

grace notes

April 2018

Gearing Up for Summer at Grace

COKESBURY'S VBS

HERO CENTRAL

GARAGE SALE



SUMMER CAMP



Summer Stretch

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Interim Senior PastorBruce Arnevik
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Visitation Pastor.....Delwayne Hahn
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Head Custodian.....Mark Kempenich
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Dir. Of Golden Rule Child Care Center....Tami Mielke
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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
Chad Hadler

Finances as of March 18

OFFERINGS	2017	2018
Operational	\$165,384.96	\$145,684.08
Capital	\$16,841.50	\$17,662.00
Free 2B Grace	\$26,852.00	\$12,543.00
Total:	\$209,078.46	\$175,889.08

YTD Noisy Offering = \$2,703.41

YTD General Operating expenses = \$ 168,732.87

YTD Mortgage paid = \$26,538.00

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



SILENT PRAYER GATHERING

7-7:30pm

April 17th

The theme for April's Prayer Gatherings will be "The Difficulties of Life".

During these pastoral transitions we will be praying for the vision board, the new interim pastor and future permanent pastor.

The prayer gathering is open to everyone,
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.

A Word from Pastor Bruce

Transition Team Forming

The Vision Board recently identified a number of **candidates to serve on Grace's Transition Team**. **Since I'll be closely working with this team, I'm the one who's been asking these individuals to serve. We'll wait to announce the names of those on the team until we have the full slate of eight members, which should be in the next week or so. We plan to hold our first meeting in the first part of April, just after Easter.**

What will this team do? Their work will really be **"phase one" of the call process and will focus on** questions such as:

1. Who are we as a congregation? (What are our strengths? What do our demographics say about who we are? How do we view ourselves and how do others in the surrounding community view us in terms of our mission and what **we are known for? What's our current congregational climate?**)
2. What is our surrounding community like today and what is our mission in our own backyard?
3. Who do we want to be in the future and where are we headed? (In what direction might the Holy Spirit be leading Grace?)
4. What do we need to get there?
5. What kind of leadership and skill set will we need in our new senior pastor to help lead us there?

The team will shape the questions and decide on the process for seeking answers to them. Congregational input will be important in this process, probably including some kind of home-grown survey. Grace needs to address these kinds of questions for the sake of its own future and for the sake of prospective pastoral candidates.

The team will focus on the big picture and not get bogged down in details of current congregational life.

At least one Transition Team member will also serve on the future Call Committee. I will work closely with the team as pastoral guide and consultant.

The work will be fairly intense with many meetings – probably meeting on average twice/month, plus some assignments between meetings. The end product will be a final written report which the team will present and discuss with the Vision Board and Call Committee. The timeframe will be approximately six months from first meeting until presentation of the final report. The goal will be to present the final report sometime this fall. Upon adoption of the final report by the Vision Board, the report will help guide the Call Committee in their search. **It's at that point that the Transition Team's work ends and the Call Committee's work begins.**

Please pray for the work of your Transition Team. **At this juncture in Grace's history, I believe doing this work and doing it well is well worth the investment of time and energy.**

– Pastor Bruce Arnevik, Interim Pastor

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CELEBRATE BAPTISMS

We pray for the newly baptized:
Nolan Michael, son of Mike & Jessica Kankelfitz

PRAYERS TO HEAL

We pray for comfort and healing:

Pat Scheuer, Julie Swedberg,
George Cowman, Lu Henning,
Sylvia Lindgren, Nate Gfroerer

We keep in our hearts and prayers the families
with recent loss of:

Lauren Vanreese
David Bird
Karen Petersen
Lorraine Eaton

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Clarity of Funds

Have you ever wondered why our Offering Envelopes have 3 separate funds for you to designate your offerings to? Well, here is a brief explanation of the 3 funds listed on our envelopes and on our online giving options.

