

grace notes

January/February 2018

Rejoice in all the Happenings at Grace!

Thank You Pastor Sara

Welcome New Interim Senior Pastor

Epiphany

Silent Prayer Gathering

Dinner and a Movie

Lock-**In's**

High School Mystery Bus Tour

Women's Retreat

Family Promise Host Week

Grace 4 Rakai Celebration Dinner

And Who's Is My Neighbor Course

Budget Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting

And of course....LENT!

See all the details inside!

grace
remember • rejoice • renew

Thank You

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Bridge Interim Senior PastorSara Vanderpan
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Visitation Pastor.....Delwayne Hahn
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Custodian.....Cheri Schaaf

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If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on leaders.

Vision Board Members

Doug Hanson (Pres.)	Deb Stang
Scott Christensen (V.P.)	Alden Riley
Lynn Noren (Secretary)	Johnna Rohmer-Hirt
Deb Shepard	

Dear Grace Family,
Jeannie & I want to thank you for the beautiful window hanging of the liturgical year colors. It is a wonderful reminder of the many aspects of **God's love and grace** which we shared in the 22 years of our ministry. We have placed it in our vestibule, high above our front door. The eastern sunlight makes it glow with such beautiful color! It is a sight to see!



We also want to thank you for what the beautiful gift reminds us of...the love, mercy, encouragement and support you showered upon us. How can we ever thank you for all the grace you showered upon us? You truly blessed us with grace upon grace!

Thank you for your living example of Jesus' love!

Sincerely, Pastor Mark & Jeannie



PRAYERS TO HEAL

We pray for comfort and healing:

Clint Trousil, Tom O'Connor, Deb Stang,
Arlene Brown, Caitlin Grandell, Kathy Nehm,
Kathy Beckman, Sandy Bergeron, Zachary Barker,
Denise McLain, George Cowman, Lu Henning,
Jill Brown, Sylvia Lindgren, Nate Gfroerer

Vision Board Message

Members and friends of Grace Lutheran, I'm happy to introduce you to Pastor Bruce Arnevik. He will be our new long-term Senior Interim Pastor, beginning on Tuesday, January 23rd. Pastor Bruce lives in Minneapolis and has over 35 years of experience as a Lutheran Pastor in and around the Twin Cities, with 14 of those years working in the interim ministry. The Vision Board is excited to be entering this next phase of the transition at Grace, and confident that all the experience Pastor Bruce brings will help set us up for success in our future here at Grace. Please come and meet him in person and hear him preach beginning on the weekend of January 27th & 28th.

Soon after Pastor Bruce is onboard & fully engaged, we will begin the necessary foundational work to **call Grace's next Senior Pastor. This process starts** with the convening of a Transition Team to assess our needs, which will then lead to the formation of a dedicated Call Committee. We welcome your interest in serving on either of these two bodies.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Grace for their patience and support, as well as continued prayers. This process can be stressful and even scary, but we must remember that our Heavenly Father has a plan for Grace, and we only need to be willing to follow His Spirit.

Isaiah 41:10 – *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Blessings,
Doug Hanson, Vision Board President



Introducing Pastor Bruce

Pr. Bruce Arnevik is a graduate of Luther College, Decorah, IA (1977) and Luther-Northwestern Seminary (1981).

He, and his wife Catherine, have three adult sons and two grandchildren.



Bruce enjoys canoeing, camping, hunting, fishing, skiing, hiking, biking and playing basketball.

Pastor Bruce lists as his pastoral strengths, leading worship, ability to relate to a wide variety of people and congregations, working through conflict, interim ministry skills such as: analysis of staffing in relationship to congregational size and budget.

His statement of interim ministry philosophy reads **as follows: "I believe strongly in the positive value** of an intentional interim time for a congregation. Just as no two congregations are alike, so no two interim periods are identical. There is no formula for what such a time must involve since it depends **on the particular needs of the congregation. I've** been involved in strong and healthy interim periods which have served to positively transition a congregation from one chapter of its life and **mission into a new one."**

"My theology would be considered mainstream ELCA. In my personal piety and in my public preaching, I emphasize both the personal and social dimensions of our Christian faith. While I take seriously the written word that comes through scripture, I also believe that all scripture must be interpreted in the light of the living word of the risen Christ. Our baptismal call as the church involves proclaiming the gospel and evangelizing (in a Lutheran sort of way), providing charitable service, and seeking social and economic justice for **our neighbors."**

A Note from Pastor Sara

New year. New leaders.
New mercies. For Grace
Lutheran Church. For
you.

We stand a little taller,
it seems, when we look
forward with hope,
with anticipation. As
believers in Jesus, we
have every reason to
anticipate new
experiences of God's
presence and love in
2018, because of the
promises we read in Scripture.



