

GRACE NOTES

JANUARY 2012

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.”

-Luke 2:29-32

As we begin a new year, which falls on a Sunday this year, one option for our Sunday morning gospel reading includes the above passage. We hear the account of Simeon and Anna, two people who have lived in the temple their entire lives, waiting to see the Savior (Luke 2:22-38). And now, as old Simeon and Anna near death, they behold the promised one who has come to them in the form of a tiny baby. I'm sure that, as time went on and no savior appeared, the promise that God had made to them had become more and more difficult to believe. As they grew older, as the years passed by without the Messiah, they had to have started questioning God's promise to them. Until, one day, that Messiah walked through the door of the temple and they knew that God had followed through. They could take God's promise in their arms and hold it close. Simeon bursts into praise, crying out that he can now die in peace, knowing that God's promised savior had come to the world. God's word to him had been fulfilled.

It's striking that we read this text on the first Sunday of 2012, let alone that we read this text on the first day of the new year. 2011 has been a tough year for many in our nation and in our community. There has been a lot of darkness in our lives as a nation, but I'm sure that we've all had our share of personal darkness as well: perhaps it was financial pain, physical illness, death, etc. When it comes to darkness, it seems that none of us are immune to it. It can be difficult to hear God's promises in time of pain and darkness. We know that God has promised to be with us, that God is caring for us and watching over us, but the suffering seems so strong. Pain seems to overpower the promise. We, like Simeon and Anna, felt that life might pass us by before we ever see God's promise fulfilled.

And yet, at the beginning of this new year, we are reminded of promises kept. We are reminded of promises that are fulfilled. We see that, for old Simeon, he was able to hold that promise in his arms. Sure, the promise didn't look like he had expected; in that time, the Messiah was expected to be a strong military leader. And yet, Simeon knew that God had followed through; this baby was the savior of the world, a light to the nations. As we enter a new year, may we have our eyes and our hearts open to see God's actions in our lives. Amidst the darkness, a light shines. Amidst the darkness, God comes to us.

May we be able to proclaim, with Simeon and Anna, “My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.” May 2012 be the year in which we too can see the Messiah in the form of a baby. May 2012 be the year that we pay attention for God's light shining in our lives.

God's Blessings to you in 2012,

Pastor Josh Enderson

p.s.—Remember to bring in your Noisy Sunday offering on January 8th for “God's Global Barnyard”!

News from GLC Ministries

Stewardship Ministry

2012 estimate of giving cards were sent in mid-December. Stewardship will also be involved in the capital campaign and are looking into options for a new congregational pictorial directory in 2012.

Evangelism Ministry

A new list of possible new members is being assembled by the pastors and the next new member Sunday is tentatively scheduled for February. Advertisements for Christmas services will be in the Star Herald/Announcer.

Worship and Music Ministry

Plans are set for Christmas services. Newly donated Christmas trees and decorations have been well received. Worship/Music will be working on the programming of the new carillon.

Property Ministry

A significant leak is occurring in the fellowship hall ceiling. Property Ministry is working to identify the cause. They are also testing the productivity of the heating system throughout the building. During the installation of the carillon, the installer identified mechanical concerns with the church bell that will likely need to be addressed soon.

Finance Ministry

New offering counters/recorders are needed. This opportunity may be ideal for retirees who are available each Monday morning.

Parish Care Ministry

The pros and cons of individual family church mailboxes will be shared at next month's meeting with a final decision to be made in the near future. Care Line is being re-evaluated for improvements.

Grace Lutheran Parish Planning Council

Rhonda Olson, President
Jason Berghorst, President-Elect
Don Dinger, Vice-President
Sherri Thompson, Treasurer
Cary Radisewitz, Secretary

Greg Spath, Evangelism Ministry
Paula Lammert, Finance Ministry
Kenny Scheidt, Property Ministry
Jodi Rops, Learning Ministry
Marv Fuerstenberg, Parish Care Ministry
Kim Schmidt, Worship & Music Ministry
Curt Thorson, Stewardship Ministry
Leah Radisewitz, Young Peoples Ministry

Pastor Ron Nichols and Pastor Josh Enderson

Learning Ministry

The Christmas program went well. WINGS hosted adults for a special Christmas ornament making event. New equipment and technology to be used in our educational programs has been purchased with memorial monies.

Young Peoples Ministry

Voucher sales continue to go very well. Nearly \$2,500 profit has been raised from vouchers so far this year. Puffin and Christmas cookie sales were also successful fundraisers for the youth.

