

GRACE NOTES



March 2011

Grace Lutheran Church ELCA

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

LENTEN SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY:

Wednesday, March 9:

6:00 p.m. Potluck supper (sign up on the bulletin board)

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service

LENTEN SEVICES:

Wednesdays, March 16–April 13:

6:15 p.m. Soup supper (sign up to provide soup, bread, cheese, or dessert)

7:00 p.m. Lenten service



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

First Communion class is open to all children first grade and older. Students must attend all three sessions. Pre-registration is required because accurate head counts are essential to run the class. Pre-register by Sunday, March 27, by contacting the church office at 517-546-3350 or email grace312@sbcglobal.net.



Class dates:

Wenesday, April 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. (Maundy Thursday service to follow at 7:00 p.m. with First Communion)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13 at 2 a.m., so don't forget to "spring forward" and set your clocks ahead one hour.



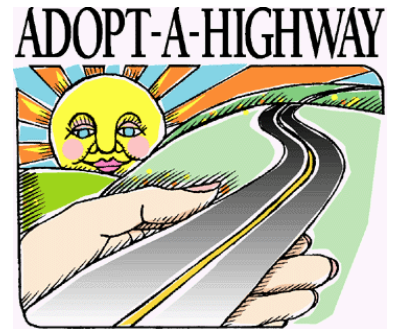
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ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of 2011 is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Anyone 12 years and older is welcome to attend. We will begin with a safety talk at the church and then will move to our clean-up site along M-59. Safety vests will be provided. Please plan to join us for this important event.

Mark your calendar for the next two cleanup dates: July 9 and September 24.



GRACE AT GLEANERS



Volunteers are needed to help sort food for distribution at Gleaners Food Bank. Please meet at Gleaners, 5924 Sterling Drive (off of Dorr Rd) on April 2, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Due to space limitations a max of 14 people are needed, so PLEASE sign up in the narthex. Any questions, contact David Bird

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

This year's spring rummage sale will be held April 15–16. Please consider donating gently used household items, clothing, furniture, etc. Bring donated items to the Fellowship hall beginning Monday, April 4. Tax donation forms are available in the office.



CELEBRATING LIFE

Every so often I come across an idea that is profound, insightful, wonderful, original, creative, useful, helpful, inspiring, uplifting, well you get the point. The idea came from a most unlikely source—Bert Hensick. Yes, Bert gave me an idea that I think is just fantastic and you'll never know how much that hurts me to have to admit that Bert

had a great idea that I never thought of. Laugh out loud. The idea is simple, a few weeks ago Bert celebrated his 85th birthday and instead of his family buying presents for Bert to celebrate his 85th birthday, Bert's family members made donations to Grace Lutheran Church. What a wonderful way to support God's work while celebrating another year of life the lord has given to you. I hope some of you find the idea as spectacular as I have.

P.S. Happy birthday Bert, you truly are a gift to all of us at Grace Lutheran.

Pastor Tom

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Here at the ELC we can hardly believe that March is here. Only three more months of school. It has flown by so quickly! ☺

The two's class is continuing with their arts and crafts, finger play, rhymes, circle time, and learning to play with one another. Parents are beginning to be encouraged to leave the classroom for 10 – 15 minutes so that the children can start separating from their parents at school to make next year go more smoothly. They are doing a wonderful job. Keep it up kids!

We started the month with both the 3's and 4's classes having a visit from the police. We have a family in the preschool in which the father is a State Trooper and the mother is an officer with the Ann Arbor Police. They both took time from their busy schedules to come and talk to all of our children at the preschool. They discussed an officers uniform, car safety, stranger danger, bike safety, and the children were even able to get a first hand look at the inside of a police car! ☺ Thank you Officer McCarthy and Trooper McCarthy!



The 3's class has been very busy this month. They began their month with bike day. They had a day of servicing their bikes, washing them and riding them around the road that Mrs. Peckens designed in the fellowship hall. The children ended the month talking about travel and the different kinds of travel there are.

The 4's class began their month by finishing up their unit on hibernation and weather. They learned the difference between hibernation and sleeping and which animals hibernate and which ones don't. They then moved on to talk about President's (for president's day) and finished the month by focusing on transportation as well. Ask your favorite 4 year old about their own personal train car!