Lamentations 3:22-23a says,
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are *new every morning*;
great is your faithfulness.

Yes. *New every morning* applies in a new year, even
while we still feel the losses from the year before.
Grace Lutheran Church lost two of its favorite
visionaries, encouragers, friends in 2017, but God and
God's steadfast love did not depart with them. Rather,
God's Spirit is alive and well in times of change, even
when the changes seem to be painful or confusing.

Throughout history, God's people have been
instructed to look ahead and watch for God to do *new*
things. **In 2018, let's join the people of God, in every**
time and place, and consider the admonition
(promise, too) of the prophet Isaiah (chapter 43):
Do not call to mind the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to *do a new thing*;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Thank you for welcoming me into this vibrant
congregation as a bridge interim pastor. Let's watch
together for God's new things now and in this next
year. And, may your continuing time of transition be
full of confident hope and joyful adventures, knowing
the steadfast love and mercies of God are new every
morning.

Silent Prayer Gathering



SILENT PRAYER GATHERING

7-8pm
January 16th

The theme for January's Prayer Gatherings will be
"New Beginnings".

During these pastoral transitions we will be praying
for the Vision Board, the new interim Senior Pastor
and future called Senior Pastor.

The prayer gathering is open to everyone, members
or not, ALL ARE WELCOME!

A time to silently pray for the sufferings and
struggles of our family, friends, the church, our
country, the world and ourselves.

A time for reflection and for giving thanks.

A time to gather in silent community for
intercession, contemplation and centering prayer.

As the Psalmist says, "*Be still and know that I am
God*".

Staff News



Annie Fitzl
Part-time Director of
Nursery & Preschool
Ministries

Please welcome Annie Fitzl to the church staff. We are excited to see the energy she will bring to this important area. As the Director of Nursery and Preschool Ministries, she will help cultivate and develop ministry programs that encourage the spiritual growth for parents and children alike. She will also invite, equip, and encourage volunteers and work to create a loving, caring and God centered environment. She will work closely with the existing Children and Youth staff. If you see Annie, give her a warm Grace welcome.

GET TO KNOW GRACE STAFF

Kris Miller

Administrative Assistant



Do you have a furry friend? If so how many and what kind? [Nope](#)

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? [Hanging out with friends, trivia games & cards.](#)

One thing you cannot live without? [My family, especially my 5 beautiful grandchildren](#)

What is your favorite place to be? [On a beach in the Caribbean](#)

Tell us a fun fact about you? [I grew up in a town with 60 people. \(Now the population is 42\)](#)

What is your favorite line from a movie, book or TV show? [Nobody puts Baby in a corner.](#)

Do you enjoy playing a sport or watching them and if so what? [Love watching football on TV](#)

Where did you grow up? [Sedan, MN \(25 miles SE of Alexandria, MN\)](#)

staff
update

Children's Ministries



Family Worship Sundays

January 7th

February 4th

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon.

Dinner and a Movie

Friday January 19, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to bring the whole family for dinner, movie, fellowship and fun! Parents must stay the entire evening. We will begin with walking tacos in the Fellowship Hall, make a fun penguin craft and then we will head into the Theater (Worship Center) to watch the movie "Happy Feet". Please watch the blue opportunity sheets to register your family, or register on Gracelink.



Eggstravaganza

March 25th 12 – 2 pm ~ SAVE THE DATE

More details coming soon. Go to Graceandover.org or look in the blue sheets to sign up.

Rockin' Kids Bible Club

Join us in January starting Wed., Jan 3 at 6:30 as we begin our new year, exploring the parables. We will start our new year with Malt night!

We will sing in worship on Feb. 11 and Mar. 11 at the end of the 9 am and beginning of the 10:30 worship services.



Grades 3-5 ~ February 9th at 8 pm

Our night will include games, Bible time, snack, a movie, sleep, and so much more! Yes, we will sleep! Kids must be able to stay all night. Breakfast will be provided in the morning. Kids must be picked up by 8 am.

Kids should bring: modest pajama's with sleeves, sleeping bags, pillows, their Bible and friends. Kids should leave home: all electronics, including phones. Kids may bring friends. If kids bring 2 or more friends, a parent must plan on chaperoning. The Lock-In is \$5 per person. Register on graceandover.org

We need many volunteers to make this night happen.

- Game coordinator
- Bible Time
- Overnight hosts
- Breakfast helpers
- Breakfast Donations Needed

If you are able to help please contact Kristin Lowe Kristinl@graceandover.org or sign up in the blue sheets.

Youth Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL MAYHEM LOCK-IN!

