

# Message of Grace

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## Gratitude

*"...In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord..." (Exodus 16:6-7)*

While November brings along colder weather it also brings one of my favorite holidays. Thanksgiving is a time where we gather not only to eat wonderful food but to think of all the things for which we are grateful. These days we may be finding it hard to be grateful. Many of us are disillusioned by the economy as we continue to struggle to meet our basic needs. But it's time like this where it is all the more important to be grateful. I once heard it said, "It is impossible for a grateful person to be unhappy." Think about the last time you were unhappy. What did you feel like you were missing? What did you feel like you were not getting? Unhappiness often comes from a place of being unsatisfied in some way or feeling like we were cheated out of something we deserved.

The above verse comes from a time where the Israelites were feeling unsatisfied with God. The Israelites were freed by God from the slavery they experienced under Pharaoh. At first the Israelites were excited to

be free but after a period of time they began to feel unsatisfied with things. They began to wish they had more. God reminds them that He has sustained them through their suffering and will continue to do so.

God speaks the same thing to us. It is very easy to consider all the things we don't have. But in the midst of this let us count our blessings as well. Many of have walked through some difficult times in life. We have all suffered and struggled in some way. But we are still here. We are still here and God is still with us. You see, like those earliest Israelites, God is with us. God is still walking with us in the midst of our disappointments. There are many things that we can be disappointed about. But no matter what, God is always with us and will never leave us. And for that we can be thankful.



In Christ

*Pastor Andy*

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## Grace Lutheran Preschool Has a Busy Month

October was a busy month for the preschool. The Richmond Fire Department visited the children in full gear and presented a wonderful program about fire safety. We traveled to Von Bergen's with the full and part day 4 year old classes, picked pumpkins and played among the activities they have set up. Halloween parties are set for Monday the 31st and all 94 children that attend Grace will have a *spooktacular* time as they party in full Halloween attire!

*Child Development Center Director, Sue Kubic*

## ALPHA Wants to Say 'Thanks!'

The Alpha Group would like to thank everyone for purchasing mums to help fund our January overnight ski trip at Lutherdale. Look for more fundraisers coming soon!

## Council Meeting Notes October 18, 2011

Pastor Andy thanked us for all the enthusiasm and hard work he sees happening at Grace and is very hopeful for our future. He also asked us to be sure to let him know when anyone is in the hospital or shut in at home so he can visit them. He sees this as an important part of his call.

All members of the Council were present and reported on their activities. All of the teams were pleased with how things are going. The first Grace youth group meeting had 12 young people attend and they had a great time and asked if they could meet more often! Sunday School is off to a good start as is ALPHA and the Adult Sunday School. The properties team has completed most of their fall projects and were very appreciative of all the help with the church clean-up on October 8<sup>th</sup>, especially for the youth that came and worked so hard. Bob Ketelsen thanked WELCA for their help with funding and commended James LeJeune for the fine job he and his crew are doing at the front entrance on Broadway. The gate to close off our driveways to through traffic between Rt 173 and Broadway was delayed but will still be completed this fall. A new budget process was described which will allow the congregation to see and study the budget several weeks before the meeting at the end of January. Several new administrative committees were described to help with financial planning and reporting as well as a subcommittee to maintain the integrity of our congregation's constitution and bylaws. There will be a number of new opportunities to serve on these committees that will be announced at a later date.



To donate or volunteer to serve for **PADS** November 3<sup>rd</sup> or December 1st, see Curt Bjorklund, email him at [chbjorklund@hotmail.com](mailto:chbjorklund@hotmail.com) or call 815-529-7746.

*Outreach Contact: Chris Bjorklund [dreamstar\\_00@msn.com](mailto:dreamstar_00@msn.com), 815-675-2765*

## Time for the Giving Tree at Christmas

Soon the Christmas Giving Tree will appear in the Narthex covered with opportunities for us to help families in need. In the past year local groups like Salvation Army and the food pantries have seen a large increase in the number of families needing help. To try to help them, we'll be collecting Christmas gifts for the **Giving Tree again this year for Salvation Army and Angel Tree Prison Ministry (for children of incarcerated parents)**. Please consider helping out with coordinating, packing and donating. All gifts are to be brought in by December 4<sup>th</sup>, so take advantage of those 'black Friday' sales. Look for the tree by November 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information in the bulletins and announcements before worship.

There are also other ways you can help the Salvation Army efforts, like loading gifts, displaying them, assisting the shoppers and even interviewing clients (with a bit of training). See Chris Bjorklund for a list or go to their website [www.salarmycl.org](http://www.salarmycl.org). All the information isn't up there yet but should be soon.