All the children participated in a Valentine's Day exchange. Cards and treats were there for all, and the 3's enjoyed their yearly feast of McDonald's during their Valentine's Day party.

We also had our Family Night where we watched the video "Little Joe" and we did many activities related to the movie. It was a lot of fun and the families really enjoyed their time having fun together.

Registration went well, but we still have a few openings left. Please send anyone you know that has a 2, 3, or 4 year old our way as their children will love the program!

One last note to anyone in the congregation with gently used children's items laying around. The ELC will be holding a Mom 2 Mom sale on Saturday, March 19th. If you are interested in renting a table for this event, please contact Michelle at graceelc@att.net or 545-5640.

Michelle Tatara
ELC Administrator

YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have age level classes for all children ages 2 years through 5th grade, each Sunday from 9:45–10:45 a.m.

March Sunday School Schedule:

- March 6—Women at the Well
- March 13—A Storm
- March 20—Centurion's Servant
- March 27—Jesus Blesses the Children



Attention Sunday School teachers! A Sunday School teacher's meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6, at 9:45 a.m. in the 1st/2nd grade classroom.

CRADLE ROLL

This ministry mails out faith-building information to parents of children from birth to 2 years. If you have a child this age and would like to receive these mailings, please call Lisa in the church office. Stacey Fortner has been leading this ministry for a long time, but will be stepping down soon. If you would like to help out with this ministry, please see Juli VanDeven.



FAMILY EVENT

An Easter Egg Hunt for children in Preschool through 5th grade will be held at Grace on Sunday, April 17. See next month's Grace Notes for more information.



SENIOR WORSHIP

Welcome all seniors. Please join us for service at 11:00 a.m.
St. Patrick's Day corned beef luncheon to follow.
Wednesday, March 16, 2011.





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.

Enjoy low minimum investment requirements and:

- Tax-deferred growth potential.*
- More control over your investments and possibly more investment options.
- Penalty-free, income tax-free distributions (up to \$10,000) before age 59½ for major life events such as buying your first home.
- 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 59½ may be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty tax.

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COUNCIL CORNER



The Council met on Thursday, February 10. Michael Miller and guest from Thrivent presented the “Kids Against Hunger”. The Stewardship committee will include this program as our September project.

The Council approved reports from the ELC, Youth Administrative Liaison, The Music Director and the Pastors.

The financial report was accepted as written with additional funds being paid on the building loan we have. We are on target to pay off the loan within one year, thanks to the Growing in Grace contributions.

The Stewardship committee presented a vision of stewardship throughout the year. Greg Tatara presented the year end summary to the congregation of the stewardship of the budget in January and Deb Evens will present on Sunday February 20, the February vision of “Where your heart is”. Each month a project of demonstrating our stewardship will be available for your participation.

We discussed filling the vacated Youth Director position. The Executive committee will advertise first in the church and review resumes before deciding on the structure of the position.

The Property committee is getting bids on possible carpet replacement and updating furniture in the office wing of the church.

The Youth committee is looking at possible alternatives to the Work Camp in case we do not have enough youth interested in this project.

Yours in Christ,
Barbara Carter, Council President

Thank you to Keith & Kathy Boyes, who are our timeless R.O.C.K. cooks and helpers.

Pastor Sharon

Thank you Gracie's Quilters for purchasing a new 14' step ladder for the church. Now we can reach the "high spots" in the church.



To my Grace Lutheran Church Family,

Last week was my 85th birthday. Thanks for cards, congratulations, et al. I knew a family party was on deck—great, I like it! Remember—I don't need, nor want any presents, o.k.? Sure, Dad! No presents. Instead, they wrote checks to Grace Lutheran in honor of my birthday. Great idea.

Thank you all, Bert Hensick

Thank you to all that contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Grace collected \$340 that was sent to ELCA World Hunger. The total for the entire US giving was \$7.5 million.

Karen Warsop & E.F.F./Teen Clubs Members

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

As a faithful supporter of the Gideon ministry, I wanted to thank you for your contributions in 2010.

Did you know that Gideons distributed 79.8 million copies of God's Word throughout the world in 2010?! That amounts to more than two copies of God's Word given out every second!

