

News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ♦ January 2017

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."



Tom Brennan, Travis Konarzewski, Gar Nicholls, Bunny Lyon, Judy Kautz,

Debbie Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Erv Simi, Jeanette Grove, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine

Leathead, Gloria Moore, Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Julie Troy, Tim Dillon, Geraldeen Laughlin, Kevin Salesman, Jeff Lee, Conrad Addison, David Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Brett & Katie Schoner, Eric Carlson, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkowicz, and Richard G.

We also remember the families of...

Allen Stevens, who passed away Dec. 15

Clayton Fee, who passed away on Dec. 30



Sunday School for grades preschool through fifth will begin on January 8, 2017 from 9-9:30 a.m. (Children are asked to arrive at 8:50 a.m.

so we are prepared to begin our lesson/activity at 9:00 a.m.) We will meet upstairs in the Sunday School opening area. Elsa Phillips is the new teacher.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Worship Service Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church

LARCC is again having a worship service to promote unity amongst the Christian Traditions. This years theme is Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us (2 Corinthians 5:14-20). This theme comes from The Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) and their work toward the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Grace hosts this year's service on Wednesday, January 25 at 7 pm. As an addition this year there will be a soup supper at 6 pm prior to the service. Join us for worship and supper. Look for sign up sheets soon.



Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 16th marks the National Holiday and the day for activities in Alpena with programs at ACC in the afternoon and evening. This year's theme is White Privilege with a movie discussion in the afternoon, the chili supper and an evening program. See the insert for all the details.

Taking Down Decorations

We will be taking the decorations down on Saturday, January 7, at 10:00 a.m. Any help would be greatly appreciated!



Blessings on a new year in God's Kingdom

May you know more of God's grace, love and peace this year

With the gifts God has given you, may you follow God's calling on your life and your living for the Kingdom

Shalom

Pastor Tom

Thanks to the Congregation

Thank you for the most generous gift at Christmas. I am making some plans for another photography trip this year and this certainly makes for more possibilities. I am blessed to be here and able to work with this entire congregation in doing God's calling in this place. For that especially, *Thank You All.*

Pastor Tom

Computer, Laptop or Tablet being replaced in your home this Christmas?

Your Older Equipment maybe be valuable for others.

We are gathering older equipment for some computer classes. Even if your computer is not working some parts maybe able to upgrade other computers. Laptops are especially useful. Accessories like keyboards, mice, printers and power supplies are useable too. Any software that came with your computer or you are no longer using could be valuable, too. Anything that is unusable will be recycled environmentally.

Your personal information and data on your old computer will be erased before it is reused.

Talk with Pastor Tom for more information or if you have questions.



Ruth Circle January Meeting

The Ruth Circle (women of Grace) will meet on Wednesday, January 18, in the lounge beginning at 1:00 p.m. with a Bible lesson, short business meeting leaving time for fellowship. All women welcome with no obligation. Darlene Freel is Chairman again this year.

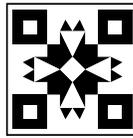


Thanks to everyone who helped bake and donate items for our Julefest Bake Sale. It made it a great success. With God's blessing and many hands we made \$1,356.00. Thanks to everyone!

Ruth Circle

Training for Altar Guild, Ushers and Communion Assistants

Sunday, January 15
following worship



Quilting Resumes January 3



Mark your calendar for every Tuesday for the Quilting/Sewing Group in the Fellowship Hall from 9-11:30 a.m. and remember that you can drop in whenever you have an hour to spare. Some members also sew at home. Thanks for all of your donations of materials!

Outreach and Mission

Local

Discipleship



Items Needed:

- * Tuna & Tuna Helper
- * Peanut Butter & Jelly
- * Pancake Mix & Syrup
(Just add water kind)
- * Elbow Macaroni

The collection basket is located outside the church office. All items collected will be donated to Trinity Episcopal's food pantry.

Caring Conversation for All Members Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, February 22 from 6-8:00 p.m.