A Christmas movie night was held. The Winterfest float was well received. A youth-led Christmas service was held on December 21. Future plans include a possible ski trip, involvement in a local Super Bowl event, and special events planned specifically for boys and girls.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will begin working in January to secure candidates for the 2012-2013 Ministry ballot that will be voted on during the April semi-annual meeting.

Ministry Night is January 10th

Parish Planning Council meets at 6:45pm

Ministries meet at 8:00pm

New Carillon Gifted to Grace Lutheran!

**"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men."**

Did you hear Grace's new "bells" on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? Our new electronic carillon, generously donated by the Gary and Janine Papik family, was installed on December 18 and played for the first time on Christmas 2011!

Our new electronic carillon uses newly installed projector horns in the bell tower to project the sounds of digitally recorded cast bronze bells playing various hymns and songs to our community. The all-computerized, digital system includes a selection of over 800 different traditional hymns, contemporary songs, patriotic tunes, and bell peels.

The plan is for the carillon to play before and after most worship services and at one or two designated times each day. For example, one or two hymns will be played each day at noon. In this way, the carillon will serve both as a call to worship and an opportunity for people to pause and worship in their own way whenever they hear the beautiful music coming from Grace Lutheran's bell tower!

The gift of this carillon will allow Grace to minister and reach out to our members and non-members throughout Luverne who hear this musical outreach and witness our faith through song each and every day for many years to come!

A sincere Thank You to the Papik family for this wonderful gift. A message sent to the congregation by the family at the time of the donation is below...

Please accept this gift to Grace Lutheran Church from the Papik Family - Gary and Janine, Heidi, Gretchen and Jordan - in honor of their eight grandchildren - Casey & Carter Sehr, Christian, Holden, Reagan & Slaten Jepperson, and Augusta and Marcus Papik.

May the joy, peace and good will of Christmas be with you
and your family today and forever.

Grace Lutheran Church Women January 2012

TO FOLLOW AND TO SERVE

And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." (ESV) Mark 10:49b

Happy NEW Year, 2012! A new beginning of 366 NEW days to learn and grow in a new appreciation of the Lord we "Follow and Serve".

Possibilities for the work of GLCWomen (and Men) for this coming year have been put together in a Calendar of Events which will soon be distributed along with updates to the Dark Blue Handbook which was printed new for 2011.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 5th and 19th – MIA (missions in action) 8:30 to 12:30

January 10th GLCW Ex Bd – 2:00 pm

January 12th GLCWomen & Men – 2:00 p.m. (Getting acquainted with our new staff members)

(Also election and installation of GLCW Ex Bd)

Grace Lutheran is responsible for HOME DELIVERED MEALS in FEBRUARY!

Please volunteer for this 1 hour noon time effort. Contact Doris Tofteland.

"Follow me, a kingdom's waiting that is hidden from men's way.

God is building your tomorrow, in the midst of your today.." Song Title: Follow Me

Take heart,

Donna Dahlen for GLCWomen

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR GLCW EVENT FOR JANUARY, 2012!

Date: **January 12, 2012**

Time: **2:00 p.m.**

Place: Fellowship Hall – Grace Lutheran Church (lower level)

Theme: **MY BOSS WAS A JEWISH CARPENTER**

This is your opportunity to get to know members of our staff here at Grace Lutheran: Senior Pastor, Ron Nichols; Associate Pastor, Josh Enderson; Children and Family Coordinator, Amie Reker; and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Dustin Antoine. Retired Pastor, Chuck Wilson will be our moderator for the interview portion of our program. Complementing our theme, each staff member will have an opportunity to tell us about their background, how they were called to serve Grace, and about their plans for the future in their new positions. As we spend this time together, our staff will also have an opportunity to know us better. We hope to learn how GLCW can help these staff persons and their programs as they serve us here at Grace. Since some members of our staff are musically gifted, they will be providing our music for the program along with our member, Mary Beth Binford.

As an extra bonus this month we will be hearing a book report given to us by Mary Akkerman. The book is available in our library here at Grace. We hope that listening to Mary's report will pique the interest of our members in making use of our church library.

Please mark your calendars for a really fun afternoon with plenty of good information, good food, good fellowship and perhaps even some Yahtzee after lunch. All are welcome and we want to stress that, although this is a GLCW event, men are most welcome at our gathering. No reservations are necessary.

Missions in Action

January 5 and 19, 2012 8:30 to 12:30

Happy New Year to everyone.

We are planning on sending things to CrossRoad Missions in February so we will be putting together layettes, school bags, health kits and quilts for them. We will send the ones that Lutheran World Relief no longer wants.

