

GRACE NOTES



January 2012

Grace Lutheran Church ELCA

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church, 312 Prospect, Howell, MI 48843 517-546-3350

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the Staff

The staff at Grace Lutheran would like to wish you a Christ-filled New Year! God bless you all.

Pastor Tom

Mike Capra

Lisa Pristas

Karen Warsop

Pastor Sharon

Brooke Pierson

Michelle Tatara



FAMILY SWIMMING EVENT



All ages are invited to join us for a Swimming Event at the Hartland Caroselli Pool, 10635 Dunham Road, Hartland 48353, on Sunday, January 29. Open Swim is from 2:30–4:00 p.m. Cost is \$5/per person. Join us for an afternoon of tropical fun in the middle of our Michigan winter!

R.O.C.K. (Raising Our Christian Kids)

The Winter session of the R.O.C.K. after school program will be held on Wednesdays, January 11–February 15, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. This program is for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Many fun activities are planned: games, crafts, Bible story time, music and dinner. Cost for this session is \$20 for one child or \$35 for two children in the same family. If you don't want to miss a minute of all of this winter fun, see a Grace staff member to register.

In This Issue:

- ELC.....p. 2
- Youth & Family Ministries.....p. 3
- From the Pastor.....p. 4
- Senior Worship.....p. 4
- Health Ministry.....p. 5
- Stewardship.....p. 6
- Birthdays & Anniversaries.....p. 8
- Servant Schedule.....p. 9
- Calendar of Events.....p. 11

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

January is here and we at the ELC are already preparing for the 2012/2013 school year. Mark your calendars if you have children that you will be enrolling next year as the registration date for active church members will be Sunday, January 29, 2012 during the education hour (9:45–10:45 a.m.) If you would like more information or a registration packet call the ELC at 517-545-5640 or see me at church. I can give you the information then! ☺

Both the 3 and 4 year old classes spent much of their time getting ready for Christmas. The children enjoyed time learning songs, making gifts, preparing for their programs, and simply enjoying the season.

The ELC 2's class began their 2nd semester in December. The children finished the month with their Christmas celebration. They had a lot of different free choice activities ranging from playing in the classroom, to playing in the fellowship hall, decorating their cookies for snack to making reindeer food to energize Santa's reindeer for their busy night. Fun was had by all. If you would like to check out our 2's program, call the preschool and we will set you up with a day when you can visit the class for free. ☺

The whole preschool (2's, 3's and 4's) participated in our Christmas giving program. We decided to donate food to Gleaner's. We had a representative from Gleaner's come and speak to the children about what Gleaner's does and how they could help. The goal for the preschool was to fill two boxes, which were provided by Gleaner's, with food. Our drive was still going when this newsletter went to press, so we will update you with our total pounds donated next month. Thank you to the preschoolers and their families for helping with the needy in our community.

I hope that you and your family had a great Christmas and that your New Year has started off wonderfully!

Michelle Tatara
ELC Administrator



NEW MERCIES

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School

January Schedule

January 1— NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 8—An Angel Frees Peter

January 15—Simeon & Anna/Service Project

January 22— Simeon & Anna/Service Project

January 29—The Boy at the Temple



EDGE (6–7–8 Club)

All Middle School teens are invited to join us for dinner and discussion on Wednesday, January 11, from 6:00–7:30 p.m.

For those previously registered, Youthquake will be held January 6–8, in Lansing. Fourteen Middle School teens and two chaperones from Grace will be attending.

TEEN CLUB (High School teens)

This recreational group for High School students is looking for one more youth leader to plan and chaperone events. If you would like to re-energize yourself by working with teens and would be willing to volunteer for this job, please see Coach Cap.

A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain, But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;

Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant, But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

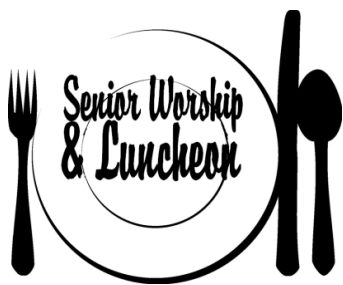
—Author unknown



I want to take a moment and share a quick thought with you about our church building. Over the last several years the members of Grace Lutheran and the Pastors have worked hard to improve our buildings appearance and function. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars from a new parking lot, to kitchen renovations, to new carpeting for the office wing and furniture for the pastors' office; we have a wonderful coffee corner to help facilitate our fellowship, and a brand new church sign to welcome people to our Grace home. Everywhere you look we have made improvements to the operation and beauty of Grace Lutheran. We are not done however; there exists the possibility of doing a renovation to the sanctuary and a few small projects throughout the building.

