a-project program for members of the congregation to accomplish small/manageable projects on their own time. We will be communicating more about this program in the next couple of months.

Some of the major work that has been identified for next spring/summer includes:

- Addressing the cracks that have been discovered in one of the beams in the sanctuary. A structural engineer will need to be hired to determine if they are only cosmetic or if there are structural issues that need to be fixed and at what cost.
- Although the flat roof was repaired last summer, we still have a leak along the windows and a new leak was just recently discovered. We will not be able to determine what needs to be done to fix these leaks and the associated cost until the spring.
- To get us through the winter, we patched the severe pot holes in this parking lot this fall. However, the parking lot asphalt has deteriorated to the point that we must begin focusing on the need to have the parking lot resurfaced. This will be a very expensive undertaking, which would require funding beyond what is currently available within the church's funds. We will be getting cost estimates this spring including looking at using a phased approach as necessary based on available funding. When that information is available we will share that with you.

With God's grace and your prayers and support, we hope to be able to keep our church home in good repair.

Contact: Bob Ketelsen, 815-307-8052

Adult Bible Study Begins Feb 14th – God Heard Their Cry

On Feb 14th we will begin an Adult Bible Study after 2nd service. The materials we are using are called *God Heard Their Cry* from the series *That the World May Know* by Ray Van derLaan. This series is video-based and will take you on a virtual tour of many Biblical locations in the Middle East. Sessions last about an hour and finish just in time to go to lunch! If you would like me to order a book for you, send me an email by Feb 5th. The cost is \$8 but is not required for the class. Watch for more information in the bulletins on Sunday and by email. I'll put a signup sheet in the Narthex.

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

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From the Youth Ministry Team – Dinner Theater March 14

RINGS (Redeemer Intertwined with Nativity, Grace, and St. John's)

After much research and thought, we are excited to announce that the youth group's service trip in 2010 will be to St. Paul, MN, this year! We'll leave on Sunday, August 1, and we'll return on Friday, August 6. Some of our service will include working at a hunger kitchen, packing meals to be sent around the world, working at a food bank, and packaging medical supplies for developing countries. The cost per person will be \$200 or less.

In order to fund this trip (and to have A LOT of fun!), we've scheduled the Second Annual Dinner Theater for Sunday, March 14, so get your best acting and singing on by then! We'll start practicing in February, and we may need to add some more rehearsals so we're perfect. Get ready to sell lots of tickets!

RINGS contacts: Pastor Sarah (815-236-5087) or Pastor Tom (815-236-9411)

Contact: Carol Jean Steadman, kate@stans.com or call 815-338-0490 or Alyssa Steadman at misslyss_10@yahoo.com

From Jon Petersen: Congregational Meeting and Haiti Update

The Grace Lutheran Church annual meeting was held on Sunday January 24, 2010. At that time our new constitution was ratified, the 2010 budget was approved and the call committee selection was affirmed by the congregation.

The members of the call committee are: Ron Steadman, Brett Krause, Tina Peterson, Kelly Steadman, Neil Koepke, Rita Popenhagen and Tom Weaver. The call committee will be charged with the search process for our new resident pastor and will present their findings to the church congregation for its consideration. Pastor Rob asked us to keep the Call Committee and the congregation in prayer through this process.

Jon reported on the situation in Haiti and distributed a letter written by Gladys Mungo, describing the conditions in Haiti. Donations may be made for the Haiti relief fund by including the amount in the weekly contribution envelopes. Please mark, on the envelope that this contribution is for the Haiti fund. The church building in Plen Matin was not damaged in the earthquake and there were no casualties or injuries in the Plen Matin area. We will provide continued reports about the Haiti mission in the newsletter and on Facebook.

Jon Petersen jon.petersen@rnhcsi.com or 815-675-3030

From Lutheran World Relief: Lutheran World Relief January 23 increased its financial commitment to Haiti relief efforts to \$2.25 million, up from an initial pledge of \$1 million. The Rev. John Nunes, LWR's president and CEO, speaking in a news release, said the increase is "thanks to the overwhelming generosity of U.S. Lutherans in the face of this disaster." LWR increased the number based on early fundraising returns, including pledges from both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and a member match from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The release says LWR is working with partners on the ground to ensure people have food, water and shelter. LWR has also sent a shipment of health kits and layettes. More at <http://www.lwr.org>