Free2B Grace Campaign is a five year capital campaign with the primary goals being, to fix up the building and pay down the mortgage. This campaign did not have a specific start date. Some giving units or families have completed their pledge, and some will not finish until later in 2018. Anyone can give to Free2B even if they did not make a pledge. Donations to Free2B Grace Campaign help make the mortgage and continue to pay down debt. We tithe on all Free2B donations. The congregation votes every spring on how to distribute the Free2B tithe. Be looking for your chance to vote for up to four organizations who will receive these Free2B tithe funds in early April.

Capital Investment donations help pay the mortgage and are for capital improvements. Capital and Free2B donations need to exceed \$106,800 per year to pay the mortgage.

The Operational Investments or Current Fund pays the day to day bills, staff salaries and benefits. Grace has chosen to tithe 10% of offerings on Operational giving. The budget that the congregation passed in January supports an operational income of \$883,650.

People can choose to support one or all of these funds. Many people still continue to give to Free2B, even though they have completed their pledge.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church.



Vision Board Minutes



The March Vision Board meeting was held on March 6, 2018 at the home of Scott Christensen. We welcomed Chad Hadler who will be replacing the **position vacated with Deb Shepard's resignation from Vision Board.**

Interim Pastor Bruce Arnevik shared a report of his activities for the past month. Bruce has been spending time getting to know the staff team at Grace, **as well as members of the Grace community.** Grace's Lenten services have been going well, the Faith Stories have been well-received.

Kate Morpew reviewed our financial statements and financial performance through February. Although contributions are down somewhat, expenses are also less than budget.

The Vision Board has begun to plan for the formation of a Transition Team and identified a group of candidates that will be asked to serve. Pastor Bruce will be reaching out to this group of congregation members to invite them to join the team. Johnna Hirt will be part of the team, representing the Vision Board and sharing their progress with Vision Board.

In preparation for the call of a new pastor, the Vision **Board will be reviewing Grace's constitution and by-laws.** Staff are reviewing policies and making recommendations for any updates needed to align them with current practice.

Several members of Grace will represent the congregation at the upcoming Synod Assembly. The next meeting of the Vision Board is April 17, 2018. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Grace.

We ended the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by Lynn Noren

Vision Board Message

As we gathered around the cross for prayer at our Wednesday Lenten Service a few weeks ago and shared our petitions, I was reminded of what a blessing it is to be part of this community of Grace. We may be a congregation in transition but we are still a community that is loved and guided by the spirit of Christ, a love that is expressed in our prayers and in all of the ways that we love and support each other!

The personal faith stories we have heard from members of our congregation at the Lenten Midweek Services have left me in awe. Although **I've known many of these members for years, I had never really known the real peaks and valleys of their faith story.** I was left truly inspired and amazed!

Did you have a chance to catch "Pontius Pilate" deliver his message to us at services during Lent? If you weren't at Grace the weekend of March 10/11th, then be sure to check out the message on the Grace website. Pastor Hahn did an excellent job of helping us understand Pontius Pilate's perspective in Jesus' story, giving us pause to think about how we too, have sinned against our Savior and need His grace.

Pastor Bruce Arnevik, our Interim Senior Pastor, has been with our Grace community for nearly two months now, and he is getting to know many names and faces of our members. As our **"transition pastor," Bruce is challenging all of us: Vision Board, church staff, ministry leaders and members of the Grace community.** He invites us to look at the vision Christ might have for Grace in a new light. His role as Interim Pastor is to challenge us to **"change things up!"**

It has been nearly ten years since Focus 20/20, when we last envisioned who we are as a congregation. Pastor Bruce is forming a Transition Team that will help us to envision again what Christ is calling us as a congregation to do. The Transition Team should be in place by the time you read this message. This team will be working together over the summer and they will report back to us later in the year. When we have a vision for our congregation, a future Call Committee will be tasked with inviting a permanent Senior Pastor to Grace.