Caring Conversation for all Members
Topic: Open Hearts, Open Church
(Sexuality Issues)

Speakers, etc.....More details to follow

Thanks to the Carolers...our Loving Care Members loved the songs, the cookies, but especially the visits!!!

Bread Weekend will resume the 3rd weekend in February!!

Global

New collection for Jan-March for Lutheran World Relief will be Personal Kits.

When emergencies like natural disasters or conflict arise, many families must flee their homes, leaving their belongings behind. When they arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

The following items are needed:

1. one light-weight bath towel (20"x40" to 27"x52") dark color best
2. 2 or 3 bath size bars of soap (equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand (no mini size
3. One adult size toothbrush in original packaging
4. One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs)
5. One metal nail clippers, attached file optional

Thanks to those who donated to the Baby Kits. The Pack and Play will be removed the first week of January. The Personal Kit info will be on the bulletin board at that time.

Noisy Offering will be the 4th Sunday to support our World Vision child, Ishimwe. Our congregation sent her and her family \$100 for Christmas through World Vision. See the progress report on Ishimwe on the bulletin board in the dining room.





New Address

Don Weise
 Tendercare Alpena
 301 Long Rapids Rd., Room B13
 Alpena, MI 49707



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers

CHURCH OFFICE 354-2640
 Rev. Tom Orth.....Home 356-8729
Cell 916-8759
 Office Manager....Peggy Tomaszewski..... 255-8850
 Music DirectorBerniece Lyon 464-7064

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President.....Tom Lappan 356-3718
 Vice-PresidentRick Engstrom 916-5963
 Exec. SecretarySandy Malaski 356-6248
 TreasurerDon Barnard 340-1055

WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education.....Elsa Phillips 884-1809
 WorshipSharon Engstrom 354-5133
 DiscipleshipJoelyn Rich 340-0592
 PropertyJeff Welch 595-2195
 Fellowship.....Jeanne Pankey 354-2416
Pat Schultz 356-2781
 FinanceDennis Werblow 354-5560

OTHER V.I.P.s

Stewardship... Wayne Christopherson 356-0430
 Youth DirectorVicki Denstaedt 916-9258
 WELCADarleen Freel 354-8866
Dorothy Hansen 354-3563
 SamaritasKay Grove 727-2054
 QuiltersCaroline Weise 354-8060
Dorothy Hansen 354-3563
 LARCCEleanor Coddington 354-8766



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."

DECEMBER 2016

Finances

GENERAL FUND.....\$ 19,925.00
 BUILDING FUND..... 1,253.33
 CHRISTIAN GROWTH5.00
 OTHER 4,028.19
 TOTAL.....\$ 25,211.52

Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4) 123
 SUNDAY WORSHIP (3) 243
 CHRISTMAS EVE..... 306
 CHRISTMAS DAY 28
 TOTAL 700

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

JANUARY 2017

ACOLYTES

01
08
15
22
29

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

01 SERVICE OF LESSONS/CAROLS
08
15 MIKE URLAUB
22 CHERYL WERBLOW
29 CORINNE FRALEY

USHERS

DALE SCHULTZ
CHARLES SNYDER
STEVE GARANT
VICKI, TREVOR, ISABELLE &
MIRIAM DENSTAEDT

GREETERS

01 JOEL & CORINNE FRALEY
08 DON & VERA FURZE
15 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM
22 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL
29 JOE & DAWN GENTRY

COUNTERS

CHRIST CHRISTOPHERSON
MARGE WEBER

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

JOE GENTRY
WAYNE LEWIS

ALTAR GUILD

KAY ZINSLI
ELSA PHILLIPS

FLOWERS

01 LAPPAN
08 HANSEN
15
22
29

COFFEE HOUR

01 ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY
08 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ
15 VICKI, ISABELLE & MIRIAM DENSTAEDT
22 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL,
PHRAN LUDINGTON
29 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM

PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2017

ACOLYTES

05
12
19
26

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

05 SHARON ENGSTROM
12 RUBY HASKE
19 SANDY WELCH
26

USHERS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY
DON FURZE
SANDRA CHRISTOPHERSON
MATT, EVERETT & OLIVIA HASKE

GREETERS

05 GARY & KAY GROVE
12 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS
19 BRIAN & BETHANY POPOUR FAMILY
26 LINDA BATCHELOR, CHARLES SNYDER

COUNTERS

CHERYL LANG
CINDY SUSZEK

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

DALE SCHULTZ
SHERIE MCTAGGART

ALTAR GUILD

ANGIE CRITTENDEN
BARB WERLE
BETHANY POPOUR

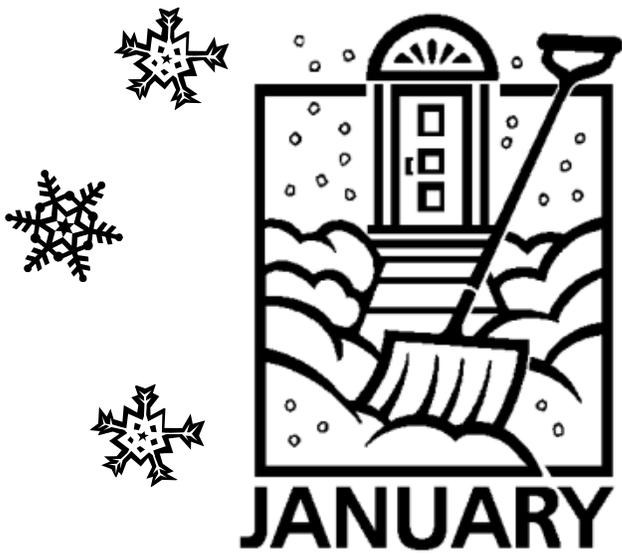
FLOWERS

05
12
19
26

COFFEE HOUR

05 BRIAN & BETHANY POPOUR
12 JACK & PATTI TUCKER
19 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK
26 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS

PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!



Birthdays



January 2
Mitchell Agius
Sharlene Kennedy

January 19
Rhonda Himes

January 5
Judy Black

January 22
Michael Lang
Elsa Phillips

January 7
Gordon Hansen

January 23
Marilyn Whitscell

January 9
Arnold Jahnke

January 24
Alan Freel
Gary Nicholls

January 10
Michael Herrmann
Elfie Jahnke
Kat Tomaszewski

January 25
Pamela Nowak

January 12
Richard Engstrom
David Hansen

January 26
Ben Jordan

January 16
Levi Konarzewski
Allison Urlaub

January 29
Madelyn Boyd

January 30
Judy Dorr
Adam Urlaub

Anniversaries of Baptism



January 1
Alec Kennedy
Jessica Timm

January 19
Sandra Malaski
Meredith Smith

January 2
Patti MacNeill

January 20
Matthew Freel

January 7
Douglas Chroninger
Olivia Haske

January 21
Kassandra McInerney
Ricky Slater

January 9
Matthew Timrick

January 24
Brody Nowak

January 15
Michael Townsend

January 25
Lisa McIntosh

January 16
Betty Dulebohn

January 30
Hannah Matzke
Erin McCourt

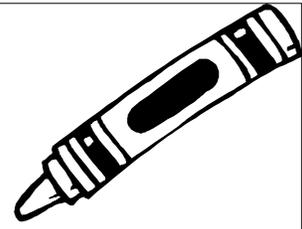
January 17
Erika Nicholls

January 31
Brent Welch
Marilyn Whitscell

January 18
Nancy Stachnik



Kid's Page



MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.

