

News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ♦ December 2015



Tom Lappan, Bunny Lyon Clapp, Richard Clapp, Dick Carlson, Erv Simi, Jeanette Grove, Carolynne Wegmeyer,

Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore,

Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelymyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Iris Snyder, Julie Troy, Deanna Lamb, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkowicz, Sam Brown, Jaiden, and Victoria Stoltz.

We also remember the family of

Susan Rasmussen, who died November 8 at Lutheran Home of Mercy in Ohio. She is the niece of Iris Snyder and cousin to Joelyn Rich.

Prayer List

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).

Christmas Eve



Candlelight Worship

December 24th
5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Communion offered at both services



Julefest Bake Sale

December 5

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sale items may be brought in on Friday, December 4, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and continuing through the day. We appreciate any baked or homemade goods and canned items.

We would also appreciate any craft items you make and would like to donate. If possible, please package and price your items. (We will do that for you, if you prefer.)

Please invite your family and friends to this annual event sponsored by the women of Grace. Contact Darlene Freel at 354-8866 with any ideas, and if you can help on Friday or Saturday. Thanks!

**Air-tight tins are needed for packaging. Please leave any you would like to donate in the kitchen. Thanks!



Decorating the Church



All are welcome to join us on December 12 at 9:30 a.m. for a wonderful time of fellowship as we decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.





ALL CHURCH RETREAT FOR RENEWAL AND PLANNING

***You are invited. You are needed there.
It is for everyone.***

**Saturday January 9, 2016
8:30 AM - through 3:30 PM**

The retreat is looking to discover what God is calling us to be and to do now in this time and place. How do we spread God's Word of peace, love and grace in the world? What gifts have we been given by God to do that and help build God's Kingdom?

Together we will seek to discover Grace Lutheran's specific purposes and the principles that will guide us in making decisions into the future based on God's word to us in the Bible. It is about congregational renewal and being missional for God's Kingdom. God is speaking to us about our ministry and this retreat gathers us together in listening to God and discerning the path forward.

Church Council spent 5 months studying the Rev. Dave Daubert's book *Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation* becoming familiar with a process for church renewal. This retreat is a step for the whole congregation to be involved.

Renewal is about seeing the gifts we have as a church and where God's world needs us. Where and how can we make a difference. It is about listening to God's call for love, grace, forgiveness, repentance, peace and change, then being part of it for the sake of the world. That is tough challenging work but it is people passionately engaged, growing their faith and listening to the Holy Spirit at work in us as individuals, a church and a community. It is about changed people and changed lives. It is going forward confident in God's guiding hand for us and everyone.

Each of us is a valuable member and voice in determining our future as God's church. Please join us for a day of searching scripture, praying and talking about what we believe God has in store for us. Join us as we work together to be faithful followers of Jesus in our community and world today. See you there!!!

Sign up Sheet on the Table in the Narthex

Pastor Tom

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 13, 2015 at noon, following the Breakfast Potluck

Please join us in singing Christmas carols to some of Grace Lutheran's members, who may not be able to make it to church. All singing abilities and ages are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. It is truly a heartwarming experience, which will put you in the holiday spirit. We will sing a few Christmas carols at each stop and will visit several locations.

We will leave from church at approximately noon, following the Breakfast Potluck, following the 9:30 a.m. service. We will car pool from the church. It usually takes several hours to get to everyone, so plan on an enjoyable afternoon!

We would also like to give a plate of cookies to the people, to whom we sing. If you are willing to donate a batch of homemade cookies, **please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate what kind of cookies you will bring.** Please have at church on the morning of 12/13/15.

Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate if you are willing to help with the driving (indicate how many additional people you can take besides the driver).

If you have any questions, please call Anna Lewis at 657-3324.

See you all there!!!

Large Print Worship Folder

A large print worship folder, hymns and weekly bulletin are available for anyone who would like one. Please ask the ushers for it.