In any pastoral transition like we are experiencing, it seems like there are fewer faces at weekly worship. My thanks to those who have braved Sunday snowstorms this winter and all the cold! **If you haven't seen one of your Grace friends in church in a while, give them a call and invite them to join you in worship!** Remember, we are a Community of Grace in the Heart of Andover: we are a community and church defined by the people who belong and serve together in one faith.

Blessings as we celebrate the resurrection of our Risen Christ!

Scott Christensen



Welcome
Chad
Hadler
to
Vision
Board!



Children's Ministries



Family Worship Sunday

~April 8th~

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

First Communion

Saturday, April 7th
9-11:30am

We will teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on April 7th at the 5:00 service, or April 8th at the 9:00 or 10:30 service.

Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Call the church office to sign up or [register on GraceLink](#).



Birthday Offerings

We now have 1 Flock - \$25.80. During each large group session, we will recognize the month's birthdays. Children are encouraged to bring a coin for each year to put in the

Birthday Bank. Kids will be recognized and receive a birthday pencil. This offering will go towards buying flocks of chicks donated to Heifer International.

Watch our chicks add up! Summer Birthdays will be recognized in April and May

~Want to learn more about chicks – check out this video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcAzPC57-PE>.

Baptism Class

Sunday, May 6, at Noon

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. During the workshop, we learn how God is at work in baptism. Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith. We will also share insights to help you as you raise your child to know and love God by creating habits, traditions, and making God apart of everyday life.

Upcoming Baptism Sundays are April 15 & May 13. Families can schedule baptisms at either the 9am or 10:30am Worship Services. Baptisms can also be scheduled for most Saturday 5 pm Worship as well. You may register on line through *GraceLink* or contact Annie Fitzl at annief@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

Rockin' Kids Bible Club

RKBC – Greatest Hits!

Join us April 25th at 7 pm for **our Rockin' Kids Bible Club**

end of year program. This year, we are singing all our favorite hits! We invite all current and former RKBC kids

to come and sing along as we celebrate the music that has filled our Wednesday nights!

RKBC will sing in worship on April 22.



REGISTER NOW FOR VBS

June 11-15 9:30am-12pm
3 Years thru 5th Grade



Youth Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Luther Point Bible Camp

Located only 1 ½ hours from Andover and has lots of options for everyone. The week of July 15-20th camps offered:

- ½ Week 3rd & 4th Grade Camp (July 15-17)
- 5th & 6th Grade Camp
- Jr. High Camp (7th – 9th graders)

NOW is the time to start making your summer plans. As usual, we will offer campers the opportunity to reduce their camp costs by fundraising. More information on fundraising options is to come. To find out more about Camp go to: graceandover.org



Annual Grace Garage Sale

Mark your calendars for June 7-9 for our Annual Youth Garage Sale. All proceeds will help Grace youth in going to Luther Point Bible Camp and the Youth Mission Trips this summer.

You can drop off your gently used items beginning May 7 in Portable 2.

***NO electronics/TV's/computers/monitors/exercise equipment.**

Large items will need to be approved by Tom Baker prior to drop off. tomb@graceandover.org
763-421-6520 *No drop off on Memorial Day

Green Valley Gift Cards & Mulch Sale

Our ELCA Youth Gathering and Quad Cities Mission Team youth will be selling Green Valley Gift Cards for \$25 each during the month of April. These can be redeemed at their huge Garden Center in Ramsey, MN and they do not expire. They cannot be used at the Cub Garden Centers (which sell Green Valley plants) and please remember that their Garden Center is not open on Sundays.

Also, after you have planted all your plants you will need to mulch your beds & we can help you with that! We are taking orders in April for 40 lb. bags of mulch for \$5 each. We are offering 3 colors and they can be picked up at the church the weekend of May 5th & 6th or we can deliver it to your home for a nominal charge.

Thank you for supporting our youth and please contact Tom Baker if you need any help with these items.



Summer Stretch

Calling All 5th-8th Grade Students!!!!

Worried you might be bored this summer? Worry no more! Summer stretch is a dynamic summer program for students who have completed 5th-8th grade! Summer stretch runs every Thursday (June 23rd – August 9th There is no Summer Stretch on July 5th) from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Participants need to be dropped off and picked up from Grace Lutheran.

