

The February 2013 Vision Board meeting was brought to order at Mike Schaaf's home. After Pastor Mark made one revision to the January 2013 minutes, a Motion was brought by Mary Jo Andrusko, seconded by Lori Ackerman for the remaining minutes to be accepted and approved. Motion passed. The amendment to the January 2013 minutes was in reference to three \$500 Synod scholarships to be given to three churches in conjunction with Parish Nurse training. Pastor Mark stated there has been talk of a scholarship to be given away. As yet, a decision has not as been made regarding the scholarships.

In the Senior Pastor's Report, Pastor Mark discussed an article entitled "The Shrinking Church" from the January issue of *The Lutheran*. The article discussed how membership has declined in every U.S. Christian denomination. In the last 21 years Grace's worship attendance has grown, but in the last 8 years, worship attendance has declined 8%. When comparing to other ELCA churches, Grace is doing better than most. In the last three years, however, Grace's worship attendance has grown to a total of 525 in 2012, which lowers the percentage to 6%.

The Synod Assembly is Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1, at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. Grace is allowed four representatives to attend and the representative does not have to be a Vision Board member. We are looking for four representatives from Grace to attend. Registration completed by April 5 costs \$120.00.

Tyree McDowell, Kris Miller and Pastor Mark attended a Church Communication Seminar on February 5 at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka, wherein Scott Vaughan presented a three hour workshop. Mr. Vaughn complemented Grace on a number of items but did made a few suggestions: (1) move away from verbal announcements during service; (2) reduce the Church bulletins and possibly go back to handing them out at the end of service. Teach people to go to the website for information; and (3) simplify our website so it is easier to manage.

Status of Free 2B Grace Campaign: 229 of 589 families have been selected (38.9% of Congregation); 119 families have been visited (20% of the Congregation); and a total of 71 gifts/pledges have been given totaling \$835,460 (12% of Congregation)