If you have any suitcases that you are not planning on using again (and are in decent condition), we could use this for packing things for CrossRoad Missions. They have an easier time getting into Mexico if items are in suitcases.

A reminder that we collect cards and stamps. The cards are given to Mary Jane Brown home and they recycle them. We can take the whole card but if there is a personal note to you, we can accept just the front. The stamps are given to The American Legion who takes them to the Cities where veterans work with them.

Thank you for your support and help. We do appreciate it.

God's blessings to you in the New Year!

Ardie and Mary

"A Strong Heritage for a Stronger Tomorrow"

Capital Campaign Program



Our next phase of the Capital Campaign begins the weekend of January 15th. Volunteer leaders of Grace will be training with Pr. Mark Halaas, of the ELCA Key Leaders Stewardship on Saturday. Pr. Halaas will preach and preside at both Saturday and Sunday worship services. The fund raiser portion of the Capital Campaign will conclude with a Commitment Sunday on February 19th.

Pastor Mark Halaas serves as a consultant with the ELCA Stewardship Key Leader program for congregations. Pastor Halaas is committed to helping God's people grow in their faith through their giving. He believes that all we have is a gift from God. In living out and our call to be Christ's stewards, both in our own generous giving and through the church body of believers, we realize the joy in Christ.

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 8:15 Pre-recorded Broadcast KQAD No Sunday School 10:00 Wor/Comm	2 Office Closed	3 9:00 Staff Meeting	4 7:00 Men's Study No WINGS 6:15 Worship/Comm 7:00 Conf Gr 6-8/ Mentors 7:30 9th Gr/Mentors	5 8:30 Missions in Action 7:00 Exaltation Worship Team	6 3:00 Telecast Ch 3 (Knology)	7 5:30 Worship
8 Noisy Sunday 8:15 Worship 9:15 Coffee 9:30 SS & Adlt Sty 10:45 Worship	9 9:00 Bible Study 10 & 4:00 Telecast Ch 3 (Knology) 6:30 Vibes 7:40 Echoes	10 9:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 GLCW Ex Bd 6:45 Parish Planning Council 8:00 Ministries	11 7:00 Men's Study 3:15 WINGS 6:15 Worship 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Conf Gr 6-9 8:15 Bread of Life Worship TEam	12 2:00 GLCW 4:30 Book Study	13 3:00 Telecast	14 9:00 Capital Campaign Training 5:30 Wor/Comm
15 8:15 Worship/Comm 9:15 Coffee 9:30 SS & Adult Sty 10:45 Worship/Comm/2 yr olds prayer pillows Cap Campaign Kickoff	16 GRACE NOTES DEADLINE 9:00 Bible Study 10 & 4 Telecast 6:30 Vibes 7:40 Echoes	17 9:00 Staff Meeting	18 7:00 Men's Study 3:15 WINGS 6:15 Wor/Comm 7:00 Conf Gr 6-9 7:00 Chancel Choir	19 8:30 Missions in Action 4:30 Book Study 5:30 Ride & Dine	20 3:00 Telecast	21 5:30 Worship
22 8:15 Worship 9:15 Coffee 9:30 SS & Adult Sty 9:30 New Member Class 10:45 Worship 3:00 All Church Board Games Day	23 9:00 Bible Study 10: & 4 Telecast 6:30 Vibes	24 9:00 Staff Meeting CIRCLES	25 7:00 Men's Study 3:15 WINGS 6:15 Worship 7:00 Conf Gr 6-9	26 CIRCLES 4:30 Book Study	27 3:00 Telecast	28 5:30 Worship
29 8:15 Worship 9:15 Coffee 9:30 SS & Adult Sty 9:30 New Member Class 10:45 Worship	30 9:00 Bible Study 10 & 4 Telecast 6:30 Vibes 7:40 Echoes	31 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:00 Assemble GN 1:30 MJB Comm 2:30 Pop Cr Comm 3:30 Vet's Comm				