Community Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 13 ~ 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
727 S. 2nd Ave., Alpena

Many people struggle with feelings of depression, loss, and sadness during the Christmas season because of the death of a loved one, a divorce, the loss of a job, a broken relationship, illness, a recent or upcoming move, or some other emotional trauma. The Blue Christmas service recognizes the burdens that people carry and reaches out to them with Scripture readings, music, prayers, and a message of hope that focuses on the comfort that God offers during the dark times of our lives by shining Christ's light into the broken places deep within us.

This service offers a sacred place for those who are grieving losses or struggling with difficulties. Participants will be invited to light a candle in memory of someone or to mark a significant loss in their lives as well as write names or situations on pieces of paper that will be placed into a basket, prayed for, and then placed on the altar.

Come experience the healing presence of God's love. Everyone is invited. For information call 356-1658.



Crafting Group Meeting

Do you have any crochet projects or knitting that you are trying to complete by Christmas? There is a small group that is going to be meeting every Saturday afternoon (1 hour before service - 4pm). We hope to enjoy some fellowship - and maybe even some prayer time. *This group will meet every Saturday until Christmas in the lounge at Grace.* If you have any questions call Vicki Denstaedt - 989-916-9258



Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Day announces Its First Youth Essay Contest

Essay entries will be divided into two groups, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

The essay prizes will be \$100 for first place and \$75 for second place for each group.

The winners will be asked to share their essays on Monday, January 18, 2016 as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day event at 6:30 p.m. at the ACC Granum Theatre. The community will be invited to share in this event.

Guidelines

- Essays for grades 6-8 must be from 300-500 words. Essays for grades 9-12 must be from 500-800 words.
- All essays should focus the writing around the theme of "Creating a beloved community." This is a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. in 1956 as he described a type of understanding and goodwill. The essay question to be addressed is "***How would you create A Beloved Community where you live?***"
- All essays must be an original work.
- All essays must be formatted as a WORD document attached to an email message. Send essays to mlkjr@alpena@gmail.com
- Entries must be clearly labeled with the author's full name, mailing address, age, grade in school and name of school attended.
- All essays must be submitted by **December 18, 2015**.
- Winners will be contacted by January 11, 2016.

Essays will be judged by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee for the Alpena Area

Building Schedule

Due to other groups using the church and our weekly cleaning schedule, we ask that anyone wishing to use the kitchen, fellowship hall, lounge or sanctuary call the office to schedule your activity and avoid conflicts. Thanks!

The Sunrise Ringers, an area-based English handbell group with members from



Alpena to Oscoda, is performing a concert for the winter season. The concert will be Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Harrisville United Methodist Church, on US 23. The music will be both sacred and contemporary. A free-will offering will be received. If you are interested in hearing this concert and need more information, please call Margaret Fox, director, at 989-736-3025.



On behalf of the churches of the Alpena Catholic Community, St. Catherine's in Ossineke, Grace Lutheran and the Free Methodist, we wish to thank you for the support that was given us as we prepared and lived through the Homeless Awareness Sleep-out Friday, October 30. We thank the Lord for the most perfect night of clear skies and not freezing temperatures. There were about thirty youth and adults that gathered for this event, beginning with dinner at the Friendship Room, a prayer service in the gym with Pastor Orth from Grace and music from the youth from the Methodist church. We were blessed to have several former homeless speak to our group about their experiences. At about seven the youth prepared their boxes in the old Kentucky Motor Lodge parking lot for the evening and began the process of holding up signs to ask for donations. At ten we retreated to our boxes as would be if we were truly homeless. We thank Fr. Joe for also sleeping in a cardboard box all night with the rest of the gang and assisting in the cleanup in the morning. During the evening we were able to collect about \$1,200.00 and with the donations from the churches before and now, we are over \$1,600.00. The money continues to come in at this time. How proud we are of our community. God bless you all.

Marsha Hoppe, Vicki Denstaedt, Cathy Macfalda, and Bob Carr

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.



Eighteen new ornaments with requests were added from the School Homeless Program. Those gifts need to be back by December 15 and will be delivered by Vicki Denstaedt.