To see how your investment in the Gideons ministry is having an impact throughout the world, go to the Gideon website at www.gideons.org. You can hear some life changing testimonies through video, too. Plus, you can even make contributions or buy "all occasion greeting cards" online as well! Check it out.

Your total contributions for the Livingston County Camp received for 2010 were: \$100.00 (This may or may not necessarily include any contributions received via credit card as they are processed directly by Gideon International Headquarters and may send you a separate receipt.)

Again, *Thank You* for making a difference for eternity's sake.

In the King's Service,

Thomas Lampert,
Gideon Treasurer

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran,

Thank you for your food contributions during 2010. We hope you will celebrate with us your donation of 854 lbs of food. Contributions like yours play an integral part in our goal to end hunger in our community. Thank you for caring about our neighbors in Livingston County who are struggling to afford food.

Gleaners Community Food Bank nourishes our community by distributing surplus and donated food to more than 400 partners in Southeastern Michigan. In Livingston County we service over 25 partner agencies, such as Meals on Wheels, The Connection Youth Services, Salvation Army, and other food pantries and non-profit organizations. The people we serve include senior citizens on a fixed income, single parent households, the disabled and ill, working families, and the homeless. In partnership with OLHSA, Gleaners distributed approximately two million pounds of food to our neighbors in need this year.

Again, many thanks, and we appreciate you and what you do to help put food on the tables of the families in our community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ounanion
Programs Coordinator

HEALTH MINISTRY

The Stewardship Committee has designated March to be "Stewardship of our bodies". The Health Ministry will lead a 12 week Journey to Wholeness called the 3D Plan. This is a program for those wishing to gain balance in their lives and a deeper relationship with God.

The 3 D Plan was inspired by the words of Jesus in Mark 5:34 "Your faith has made you whole". 3 D stands for diet, discipline and discipleship and is a plan for eating right, living well and loving God. You don't go on a diet, but are guided to make gradual changes in your life that are positive, practical and proven to become a permanent part of your life.

Watch for more information and come and join the group.

To your health.....

It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones. Proverbs 3:8



BE A GOOD
Steward

WHAT HAS GOD GIVEN YOU A HEART FOR?

The month of February kicks off our year long Stewardship Emphasis with the theme, "What has God given you a heart for?"

God has given each Christian two vitally important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. The second is one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and for the growth of God's kingdom. These abilities are called Spiritual Gifts, and they are received through our baptism. We do not choose our spiritual gifts, God bestows them on us.

What are the gifts God has given you? For an online inventory which helps you determine your spiritual gifts, see <http://archive.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/assessments/spiritgifts.html>

During the next 10 months, we will be emphasizing a different aspect of stewardship--everything from stewardship of our bodies to stewardship of the earth to stewardship of our time. With each of these emphases is a chance for you to use your spiritual gifts. Pick at least one of the emphases that God has given you a heart for, and pray about what God is calling you to do at Grace.

February: Introduction. Deb Evans' temple talk, "What has God given you a heart for?"

March: Stewardship of our bodies

April: Stewardship of the earth

May: Stewardship of our church building

June/July: Stewardship of our time as it relates to our youth and community

August: Stewardship of our time as it relates to the Sabbath

September: Stewardship of our talents

October/November: stewardship of our resources

December: Stewards to share with others

March Birthdays*and Anniversaries*

2 Chris Elias	Madison Carmack	21 Tyler Prang
3 Lori Ehrlich	9 Kaitlyn Hall	22 Pat Isom
Betsy Barlow	Kara Richardson	24 Jeanette Vlahos
4 Pam Anderson	10 Julie Evens	26 Paul Morrison
James Fortner	14 Faith Huff	30 Jeremy Salewsky
Isabella Revitzer	17 Danielle Sellers	Jared Trella
6 Samuel Atkins	19 Patrick Coy	Crysta Mobbs
8 Karen Warsop	20 Roxanne Larson	31 Sandy Cooper

Special Birthday wishes to:

Delmar Burge celebrating his 80th birthday on March 13th.
 William Johnson celebrating his 78th birthday on March 15th.
 Marjorie Mc Clelland celebrating her 88th birthday on March 16th.
 Bob Garbin celebrating his 78th birthday on March 16th.
 Ruth Criche celebrating her 86th birthday on March 17th.
 Thelma Weller celebrating her 77th birthday on March 17th.
 Bill Manuel celebrating his 74th birthday on March 19th.
 Patricia Fortner celebrating her 79th birthday on March 20th.
 Joan Girbach celebrating her 75th birthday on March 22nd.