Our mornings are spent doing a fun service project (Feed My Starving Children, Global Health Ministries, helping the environment etc.) and the afternoons are spent doing a fun recreational activity (Grand Slam, Bunker Beach Water Park, Urban Air and more!) August 9th we will **spend the entire day at Valleyfair!** This year's theme is *The Risky Adventure!* Students will learn how people in our world today risking comfort to follow the ways of Jesus. At the end of the day we will end with a Bible Study. Students not only will spend time serving our world but will also learn about key social justice issues facing our city, state, and world, such as clean water, global health issues, global and local hunger, and the environment.

The early bird special fee for summer stretch is \$175 and includes 6 weeks of service/ recreation PLUS an additional day at Valleyfair on Thursday, Aug. 9th. Transportation to events,

admission to all service and recreational activities, guest speakers, admission to Valleyfair, snacks, and a tee shirt are included in the fee. Register with your \$75 deposit by May 1st and secure the early bird special price of \$175. For more information on pricing, our schedule, and more details check out www.graceandover.org

And of course we will have High School Leaders this summer! If you are interested in being a High School Leader (current 9th-12th graders) and participating in Summer Stretch at a reduced rate contact Kristi at Kris-tiL@graceandover.org. High School Leaders help to lead games, hang out with participants, lead small groups and spend time getting to know our awesome middle schoolers! We also NEED adult leaders to make this a reality. Contact Kristi if you are interested in hanging out with some cool kids for a day or two this summer!

For more information, registration, details on pricing, and FAQ, please go to our youth page www.graceandoveryouth.com or please contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org or call/text her at 651.230.6057.

Men's & Women's Ministries

Outreach Ministries

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

Scenes from

"Into the *Wild*erness"

March 16-18 at Luther Point Bible Camp



WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES

W.O.W - Wednesdays at 9:30am
Bible Study on Mondays at 6:30pm
Ruth Circle - 2nd Wednesdays at 12:30pm
Quilters - Wednesdays at 9:00am
Grace Quilters 2 - Last Mondays at 6:30pm

Since many women in our congregation and surrounding community look forward to the Great Escape as an annual fellowship event, the Women's Ministry team announces it has been put on hold for the spring of 2018 as we determine how best to move forward with this event in the future. If you have any questions about the Great Escape, or suggestions for future Women's Ministry events, please connect with Leah Hadler (lmhadler@gmail.com) or Deb Stang (debodellstang@gmail.com)



Family Promise Host Week

April 1-7

Grace will host Family Promise guests the week of April 1-7, providing warm hospitality and safe shelter for families in Anoka County who are experiencing homelessness. Contact [Alden Riley](#) to help.

Celebrate Family Promise Week

April 15-22

To raise awareness of

Family Promise in Anoka County

Family Promise week is a dedicated week long celebration of Family Promise in Anoka County. The week will include fundraisers, friend-raisers, awareness events, appreciation events and Annual Meeting. All events are open to the public and welcome guests of all ages. Some events may request you pre-register- Check out the Family Promise website for full details!

www.familypromiseanoka.org

What is Family Promise in Anoka County?

The Family Promise program is a cost-effective way for the community to address the challenge of family homelessness by using existing resources. Family Promise is not just about getting families into housing but addressing the underlying issues that can lead to homelessness.

WEEK LINEUP

Monday 4/16 ~ Panera Fundraiser 4pm-8pm
3540 River Rapids Drive, Coon Rapids
Thursday 4/19 ~ Annual Meeting & Silent Auction
6:30pm-8:30pm Christ Lutheran Church, Blaine
Friday 4/20 ~ Brown Bag Lunch fundraiser
Saturday 4/21 ~ Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
9am-10:30am Constance Free Church, Andover
10:30am-1pm Home for Keeps Tours



*Submitted by
Scott Christensen, Grace4 Rakai Ministry Team*

A few days ago I had a chance to participate in the Wednesday night Lenten Dinner we held at Grace prior to our midweek service. The Grace4Rakai Ministry Team hosted the dinner and it was a wonderful opportunity to interact with the Grace community. In addition to sharing a meal we had the chance to share stories about our sponsored children in Rakai and hear about the new school opening from Ann Hill. Let me share some of that information with you!