Thirty-nine gifts will be delivered to the ACC Christmas Wish List program on December 2. Thank you for your generous participation!

Foster Closets of Michigan Alpena Branch

A new endeavor for Grace to support is the Alpena branch of Foster Closets of Michigan. This is housed in the basement of the Free Methodist Church. If you have baby items (clothes, furniture, toys, etc) or kids clothing of any size up to age 18, consider taking it to this closet. This closet helps out the foster families in Alpena. There is a big need for volunteer help sorting out donated items. Please contact Joelyn Rich at 340-0592 if you can volunteer time.

Statewide - LSSM Foster Children Program

The need continues for underwear and socks (boys and girls up to age 13). Watch for ads that often include special deals on socks and underwear.

Global

World Vision "Sponsor a Child" Program

Remember to keep Noella in your prayers!

Keeping in Touch with Our Loving Care Members

*Send our Loving Care Members a Christmas Card.
They would love to hear from you!*

Dave Chroninger
205 Potter St., Alpena, MI 49707

Vicki Cripps (Clayton Fee)
2478 Diamond Dr., Alpena, MI 49707

Betty Dulebohn
c/o Joel I. Dulebohn
6587 Pomeroy Rd.
Jackson, MI 49210

Dorothy Gentry
Turning Brook, 300 Oxbow Dr. Apt. 309
Alpena, MI 49707

Jeanette Grove
210 Wilson St. Apt. 319
Alpena, MI 49707

Harold & Jean Kissau
2694 Werth Rd., Alpena, MI 49707

Lorraine Leathead
1300 S. Third Ave., Alpena, MI 49707

Janice Matthews
Tendercare Alpena (C Wing)
301 Long Rapids Rd., Alpena, MI 49707

Erv Simi
Turning Brook, 300 Oxbow Dr. Apt. 15
Alpena, MI 49707

Iris Snyder
Turning Brook, 300 Oxbow Dr. Apt. 118
Alpena, MI 49707

Don Weise
575 Desoto Dr., Alpena, MI 49707



Frosty's Festival of Gifts

New Life Lutheran Church
 Annual Christmas Bazaar
 Saturday, December 5
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Holiday Baked Goods, Pantry Items,
 Frozen Food Items, Hand Crafted Items,
 Handmade Note Cards, Wooden Craft
 Items, Rada Cutlery, Sauerkraut and
 much more!!

Luncheon Served 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Turkey Tetrazzini, Rolls, Cran/Raspberry
 Salad and Homemade Pie!!!

New Life Lutheran Church - 25 Kirche in
 the Woods - located just south of White
 Pines National Golf Course off Hubbard
 Lake Rd. For additional information
 please call 989-736-7816.

Merry Christmas Bazaar

All Saints Catholic School -
 St. Mary's Campus, 500 N. 2nd Ave.
 Saturday, Dec. 12 ~ 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Bake Sale ~ Candy Store ~ Cookie
 Walk ~ Chinese Raffle ~ Jewelry ~
 Children's Corner

Plus a Polish Heavenly Pastry - "krusciki"
 or angel wings homemade by
 Rev. Joseph Muszkiewicz



Holiday Luncheon (ham
 with all fixings)
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Cost \$7.00

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 Director..... Berniece Lyon Clapp..... 464-7064

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President Tom Lappan 356-3718
 Vice-President Harry Kautz 595-3568
 Exec. Secretary ... Sandy Malaski 356-6248
 Treasurer..... Dennis Werblow 354-5560

WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education Jim & Kristin Berles..... 358-2768
 Worship Sharon Engstrom..... 354-5133
 Discipleship..... Joelyn Rich 340-0592
 Property Jeff & Sandy Welch..... 595-2195
 Fellowship Thelma Stevens 340-0599
 Finance Rick Engstrom 916-5963

OTHER V.I.P.s

Stewardship..... Wayne Christopherson.... 356-0430
 Youth Director Vicki Denstaedt..... 916-9258
 WELCA..... Darleen Freel 354-8866
 Dorothy Hansen 354-3563
 L.S.S.M..... Kay Grove 727-2054
 Quilters Caroline Weise 354-8060
 Dorothy Hansen 354-3563
 LARCC Eleanor Coddington 354-8766
 Kay Grove 727-2054