I am writing this letter to thank you for your patience over the years and ask that you extend that patience a little longer regarding the COOLNESS of the building during the winter months. When we renovated our building several years ago we added a considerable amount of space to our narthex (gathering area) by raising our ceiling much higher than the original. It never occurred to us that when we increase the size of our narthex we might also need to increase the heating capabilities of that room, which we did not. Therefore the narthex is cool most Sundays during the winter months because of the doors opening and the inability of the current heating system to keep up. I am asking council and the property committee to take a look at this issue and try to address this matter as quickly as possible. In the meantime I want to remind the members of Grace that we try to keep the heat at 68 degrees on Sunday morning. If you are accustomed to having your home temperature in the low 60's like the Huff family you might feel a little warm on Sunday mornings, except for Pastor Sharon, she's always cold. If you are used to having your heat set in the low to mid 70's it might feel a little chilly. Please do your best to dress accordingly and I do thank you for your patience.

Pastor Tom



Welcome all seniors. Service at 11:00. Luncheon to follow.
Wednesday, January 18, 2012.



WITHOUT FAIL

“I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God’s failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him.”

—William Carey

Thank you for all your prayers for my sister-in-law, Hope Hebert. She is doing better now and is able to be taken off the prayer list.

Michelle Hebert

To my Grace Family

I can never thank you enough for all the prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls during my recent operation. I know that through your prayers, I was able to make it to the ER in time. I especially want to thank Pastor Tom for his many words of encouragement. He really helped me through some of the more difficult times. I also want to thank Pat Isom for being there for Diane during the operation. It meant the world to her. Thank you to everyone who tied the prayer quilt. It was never out of arms reach after I got out of surgery.

I still have a long recovery ahead of me, so please do not stop those prayers.

Thanks again to the best church ever.

Darrel Sterzinger

Thank you to all that helped the Children's Christmas program to be a success, especially our Directors, Jennifer Byrd and Karen Scott.

Thank you to everyone that donated cookies and to all those who helped put on the cookie walk. All your hard work helped the Fellowship committee raise \$723.00. We couldn't have done it without all your generosity.

God bless, Pat Isom



HEALTH MINISTRY

Well, here we are into the winter solstice, with each day being darker and shorter, which makes me want to take a nap during the day. According to a 2010 study at the Sleep and Neuroimaging Laboratory at the University of California, a midday nap might make you smarter and improve your memory. A test asking college students to learn a series of new names and faces at noon and match the faces a few minutes later and then performed again at 6 p.m. the same day found that those who took a nap at 2 p.m. performed much better than those who did not nap. The group who did not nap had a significant decline in memory results. Researchers feel the nap refreshes the brain and allows the brain to absorb new information. However, they also found that adults who do not get adequate sleep at night might not get improved memory if they take a nap during the day. So the morale of the story is take those 5 minute power naps at lunch and you will be smarter and remember more!!!

To your health....

It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.

Psalm 127:2



GENEROUS PERSON IN THE BIBLE: DAVID'S INVITATION

By Grace Duddy

Imagine that you are a church leader raising money to build a church sanctuary. This will be the congregation's first stable building. You and the congregation have longed for this place to call your spiritual home, a place where the community can gather and God can dwell. This building project has been a burden on your heart throughout your time in leadership but now it is time for you to step down as a leader. This is the situation in which David finds himself in 1 Chronicles 29. In his last act as king, David chooses to assist his son in the daunting task of constructing the first temple by taking up an offering from the people. In his invitation, David illustrates the importance of leadership in fundraising as well as the fact that giving is a spiritual matter.

David begins his invitation by telling the whole assembly of all the resources that he has collected not only from his own kingdom but also from his personal house. He can confidently tell the people, "I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able" (1 Chronicles 29:2). David leads by example. He feels the stretch of his generosity, showing his personal dedication to the cause of building the temple.