DEDICATION AND OPENING OF THE ACT JUNIOR SCHOOL!

The new ACT (African Children Today) Junior School is NOW OPEN over in Rakai! The school was dedicated on Sunday January 28th. Ann Hill from ACT was on hand with 2,000 other participants for the 6 hour dedication ceremony that included a lot of dancing, singing and a meal! Pastor Mark and Jeannie were on hand for the dedication, cut the ribbon and offered a prayer to dedicate the new school. As our retired pastor, Mark and Jeannie expressed their thanks in Rakai on behalf of Grace and opened the door for our next Senior Pastor to one day represent the Grace community in Rakai.

First day of class was on Monday Feb. 5th. The school opened its doors as a primary school for

516 students on the first day! There are 300 students who are boarded at the school and live in the dormitory. Many of the children boarded there **are children who are “at risk” due to their situation** at home or students who simply live too far from the school.

Some of the students sponsored by Grace attend the school and are boarded there. Others in our Grace program in the upper grades will remain in the schools where they were sponsored until they take exams to move on to High School. The school campus consists of 10 buildings that include classrooms, dormitories, a home for teachers and staff, and a Dining Hall/Worship Center.

The “Grace Wing” of the school (pictured) was constructed by donations from Grace and is being used as a dormitory for 120 girls. Bunkbeds were built for these girls by the ACT Welding Shop and the mattresses are covered by wonderful quilts that were crafted so beautifully by our “Grace Quilters”! THANK YOU so much for your gift of GRACE and LOVE!

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF THE NEW SCHOOL?

Prayers of Support! As you can imagine, opening a school with more than 500 students is a challenge! Pray for the students and their teachers, many of whom have left their homes to begin a new life at the school and pursue an education!

Grace 4 Rakai (cont.)

We need sponsors! Some of the younger children boarded at the new school are there because they are bright, were at risk and needed safety. We are seeking sponsors for these children at \$30/month. Contact Scott Christensen at 612-247-3599 or at scottc@nuaire.com Can you provide a referral to a family, friend or neighbor to sponsor one of these children? Scott looks forward to hearing from you!

Text Books – The school has a critical need for text books. Typically textbooks are shared by 5-6 students. The Ugandan education system has an established curriculum and standards and there are specific books that are needed. At the moment only teachers have text books in their hands to teach the students. Donations in any amount are welcome at ACT, African Children Today, P.O. Box 390123, Edina, MN 55439. Please put the word **“Textbooks”** in the subject line of your check.

Scholarship Fund for Florence. Florence has been sponsored by our own Doreen Hutchings, Grace Choir Director. Florence recently took national exams in Uganda and scored near the top of her class. She has had a dream of becoming a nurse, and her test results have put her in a position to pursue that dream. It is a 3 year program and she hopes to return to Rakai as a nurse to support the people there. We are looking to establish a scholarship fund to support Florence in her quest to become a nurse! Please contact a member of the Grace4Rakai team to make a donation.

There is so much going on over in Rakai, Uganda, that is supported through the generous support of the Grace community; the new school, child sponsorship program, the bakery, welding and wood shop as well as the HOPE AGAIN WOMEN who make product sold here in Minnesota. Thanks for being such a blessing to people in Rakai, especially vulnerable women and children!

Please look for an announcement over the next few months, for a meeting at Grace to receive an update on Rakai and to learn how we can continue to make a difference!





Grace Lutheran Church

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(763) 421-6520

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

www.graceandover.org

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Summer Stretch

COKEBURY'S VBS

**HERO
CENTRAL**