January Birthdays

- Jan 1: Peyton Arends, Dan Dobson, Reagan Jepperson, Kerri Ripley, Brittany Schmuck
Jan 2: Charles Fodness, Karen Hardick, Sharon Hoffman, Alex Reker
Jan 3: Connie Nash
Jan 4: Arla Bakken, Elmer Menage
Jan 5: Julie Fick, Peggy Fransen, Nick Overgaard, Dianna Tomlinson, ShyAnn Wickherst
Jan 6: Peggy Adams, Elaine Hansen, Darold Laabs, Randy Richters
Jan 7: Loren Overgaard, Daniel Tofteland
Jan 8: Karen Ehde, Mark Gath, Nicole Hoogland, Derek Petersen
Jan 9: Kay Franklin
Jan 10: Susan Thompson
Jan 11: Mark Kurtz, Luella Overgaard
Jan 12: Joel Kruse, Jeremy Olson
Jan 13: Debbie Emery, Charles Wilson
Jan 14: Elmer Ehde, Carol Hatting, Averill Sehr
Jan 16: Ray Hansen
Jan 17: Peggy Fisher, Jocilyn Oye, Jenn Rolfs, Brad Sieve
Jan 18: Pat Lafrenz, Hailey Sommers
Jan 20: Jennifer Bose, Kate DeBoer, Dave Olson
Jan 21: Kristi Brandt, Barb Oldre
Jan 22: Houston Williams
Jan 23: Jennifer Bakken, Taylor Nelson, Carey Tunnissen
Jan 24: Henry Hartquist, Dave Iverson, Mitch Leuthold, Anna Tofteland, Grace Toms
Jan 25: Stacy Kopp, Jessica Richters
Jan 26: Greta Ahrendt, Faye Bremer
Jan 27: Deb Aanenson, Crystal Ellefson, Merle Rabenberg
Jan 28: Tessa Gyberg, David Olson, Marcus Papik, Dave Svingen
Jan 29: Alex Kramer
Jan 30: Mary Akkerman, Teresa Arends, Hans Bakken, Hilary Deragisch, Margaret Kienast, Jonathon Wickherst
Jan 31: Connor Bose, Dave Stroh, Brent Thompson



January Radio Sponsors

- Jan 1: In memory of Rachel Untiedt, Ellamae Josendahl and Esther Paulson and in honor of Ruth Bendt from Esther Circle
Jan 8: In memory of Oscar & Steve Helle from Florence & family
Jan 15: In memory of Esther Paulson from family & friends
Jan 22: In memory of Chuck Ebert from Terri, Katie & Matt, Sarah & Paul and Amanda
Jan 29: In memory of Gene Bendix from Arlene & family

Pastoral Acts



Baptism

12/18 Tate Bradley VerSteege
DOB 9/30/2011

Transfer Out

12/15 Lisa Arndt to Spirit of
Peace, Sioux Falls

Removed from Membership

12/22 Kathy Platt, by request



Next Generation Ministries - Happy New year!

Special Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, January 8
Ice skating at BMIA
Time TBD
Cost \$3
- Sunday January 29
Manathon All Men
Grades 9-12
Cost \$5-10
- Sunday January 22
Family Game Night
3:00 at church
- Wed, Feb 1
Sub Sandwich order forms are due
- Saturday Feb 4
9:00 AM
NYG kids to assemble sandwiches

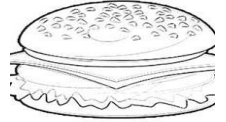
Happy New Year!



1 Timothy 5: 12-13 *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

Confirmation Suppers 2012

Parents! Please sign up to help out with a Wednesday night 5:30 supper for sometime in 2012! A simple meal is all it takes, you don't need to be Rachel Ray!!



Get your triple sow-cow on!



Guess what? It is winter. Therefore, it is time to showcase your skill, or sense of humor and put it all on the rink! We are going to have a Grace ice skating night on Sunday, January 8. Time is TBD as they run a weekly schedule for open skate at the Blue Mound Ice Arena. All students grades 6-12 are welcome! Cost to skate is \$3

Manathon - COD

Calling all men (Grades 9-12) . Come and figure out what is your true “Call of Duty”. Get ready for a night of Dodgeball, games, Manly activities, Wings and Root Beer. Come to the church on Sunday, January 29

from 3:00 pm to 8:00. Cost will be somewhere between \$5-10 to help cover food expenses. Be ready to learn what a Man of God is.



Family Game Night

On Sunday January 22 at 3:00 PM, we are having a Family Game afternoon! Bring your family, friends, and favorite games as we gather for fellowship in the church basement!

Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser

We will once again be having our Sub Sandwich Fundraiser. Sandwiches will be prepared and Picked up or delivered on Saturday February 4 in order for them to be ready for the Super Bowl. Orders for Sandwiches must be turned in by Wednesday, February 1.. Those Attending the national Youth Gathering are expected to help out on Saturday Starting at 9:00 AM

**PRAY
UNTIL SOMETHING
HAPPENS**

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."