## Photo Directory Update

The response to the photo directory sign-ups was great! By the time of this writing, only ONE spot was open! Hopefully you were all able to make your appointments. If you did not, there MAY be other locations available the first few weeks of November, but you need to contact Chris Bjorklund ASAP. The pictures will be available online in a few

weeks and we HOPE to receive the printed books sometime in January. **If you have any high quality candid shots of activities around the church, please send them to Chris Bjorklund for possible inclusion in the new directory at [dreamstar\\_00@msn.com](mailto:dreamstar_00@msn.com)**

## New Members to Be Received November 6<sup>th</sup>

We have several new families (and one returning after five years) that we plan to receive into membership on November 6<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15 service. Please welcome our new brothers and sisters and be sure to welcome ALL visitors when you see them. Don't let it ever be said that someone visited our church and wasn't made to feel at home!

## News from Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

A lot of business was discussed at our last meeting in October since November and December are two of WELCA's busiest months—lots of activity and plenty for all to be a part of.

To fill you in on how the WELCA funds are to be distributed between now and the end of the year, we have paid \$450 toward the updated church signs on Broadway and Rt. 173 and will be paying the remainder of \$300.00 when the bill is received.

Still to be allocated is the cost of repairing the vinyl chairs in the Community Hall. At last count some 30 chairs need replacing of either the back or seat portion of the chair.

In an effort for WELCA to replenish their bank account, they are holding their annual **Holiday Bake Sale, Silent Auction and Craft Sale on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. Once again, the **WELCA ladies would appreciate members who will bake (breads, pies, cakes, muffins, cupcakes, cookies, fudge) for the bake sale**. It's amazing how many great bakers we have among us. We are **also looking for homemade items** such as preserves and

jams, handmade clothing, aprons, towel embossing or monogramming, quilts, table runners, etc. If you have a service perhaps you could donate some time or provide a gift certificate. Or, you may wish to purchase a gift certificate from a store. Our silent auction is always a lot of fun. We will have minimum bids. So, if you have a collectible or an item which will attract buyers, please bring your treasure to either Carol Heuer, Doris Rockenbach or Sandy Messick. All of the money received from this sale will go toward needed projects in our church. We are certain that you are all aware of the ongoing improvements which have been accomplished. These improvements come from all of you through your generous time, money and efforts.

The WELCA ladies have unanimously voted to hold their **annual Christmas luncheon at the Twin Oaks Country Inn in Wilmot, Wisconsin on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 11:30am to 2:30-3:00pm. Once again, we are putting up a sign up sheet and the first 30 ladies who pay will have a reservation. At sign up, you are requested to pay the \$18.50 which includes complete dinner, beverage, tax and gratuity. There will be three items to choose from: Grilled Breast of Chicken over a bed of Fettuccini with a light Alfredo Sauce - served with a side dish of green beans almandine; Grilled Salmon with Baked Potato; Grilled Sirloin Steak with Baked Potato. All choices come with rolls, vegetable, dessert and beverage. We will have a grab bag exchange (lots of fun) A minimum gift of \$10.00 is requested. The sign up sheet will be posted the beginning of November.

We are heading towards busy and fun times as well as the Holy Season. Please check the bulletin board, the Sunday bulletin and the audio/visual for the various events coming up.

*WELCA Contact: Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516*

## Remember –

Continue to save the Sentry Store Receipts from Twin Lakes and Burlington and drop them into the box marked 'Funds for Friends', now located on the wall by the computer outside the church office. Also the tabs from soda or beer cans. There is a jar for these tabs. Continue to bring in canned goods and staples for the food pantry. All these items are collected in the Narthex.

## Always Remember

Prayers for our shut-ins and those in recovery from an illness. A phone call or a card can mean so much to someone who needs to know they are thought about and prayed for. A visit may also be welcome. A friendly greeting to someone new in church can also mean so much.

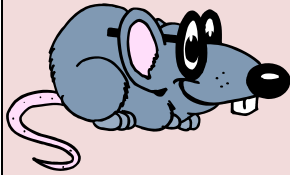
## **Veterans and Soldiers -**

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day – time to remember our fallen heroes. Never forget the sacrifices they have made to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Also, our military serving at present to preserve these freedoms and to protect us. Prayers for their families and loved ones whom they left behind while they serve their country.

## GOD BLESS AMERICA

## Did You See the New Entrance Landscaping on Broadway?

Thanks to James LeJeune and crew for creating an attractive entrance and calling attention to the updated sign. Check it out! Great job everyone!



## Bits and Pieces from The Church Mouse

*Hello Friends, Have you noticed all of the leaves falling off of the trees? Good thing I have a place to stay dry and warm with plenty of food to eat. That reminds me... the WELCA (Women of the ELCA) are having their **Bazaar-Bake Sale and Silent Auction on November 20, 2011**. This is one of my favorite times of the year. Can you guess why...the crumbs of course! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516.*

***The Stewardship Committee** announces "Showers of Blessings". Every week, there will be readings for 4 weeks, reminding us of the blessings that God has given us. I have a lot of blessings, as well as you all do. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Steadman at 815-338-0490.*

*If you have any **Bits and Pieces** that you would like to share with me in the Newsletter, there will be a special plastic container where you can deposit your suggestions. Just look for my friends in the plastic container labeled "The Church Mouse". The container will be placed on the counter in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact me. You'll see me running around the church.*