Friday, January 19th
6th-8th Grade!
9:45pm - 6:30am

Stay up all night for the most fun you have ever had! Join hundreds of other kids from the Twin Cities at Maple Grove Community Center for a night of swimming, ice skating, gaga ball, inflatables, karaoke, a dance party, pizza, large group games, kickball, **basketball, dodge ball, and much more!** You don't want to miss out! Go to www.graceandover.org for more information!

Catechism during Lent

Wednesdays during Lent, Catechism students will join the congregation for worship at 7pm.

Students will be released for the last 15 minutes of service to spend time in discussion with their small group.

We will NOT be meeting in small groups on Ash Wednesday, February 14th; please worship together as a family.

There is a meal for families each Wednesday, February 21st through March 21st, beginning at 5:30pm.



HIGH SCHOOL MYSTERY BUS TOUR!

Saturday, January 13
9:30am - 5pm

All 9th-12th grade students (and friends!) are welcome to join us for a mystery bus tour! What will we be doing? Where will we be going? Show up to find out! For more information go to www.graceandover.org
Cost \$30 - includes everything.



SUPPORT GRACE YOUTH AT PIZZA RANCH

Monday, February 26
5-8pm

Pizza Ranch is a buffet style restaurant known for their salad bar, pizza, cheesy bread, dessert pizza, and delicious broasted chicken! This is a fundraiser for our youth mission trip and the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer! THANK YOU for your support!!!

13797 Jay St. NW
Andover, MN 55304

Outreach & Adult Ministries

GRACE 4 RAKAI

CELEBRATION DINNER

Sunday, January 7, 2018

5:00-7:30pm

Everyone is invited to the Grace 4 Rakai Celebration Dinner. From sponsors to those just wanting to know more about this wonderful ministry.

This will be a time to gather as a church community and do three things:

SHARE stories, photographs and updates of our outreach ministries in Rakai, Uganda.

CELEBRATE how God is doing 'immeasurably more' in and through us as a congregation.

DREAM about future possibilities!

We'll begin the evening with dinner and dessert at 5pm followed by a time of sharing stories, celebrating the ministry opportunities and dreaming of the future. We will provide dinner and dessert for you, so please simply come and enjoy the evening of celebrating all the ways God's grace is stretching across the ocean from our faith community to the people in Uganda.

If you currently sponsor a child(ren) in Rakai, we welcome you to share stories, letters and pictures of your sponsored child(ren). If you have questions or comments, please bring those too.

Contact Stacy Surratt stacysurratt@yahoo.com or

Scott Christensen scottc@nuaire.com

Co-Leaders of Grace 4 Rakai Ministry Team if you have any questions or concerns about the evening's event or the entire Grace 4 Rakai ministry!

If you know for sure you are planning to come, please contact Stacy Surratt or Scott Christensen and let us know. If you're not sure now, feel free to come anyway! Look forward to seeing you!



Grace2Haiti Mission Team

is in need of joint braces for legs, knees, ankles etc., as well as arm slings. The Grace 2 Haiti team has medical professionals available to help fit these items for those in need in Haiti. If you have any of these items that you are no longer using, please drop them off in the Church Office. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Please join us as we wrap our heads and hearts around the theme "Let Go & Let God"! Together we'll savor good food, supportive friendships and growing faith - all wrapped up in God's love!

Date: Jan. 26 -Jan. 28, 2018

Time: Arrive at camp between 6-8 pm (We'll arrange car-pooling). Depart 12pm.

Place: Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI
Includes all meals and lodging (bed linens and towels provided)



MEN'S OPPORTUNITIES

BWW Connection - 1st Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Men's Gab & Grub - 3rd Sat. at Baker's Square 8am

Bible Studies on Mon. 6:30am or Sat. @ 8am

Outreach Ministries



Family Promise - Sharing God's Grace in our Community

Grace will host Family Promise guests at our church the week of Jan 28th – Feb 3rd, providing warm hospitality and safe shelter for families in Anoka County who are experiencing homelessness.

Will you please join us in this hands-on ministry of **sharing God's grace in our local community?** YOU will make a difference! YOU will strengthen lives and build community in very tangible ways - through cooking a meal, driving the van, sleeping overnight for security, or chatting with guests! **Here's a list of various volunteer opportunities:**

- EVENING HOST – dine & chat with guests, play games with children, etc. (5 – 9 pm one evening)
- OVERNIGHT HOST - Provide night security at church (8:30pm–7am one night) You get to sleep!
- CHEF - Prepare an evening meal for 16 people, one evening
- SERVER - Serve dinner and clean up the kitchen (5 - 7:30 pm one evening)
- DRIVER - Drive the van to transport guests (at 6:30 am or at 4:30 pm)
- PREP WORK - Set up and take down beds on Sunday mornings
- DONATE - purchase and donate food supplies or gas cards for our Host Week

Family Promise in Anoka County (FPAC) is a network of area congregations who provide temporary housing to families without homes. Guests are housed at each host congregation for one week, on a rotating basis, moving to a new location in the network each week until they are able to become self-sufficient and independent once again. THANK YOU for considering ways you may serve God and His people in this Family Promise ministry! For more information, please contact Alden Riley, the Family Promise Ministry Team Leader aldenandjudy@comcast.net, 763 412-9489



And Who Is My Neighbor?