March Anniversaries:

14 Dave & Pat Isom	28 Charlie & Mary Cobb
27 Darrell & Heather Jackson	

Memorial Gifts

MEMORIAL FUND

Charline McGurk

Mary Anderson
 Therase E Dubois
 Joan Tewers

Garry & Joan Hartwick
 Paul & Judy Hanner
 Janet Robinson

**In honor of Bert Hensick's
85th birthday**

The family of Bert Hensick

March Servant Schedule

	March 6		March 13		March 20		March 27	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00
Lay Asst	Trudy Esch	Debbie Evens		Connie Peterson	Trudy Esch	Karen Warsop		Dale Salewsky
Lay Rdr	Trudy Esch	Denny Chiesa		Linda Oumedian	Trudy Esch	Ken Althouse		Dale Salewsky
Comm Asst	Pat Isom & Joan Hartwick	Nancy Collins	Tom O'Brien & Nancy O'Brien	Kevin Jennings	Pat Isom & Judy Hanner	Ken Althouse & Kevin Jennings	Kim Richardson & Iris Barlow	Linda Oumedian & Cindy Salewsky
Acolytes	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending	Schedule Pending
Ushers	Dave Bird & Bill Manuel	Larry Jones & Jason Scott	Dave Bird & Bill Manuel	Larry Jones & Jason Scott	Dave Bird & Bill Manuel	Larry Jones & Jason Scott	Dave Bird & Bill Manuel	Larry Jones & Jason Scott
Altar Care (Clean Up)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)	Collins (Collins)
Greeters	Robert & Judy Clise, Tom & Nancy O'Brien, Darrel & Diane Sterzinger	Jane Thompson	Al & Jane Halliday, Tom & Kathy Trader, Don & Betty Yax	Jeanette Vlahos, Becky & Danielle Sellers	Dave & Pat Isom, Keith & Kathy Boyes, Ken & Kathie Keith	Matt & Julie Evens, Sharon, Matt & Emily Childers	Bill & Chris Manuel, Dave & Gerri Hager	Gary & Darcy Honaker

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 April Grace Notes is:



**MONDAY,
MARCH 21, 2011**

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



Helping Those in Need

Lutheran World Relief

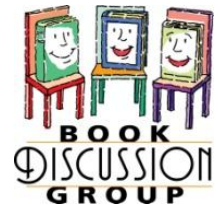
requested items for March: Health Kits

Darker color hand towel or washcloth

Donation basket located in the narthex

WOMEN OF JOY BIBLE STUDY

The Women of Joy Bible study will meet on Monday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference room. We are studying different topics available through *The Thoughtful Christian* publications. These studies make for lively conversation. All women are invited to join us.



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

March 2011		March 2011							April 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
		9:30am T.O.P.S	4:00pm R.O.C.K. 6:30pm Choir	6:30pm NAMI Basics class	6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	7:47am Grace Men's Group
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Trad. Worship 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Cont. Worship	7:30pm Alanon	9:30am T.O.P.S 10:30am Cancer Support	12:00pm Circle Bible Study 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Pot Luck 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service	6:30pm NAMI Basics class 7:00pm Council Meeting	ELC Open House 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
ELC Open House 3:00am Spring Ahead! Daylight Savings Time begins 8:30am Trad. Worship 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Cont. Worship	7:30pm Alanon	9:30am T.O.P.S	11:00am Senior Worship/ Luncheon 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Lenten service	Saint Patrick's Day (United) 6:30pm NAMI Basics class	ELC setup in Fellowship hall 10:00am Grace's Quilters at Betty Yax's 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	9:00am ELC MOMS2MOMS sale
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am Trad. Worship 9:30am Blood Pressure Clinic 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Cont. Worship	7:30pm Alanon	9:30am T.O.P.S	6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Lenten service		6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Fellowship hall)	
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
8:30am Trad. Worship 9:45am Learning Hour 11:00am Cont. Worship	7:00pm Women of Joy 7:30pm Alanon	9:30am T.O.P.S	9:45am Love Day Ladies Supper 6:00pm Lenten Soup 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Lenten service			