November 2015

Finances

GENERAL FUND.....\$ 12,622.00
 BUILDING FUND..... 297.50
 CHRISTIAN GROWTH 11.50
 OTHER 4,522.76
 TOTAL.....\$ 17,453.76

(Does not include 11/28 & 29)

Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (3) 117
 SUNDAY WORSHIP (4) 281
 TOTAL 398

(Does not include 11/28 & 29)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD DECEMBER 2015

ACOLYTES

06 KODY BERTRAND
13 JAKE SCHILLER
20 CHASE SCHILLER
24 Early
Late ALLISON URLAUB
27 ADAM URLAUB

LECTORS

06 ANNA LEWIS
13 TAYLOR DENSTAEDT
20 PATTI TUCKER
24 Early ANNA LEWIS
Late JOE GENTRY
27 BOB GREENE

GREETERS

06 VICKI, TREVOR, TAYLOR &
ISABELLE DENSTAEDT
13 ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY
20 JOEL & CORINNE FRALEY
27 DON & VERNA FURZE

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

DALE SCHULTZ
GARY NICHOLLS

FLOWERS

06
13
20
27 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

USHERS

WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON
JOEL & CORINNE FRALEY
CORKY GATES
PHRAN LUDINGTON
NIC TIMMRECK

COUNTERS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

ALTAR GUILD

GENTRY FAMILY
DENTSTAEDT FAMILY

COFFEE HOUR

06 DON & VERNA FURZE, TAMMY FURZE
13 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ
20 VICKI, TREVOR, TAYLOR &
ISABELLE DENSTAEDT
27 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL,
PHRAN LUDINGTON

***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 JANUARY 2016

ACOLYTES

03
10
17
24
31

HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

03 VICKI DENSTAEDT
10 DAWN ANDERSON
17 ANNE GENTRY
24 DONNA CZARNECKI
31 MIKE URLAUB

USHERS

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

GREETERS

03 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM
10 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL
17 JOE & DAWN GENTRY
24 GARY & KAY GROVE
31 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS

COUNTERS

DALE & PAT SCHULTZ
LINDA GAPSKE

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

ALTAR GUILD

KAY ZINSLI
ELSA PHILLIPS

FLOWERS

03
10
17
24
31

COFFEE HOUR

03 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK
10 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS
17 WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON
24 ELEANOR CODDINGTON,
DAWN ANDERSON
31 JEFF & SANDY WELCH