*I heard that the **Adult Sunday School** classes which meet at 9:15 am are going great. I went to a couple of classes with my friends and learned a lot and it was fun too. After our class was over, we went to see the children in Sunday School to see what they learned. We hope you would join us.*

*The **Young At Heart Seniors** will be meeting on **Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 11:15 am**. The menu will be mostaccioli, fried chicken, salad, and rolls & butter which will be catered by Billy's If you have any questions, please contact Carol Heuer at 815-678-7516 or*

*Doris Rockenbach at 262-248-0577.*

*On **November 5, 2011**, don't forget to turn your **clocks BACK**. Remember... Fall Back; Spring Forward. I am going to mark my calendar so I don't forget!*

*Your donations for the **food pantry** are greatly appreciated. I promise I will not eat any of the food and other items as it is stuff that I can't get into anyway.*

*Remember to keep the military and their families in your prayers. They need all of our support.*

*Good bye till next month!*

## Properties Committee Report

The annual Fall Cleaning Day was held on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition to a number of congregation members that have supported this effort over the years, we had a great turn out of volunteers from the Alpha and Youth groups. It was so great to see so many of the youth of our church involved in this activity. Thank you to all who participated to help make our church sparkle for the fall and winter months ahead.

The second phase of our parking lot and driveway repairs which comprised of filling all of the cracks and seal coating of the entire driveway and parking were started in mid-September. Unfortunately the rain and cold weather caused major disruptions in this work. The contractor had to redo their work in many areas due to the rain, but did not charge us for the additional labor and materials involved. All work was finally completed the week of October 1st at a cost of \$5,468.72. It was paid out of the Building Growth fund. This year's repair work will hopefully buy us 4 to 5 years to build funds before we need to do any more major work. Our plan would be to start repaving large sections over time based on available funds.

Plans for installing a traffic gate to eliminate a significant contributor to the deterioration of our driveways and parking lots (the use of our church driveways as a convenient bypass between Broadway and Route 173 for local area residents and commercial vehicles) is moving forward. The gate will be located at the southwest corner of the church. In addition "GATED" signs will be added to the "PRIVATE ROAD NO THRU ACCESS" signs at the Broadway and Route 173 entrances. We hope to have the gate in place in November.

The new sign boards with Pastor Andy's name were installed on the church signs on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost was \$400.00. WELCA graciously agreed to fund this expense. The second phase of the upgrades will be the installation of 2'x 8' panels with 4 rows of changeable letters below the Pastor's name board, which will be used to display worship and Sunday school times, planned events and other messages. The approximate cost will be \$350.00. If you would like to participate in this project or make a donation to help fund this work, please contact your Property Committee.

Contact: Bob Ketelsen, [rlketelsen@charter.net](mailto:rlketelsen@charter.net), 815-307-8052

## Adopt-a-Garden Has Another Successful Year!

It is time to put our garden tools away, and also time to say a special thank you to all of our adopt-a-gardeners. With so many people coming to visit Pastor Andy in his new church home this summer, we had a special incentive to make our gardens beautiful and our guests gave us many compliments!

Rally Day was a huge success for the garden group. Many of our current gardeners signed up for next year already! We also had some new volunteers for next year! Thank you everyone!

~Linda Ketelsen

November 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <b>9:30 am</b> MCC Art Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Joint Committee Meeting	2 <b>5:30 pm</b> ALPHA  <b>7:00pm</b> Choir rehearsal	3 <b>11:15 am</b> Young at Heart	4	5 Turn your clocks <b>BACK</b> tonight!
6 <b>8:00 am</b> Holy Communion Service <b>9:15 am</b> Sunday Sch <b>10:15 am</b> Holy Communion Service <b>Reception of new members</b>	7 <b>4:00 pm</b> WELCA	8 <b>9:30 am</b> MCC Art Class	9 <b>5:30 pm</b> ALPHA  <b>7:00pm</b> Choir rehearsal	10 <b>4:30 pm</b> Immunization Clinic  <b>5:30 pm</b> Youth Group	11 Newsletter article deadline	12
13 <b>8:00 am</b> Holy Communion Service <b>9:15 am</b> Sunday Sch <b>10:15 am</b> Holy Communion Service	14	15 <b>9:30 am</b> MCC Art Class <b>7:00 pm</b> Council Meeting	16 <b>5:30 pm</b> ALPHA  <b>7:00pm</b> Choir rehearsal	17	18	19
20 <b>8:00 am</b> Holy Communion Service <b>9:15 am</b> Sunday Sch <b>10:15 am</b> Holy Communion Service	21	22 <b>9:30 am</b> MCC Art Class	23 <b>7:00 pm</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service Community Church	24 THANKSGIVING	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 <b>8:00 am</b> Holy Communion Service <b>8:45-10:30 am</b> Outreach Café <b>10:15 am</b> Holy Communion Service	28	29 <b>9:30 am</b> MCC Art Class	30 <b>7:00pm</b> Choir rehearsal	The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at the Richmond Community Church on Broadway at 7:00 pm.		