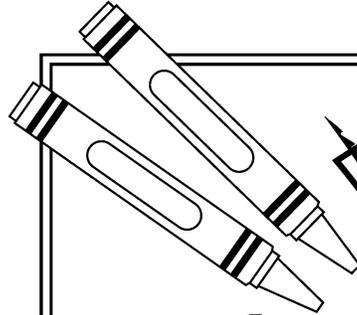


What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



PUZZLE

Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" _ _ M T H _ _ L _ G H T _ _ F

T H _ _ W _ R L D . W H _ _ V _ R

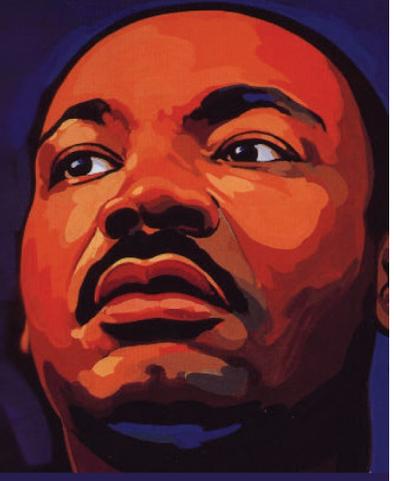
F _ L L _ W S M _ W _ L L N _ V _ R

W _ L K _ _ N D _ R K N _ S S . "

J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

Creating a beloved community



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, January 16, 2017 • Alpena Community College

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Film & Discussion led by Matt Dunckel

Alpena Community College, Besser Technical Center 122

The film is “BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE.” This PBS film asks profound questions about the state of black America—and our nation as a whole. This event is free and open to the public.

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. Chili Supper • Adults \$8.00, Students \$4.00

Alpena Community College, Lumberjack Shack

Proceeds benefit “Wash Your Coat,” a project for our community that provides free laundromat service to those in need. Tickets available at the door. The Chili Supper is sponsored by First Congregational UCC, Grace Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran, and Trinity Episcopal Churches.

6:30 p.m. Essay Winners Speak Out

Alpena Community College, Granum Theatre

Winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest for junior high and high school students will have an opportunity to read their works—“Consider the conflicts in your own community: in schools, neighborhoods, churches, and other organizations. How might you create a Beloved Community?” This event is free and open to the public.

7:30 p.m. Discussion on Creating a Beloved Community/Understanding White Privilege

Alpena Community College, Newport Center 106

How are issues like education, health care, poverty, housing, and economic status related to white privilege? This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call 989.340.1171.

Activities planned by the Alpena Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Committee with the support of Alpena Community College and the Outreach Committee of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

ON-Going Spiritual Formation Program:

A Four-Part series offered for the Sunrise Ecumenical Community
Spring Program January -April 2017 – sponsored by Living Fire Ministries of the ELCA

A Spirituality of Slowing Down: From the Microwave to the Slow Cooker



Speed is a characteristic of our times. What is missed if we hurry, keep busy, multi-task and try to get one more thing done? What happens to our body, heart & soul when we silence the noise? What do we experience when we allow our interior self to rest in the silence? What does it mean to “tend the holy” and receive the blessing of NOW? These and other questions will be part of our experiential learning and wondering as we practice the art and skill of slowing down in order to dive deep.

Alpha brainwaves: the heartbeat of God

Facilitator, Nancy Brousseau, OP will guide reflective study, deep listening & dialogue, and sacred companion conversations. These practices open us to greater capacity to listen for God’s heartbeat and a deeper contemplative presence that comes only with slowing down. Please join us. All are welcome.

- Day/time: SATURDAYs -- 10:30am-3:30pm
- Dates: January 28, February 25, March 18, April 8
- Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Cost: \$75
- Please come prepared with materials for journaling and your lunch/beverage(s)
- Coffee/hot water provided

Please mail this bottom portion with your check

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

- **To register:** Make check Payable to: **North/West Lower Michigan Synod**
- Mail **check & form** to: North/West Lower Michigan Synod, 2900 N Waverly, Lansing, MI 48906

(Please write “Alpena program” on memo line of check. Thank you)

Information: Nancy Brousseau, OP, D Min. nancybrousseau@mittensynod.org 616-560-4580
www.livingfire.info of the ELCA