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Upcoming Course at Grace presented over two evenings - February 11th and 25th

“Wouldn’t life be easier if we were all the same? If we all spoke the same language, wouldn’t we avoid so many of the conflicts and rifts that destroy our relationships? If we all shared a common culture, wouldn’t we all be much better off?”

Too often, Christians have hoped for a time when our differences would cease, when in Christ we would all be indistinguishable. Such impulses are earnest but fundamentally misguided. Many such interpretations emerge from a fervent hope that the specters of racism, sexism, and myriad other destructive “isms” would no longer bind us to cycles of violence and hate.

Many such interpretations emerge from a misreading of texts like Galatians 3:28. Such readings imagine that becoming Christians means becoming all the same in all ways. There are no **ethnic differences between us** (“no longer Jew or Greek”), no differences of class and status between us (“no longer slave or free”), no gendered differences between us (“no longer male and female”).

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Certainly, Galatians teaches that “in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through **faith**” (Galatians 3:26). Our adoption as children of God, however, does not erase our differences. Instead, that adoption erases the need to claim superiority or inferiority based on these markers of identity. We are not the same, but we are reminded that our differences are not ways to measure our value in the eyes of God and one **another.**”

Join us at Grace Lutheran Church for a very informative, insightful course and dialogue about racial justice:

1st session on Sunday, February 11th,
continuing/final session on Sunday,
February 25

In the Grace Fellowship Hall

Join us for dinner 5 p.m. – free will offering requested

Seminar – 6-8 pm each evening

Sign-up on GraceLink

From the ELCA web site:



We believe that Christ’s church is for all people. God calls each of us by name, and it is not our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But as “saints and sinners,” we know and experience God’s work of healing and restoring as well as the persistent human pain and injustices of racism in the world. This is where God has put us, in the thick of life, where we participate in what God is doing by insisting on justice and upholding human dignity for the inclusion of all people in the life of the church and society. We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence.

When we confront racism and move toward fairness and justice in the church and society, we all benefit. We begin to understand that each of us has a unique story, and we are all part of a larger, rich story that makes up the ELCA.

*The ELCA Social Statement, “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture,” offers theological reflection **on the church’s commitment to undo racism and move toward reconciliation, healing and embracing all people.***

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR here at Grace in Andover? Come, learn and discuss. Our course instructor will be Jaddie Edwards, Congregational Organizer for Racial Justice, ELCA, Minneapolis Synod.

Finances at a Glance

As of Week 52

OFFERINGS	2016	2017
Operational	\$765,204.07	\$739,880.39
Capital	\$78,834.66	\$83,998.50
Other (Holiday)	\$32,403.09	\$27,370.22
Free 2B Grace	\$154,222.66	\$122,663.00
Total:	\$1,030,664.48	\$973,912.11

YTD Noisy Offerings collected & dispersed = \$25,615.62

YTD Benevolence dispersed = \$54,488.02

YTD General Operating expenses = \$775,230.96

YTD Mortgage paid = \$153,152.00

** if you would like a copy of the current month-end report, please contact Kate Morpew or Beth Clarstrom.*



Budget Meeting
January 23 at 6:30pm

We have a budget meeting on January 23 at 6:30. We will talk about the upcoming budget. We will touch on how we ended 2017 and how we are preparing for 2018. There will be time for questions as well. If you have questions in the meantime about finances, Kate (or Beth) is always willing to answer them.

70 ½ is when you have to start taking mandatory distributions from your IRA. It is possible to donate those mandatory distributions to a nonprofit like the church. It may be to your tax advantage. If you are interested in making contributions in this way, contact the church office.





Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304

(763) 421-6520

A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

www.graceandover.org

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Looking ahead to Lent

February 14th ~ Ash Wednesday
1pm & 7pm Worship

Each following Wednesday
February 21 & 28

March 7, 14 & 21
1pm & 7pm Lenten Worship

March 25th ~ Palm Sunday

March 29th ~ Maundy Thursday

March 30th ~ Good Friday

March 31st ~ Easter Vigil

April 1st ~ Easter