Secondly, David's invitation illustrates that he views giving as a spiritual activity. He sees giving as an act of worship not just a monetary exchange. He does not invite the people to give material possessions; rather he invites the people to give themselves wholly to the Lord. He asks, "Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord?" (1 Chronicles 29:5) Through their generosity not only the gifts but also the givers are consecrated to God.

More importantly, David teaches us that soliciting gifts is about the heart first and then the wallet. When we give to God's mission, whether to a building, program or a specific person, this is a spiritual act of worship that emerges from a generous heart. When we give of our possessions we offer our whole selves to God, dedicating ourselves to God's mission in the world.

"I love all beginnings, despite their anxiousness and their uncertainty."
—Rainer Maria Rilke

"Music is the shorthand of emotion."
—Leo Tolstoy

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."
—Frederick Buechner

THE 7 UPS!

1. Wake Up !!

Decide to have a good day.

"This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

2. Dress Up !!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.

Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

I Samuel 16:7

3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen.

God gave us two ears and one mouth,

so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.

"He who guards his lips guards his soul."

Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand Up

. . . for what you believe in.

Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

"Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time,

we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..."

Galatians 6:9-10

5. Look Up !!

. . . to the Lord.

"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me".

Philippians 4:13

6. Reach Up !!

. . . for something higher.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding.

In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path."

Proverbs 3:5-6

7. Lift Up !!

. . . your Prayers.

"Do not worry about anything; instead

PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."

Philippians 4:6

January Birthdays*and Anniversaries*

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Lisa Elias | 14 Al Chan | 24 Trudy Esch |
| 3 Dave Cartwright
Michael Meyer | Lisa Compton | 25 Zak Johnson |
| 5 Keith Boyes | 15 Terry Hupp | 26 Nicholas Salewsky
Douglas Hewitt Jr.
Elizabeth Hewitt
Anthony Kaake
Ryan Lane |
| 6 Bethany Capra
Elizabeth Stiles | Erika Griffin
Zachary Peterson
Abby Snyder | 28 Lauren Evens |
| 7 John Vlahos | 16 Juli Vandeven | 29 Sharon Huff
Samantha Reicher |
| 9 Jessica Davis
Casie Carter
Gary Jennings | Bryson Scott
17 Beth Baker | 30 Adriane Heidelberg |
| 10 Craig Webb | 21 Jill Deurloo
23 Darrell Jackson | |

Special Birthday wishes to:

Roberta Goodnough celebrating her 76th birthday on January 1st.
 Ginger Potter celebrating her 70th birthday on January 4th.
 Judy Wright celebrating her 72nd birthday on January 6th.
 Mildred Butcher celebrating her 96th birthday on January 21st.
 Lexyann Staber celebrating her 76th birthday on January 21st.
 Grace Miller celebrating her 81st birthday on January 22nd.
 Dave Hager celebrating his 73rd birthday on January 29th.

January Anniversaries:

26 Win & Nancy Collins

30 Del & Shirley Burge

Memorial Gifts

MEMORIAL FUND**Helen Hiser**

Bonnie J Loepke

January Servant Schedule

	January 1		January 8		January 15		January 22		January 29	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00
Lay Asst										
Lay Rdr										
Comm Asst										
Acolytes	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending
Ushers	Tom Trader & Aaron Bell	Greg Stiles & Mike Capra	Tom Trader & Aaron Bell	Greg Stiles & Mike Capra	Tom Trader & Aaron Bell	Greg Stiles & Mike Capra	Tom Trader & Aaron Bell	Greg Stiles & Mike Capra	Tom Trader & Aaron Bell	Greg Stiles & Mike Capra
Altar Care (Clean Up)										
Greeters	Robert & Judy Clise, Tom & Nancy O'Brien, Darrel & Diane Sterzinger	Jane Thompson	Al & Jane Halliday, Tom & Kathy Trader, Don & Betty Yax	Jeanette Vlahos	Dave & Pat Isom, Keith & Kathy Boyes, Ken & Kathie Keith	Matt & Julie Evens	Bill & Chris Manuel	Gary & Darcy Honaker	Tom & Nancy O'Brien	

Sign up for next month on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please call the church office to sign up to fill empty slots.