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December



Birthdays

December 18
Jack Tucker

December 19
Donna Czarnecki

December 20
Gracelyn Gohlke
Reed Lappan

December 21
Charlotte Werth

December 22
Shane Jaroch

December 24
Patricia Schultz
Mick Zinsli

December 25
Matthew Freel

December 26
Taylor Agius
Andrea Rich

December 27
Jessica Timm

December 29
Verna Furze
Kenda Yochum

December 30
Tom Lappan

December 31
Lee Szczesniak

Anniversaries of Baptism



December 1
Andrea Matzke

December 4
Kevin Graham

December 6
Monica Jahnke
Levi Konarzewski

December 7
Gary Grove

December 8
Jewel Lancaster
Ryan Werblow

December 9
Cindy Suszek

December 11
David Dekett

December 13
Sean Caparo
Clarence Cross

December 14
Jade Gray
Cheryl Lang

December 16
Polly Cook

December 17
Joel Gillard
Colt Gray

December 21
Gracie Gillard

December 23
Melissa Chabot
Lynn Kieliszewski

December 24
Riley Garant
Edward Jahnke
Kristina Wilson

December 26
Erin Graham

December 28
Jessica Konarzewski
Sherie McTaggart

December 30
Ethan McIntosh
Caldan Schaefer

December 31
Brent Barrow

December 1
Denise Timrick

December 2
Laurie Slater
Ashley Timmreck

December 3
Ricky Slater
Laura Thompson

December 5
Cody Suszek
Amy Townsend

December 6
Patti MacNeill

December 7
Riley Garant
Sophia Kamyszek

December 8
Hannah Kamyszek

December 9
Paul Denstaedt

December 15
Rebecca Petrilli

December 16
Stephanie Adamski
Jerry Mudge

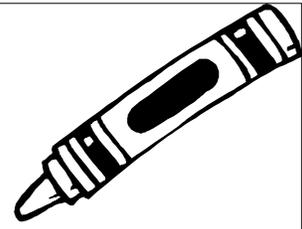


Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Joseph & Dawn Gentry
Dick & Barb Werle
3rd Mick & Kay Zinsli
4th Mike & Tracey Urlaub
7th Mike & Kim McCourt

21st Matt & Jessica Gillard
23rd Tom & Joan Brennan
24th Larry & Sandy Garant
30th Justin & Janelle Gluesing
Tom & Mary Lappan

Kid's Page

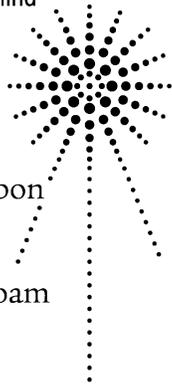


STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.

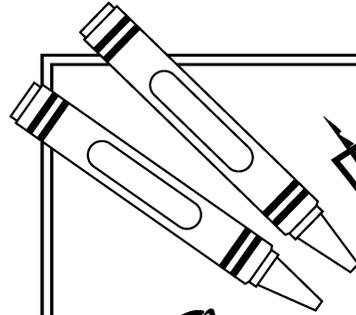
What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker



What you do:

1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.

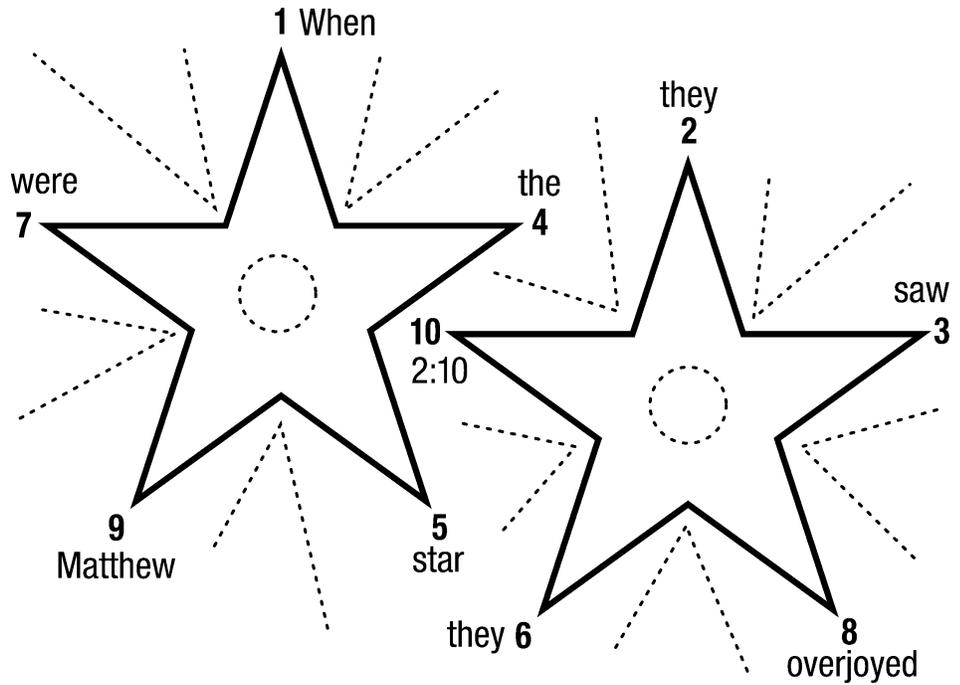


PUZZLE

The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____ , _____ , _____ .”
 _____ : _____ , NIV

Answer: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Matthew 2:10, NIV