The deadline for articles or items for the February Grace Notes is:

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 23, 2012**

Please be sure to submit any items for the February newsletter prior to this date. You may send submissions to the church office, or email to: grace312@sbcglobal.net



**Lutheran
World**

Relief

No items for January

Watch this space for future items

Donation basket located in the narthex

WOMEN OF JOY

All women are invited to join us for the Women of Joy Bible study on Monday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Michelle Hebert, 409 Conover Ct, Howell (between Grand River and Golf Club, the entrance is across from Rolling Ridge Subdivision. East off Latson, first house on the right on Conover.) We continue with Bible studies from *The Thoughtful Christian*. We have been learning about the seven deadly sins. This month we will be looking at greed. These studies have produced lively discussions. Come and be a part of them!

For an off hours medical or pastoral emergency, please call the Pastors at home at 517-552-1782.



Are your retirement assets rolling in the right direction?

Changing jobs? Retiring? Already enjoying retirement?

Major life events such as these can have a significant impact on your retirement assets.

You may be tempted to leave your retirement account behind or take a cash distribution. But, doing so could mean staying with investments and financial services that are not aligned with your values or losing a big portion of your retirement savings.

Make a wiser, simpler choice by rolling over your retirement savings into a Thrivent Financial Rollover IRA. It's a flexible way to avoid penalties and withholding taxes, and help you continue your retirement savings.

You'll receive guidance from a financial professional who'll help assess your current financial situation, determine your unique goals, and help you with appropriate asset allocation and regular rebalancing of your assets.

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- Tax-deferred growth potential.*
- More control over your investments and possibly more investment options.
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- 24-hour access to your account.

To learn more about IRAs or how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Michael Miller, Financial Associate, at 734-260-4284 or Michael.e.miller@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

*Withdrawals from an IRA prior to age 59 ½ may be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty tax.

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January 2012

January 2012							February 2012						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 1, 12 New Year's Day (United Sta 8:30am Trad. Worship 11:00am Cont. Worship	2 7:30pm Alanon	3 9:30am T.O.P.S	4 5:30pm Praise Team 6:30pm Adult Choir	5	6	7 Youthquake 7:47am Grace Men's Group
8 Youthquake 8:30am Trad. Worship 11:00am Cont. Worship 12:00pm Children's Choir rehearsal	9 7:30pm Alanon	10 9:30am T.O.P.S 10:30am Cancer Support	11 12:00pm Circle Bible Study 4:00pm R.O.C.K. 5:30pm Praise Team 6:00pm The Edge 6:30pm Adult Choir	12 7:00pm Council Meeting	13	14
15 8:30am Trad. Worship 9:30am Blood Pressure Clinic 11:00am Cont. Worship 12:00pm Children's Choir rehearsal	16 Martin Luther King Day (Un) 7:30pm Alanon	17 9:30am T.O.P.S	18 11:00am Senior Worship & Luncheon 4:00pm R.O.C.K. 5:30pm Praise Team 6:30pm Adult Choir	19	20	21
22 8:30am Trad. Worship 11:00am Cont. Worship 12:00pm Children's Choir rehearsal	23 7:00pm Women of Joy (at the Hebert's) 7:30pm Alanon	24 9:30am T.O.P.S	25 9:45am Love Day Ladies 4:00pm R.O.C.K. 5:30pm Praise Team 6:30pm Adult Choir	26	27	28
29 8:30am Trad. Worship 11:00am Cont. Worship 12:00pm Children's Choir rehearsal 2:30pm Family swimming event (Hartland)	30 7:30pm Alanon	31 9:30am T.O.P.S	Feb 1	2	3	4

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
312 PROSPECT STREET
HOWELL MI 48843

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

9:45 a.m. Learning Hour (all ages)

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

Nursery provided all morning.

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastors

Early Learning Center Administrator

Office Manager

Youth Director

Administrative Liaison for Youth

Director of Music

Rev. Tom & Rev. Sharon Huff

Michelle Tatara

Lisa Pristas

Mike Capra

Karen Warsop

Brooke Pierson

Office Phone: (517) 546-3350

e-mail: grace312@sbcglobal.net

Web site: www.gracelutheranhowell.org

Early Learning Center: 545-5640

M-F am & pm preschool sessions for 3 & 4 year olds

2-year olds playgroup on Thursdays & Fridays

In session September through May

For information, please call Michelle Tatara (517-545-5640)