

Grace Lutheran Newsletter

February 2019

To Seek the Lost, See the Savior & Serve the Community

Psalm 100: 1-2 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. It was covered with the names of those who had died at war. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in one of the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally with a puzzled look on his face, little Alex asked, "Which one, the 8:30 or the 10:00 service?"

I wonder if little Alex is saying something about what happened in the services of his church. The writer of the psalm starts with these words, "*Sing to the Lord, all the world! Worship the Lord with joy.*" He is excited about coming to worship. He encourages everyone to sing with all their heart. He wants us to be thrilled at the prospect of coming to worship to meet God who wants to minister to us in our needs. He wants us to worship the Lord with joy.

We come here, to Grace Lutheran Church, to meet God. God ministers to us as he speaks to us after we have confessed our sin. He announces that our sins are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The burden of guilt has been lifted from our shoulders and we are assured that God's love is still red hot for us, every though we have disappointed him so much.

We come here to meet God and he ministers to us through His Word. We hear again the words of promise, comfort, reassurances, and hope from God himself. As God ministers to us through our time here, that message is spoken to us again by God through His Word and our worship. No matter what is happening in our daily life, we are reminded that God is real; His power to help is real; we are His people; His love for us never ends.

We come here to worship God because He is worthy of our praise. A children's song says, "*God is so good, hallelujah. God is so good, he's so good to me.*"

There are times when we would have to confess that we have gone to worship more out of a sense of duty than because we wanted to. Have you noticed that when your attendance at worship has dropped off or the thought of going to worship is not filled with anticipation and joy, it's because somehow you have lost sight of the purpose of why you go to worship? Somehow you have lost sight of the goodness of God in your everyday life. For some reason, you don't see that God has a powerful effect on your life and you take all that he gives for granted. That is when you should come to worship.

Worship is a time when God ministers to you,
a time when God brings you into an intimate relationship with him through Word and Sacrament,
a time when God strengthens you to face the hurts, problems and crises of your every day life,
a time when you can praise and thank God for all His goodness,
a time when you can serve others specially through your prayers,
a time when you can respond with thanks and joy.

Yes, we do have a wonderful God. Let's listen to the psalmist when he calls out, "*Sing to the Lord, all the world! Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs!*"

Submitted by Nathan Krause

Welcome to Pastor & Mrs. Wargo



Rev. Paul Wargo is a Michigan native. He attended a Lutheran school in Detroit and graduated from Concordia - River Forest in 1963. He taught for 15 years in Lutheran schools in Michigan, the last 6 year at Lutheran High North in Macomb. In 1978 he went to the seminary to become a pastor. Pastor Wargo served a dual parish and then as Senior Pastor in Wyandotte,

Michigan. From there he returned to the Lutheran High Schools, first as a principal, then assistant to the superintendent, and finally back to the classroom as teacher of Old Testament. While teaching again, Pastor Wargo served vacancies in the Detroit area. In 2000 he returned to the parish until he retired in 2006.

Pastor Wargo and Judy have three sons, all teachers, and one daughter. They have 10 grandchildren. They live on Harsens Island, Michigan during the summer and in Lillian, Alabama during the winter. We are thankful that Pastor & Mrs. Wargo are here with us! He will be preaching through Easter and possibly a bit beyond depending on the arrival of a new senior pastor for Grace.

NEWS FROM THE LWML:

The 2019 convention is being held in Mobile, Alabama. Please check out the website: <http://www.lwml.org/2019-convention> for registration information and details on trips/tours. We would like to have a group of ladies representing Grace Lutheran Pensacola in attendance. If you are interested, please see Carol Peterson.



LWML 38th Biennial Convention Information



Date: June 20-23, 2019

Location: Mobile, Alabama

Theme: "In Praise to the LORD!"

Scripture Verse: *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.*

Declare his glory among the nations (1 Chronicles 16:23-24a).

President: Patti Ross

Convention Goal Statement: Led by God's power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations.

FROM THE ELDERS: We would like to welcome Pastor Wargo and his wife Judy to Grace. We look forward to his sermons. A reminder to stay after this Sunday's service for the reception to meet and greet the Wargos. The Elders are still working on our list but please feel free to contact an Elder if needed. We've posted pictures and names on the board in the Narthex.



LWML Convention Ingathering Project

The Emerald Coast Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has asked our congregation to participate in an ingathering project for their National Convention, specifically collecting bath towels for health kits. Thrivent Financial has awarded our congregation a \$250 grant for an action team project to purchase and collect bath towels for health kits to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief. The towels will be part of an ingathering health kit project at the LWML convention being held in Mobile, Alabama on June 20 - 23, 2019. Towel collection will be held at Grace on three Sundays in February, the 10th, 17th and 24th. A display will be set up in the Welcome Center with project information and samples. Our goal is to collect 200 or more light-weight bath-size towels, size 52" X 27", dark color recommended. We hope to be able to deliver towels collected to the LWML Zone President in March so they have time to organize and collect all the various health kit donations from all participating congregations for assembly at the National Convention. The samples on the display table are available from Walmart for \$2.74 from their 100% Cotton Mainstays Collection.



Thank you... Emily and I would like to thank our family and friends at GLC for their prayers, visits, support and media messages during my recent surgery and hospitalization. It truly shows our Savior's love in action at GLC. Love one another as I have loved you. Thank you and God Bless you all. Bruce



OWLS this month will be February 13th at 11:30. With Valentine's Day the next day, we are going to be blessed with the Barbershoppers singing to us. Come and enjoy some fellowship, music and good food. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert. Hope you will join us.



YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY SCHOOL

Where are YOU on Sunday mornings?
An invitation to all teens, ages 6th grade - high school seniors, to join our Sunday School class on the weeks opposite confirmation in the youth building. Taught by Mike Holloway.



GRACE BOOK CLUB

The Grace Book Club meets Monday, February 25 in the office conference room. We meet on the 4th Monday each month and invite everyone to join us for the book discussions.

The February reading selection is Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler and March's reading selection is Goldfinch by Donna Tartt.



VBS Early Planning: Vacation Bible School this year will again feature the theme "Grace Island". There will be a preliminary meeting in March/April announced in the coming weeks.

3-5th Grade Valentine Gathering
Sunday, Feb. 10th
11:30 - 2:00

All 3-5th grade students are invited to come have lunch, make origami Valentines and then take a trip to deliver the Valentines to residents at Your Life Assisted Living Center.

New Sunday School Class
Opening for 2-3 year Olds!
Meets in the Nursery beginning on Sunday, February 3rd at 9:00a.m.

Financial Status as of December 31, 2018

Beginning Operating Account Balance	\$39,324.45	Additional Funds on Hand	
November Income	\$64,105.39	Memorial Fund/Savings	\$208,889.22
November Expenses	<u>(\$44,517.74)</u>	New Pastor's Moving Expenses	\$21,271.15
Ending Operating Account Balance	<u>\$58,912.10</u>	LCMS Extension Fund	<u>\$52,293.55</u>
			<u>\$282,453.92</u>

The Operating Account balance of \$58912.10 includes \$14,627.02 of designated funds. This leaves \$44,285.08 in the General Fund for the normal operation of the church. Please feel free to contact Shelley Evans at sevans1805@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns or would like further details regarding these figures.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00a.m. in the community building. Everyone is welcome to attend regardless of skill level! If you would like to request a prayer shawl, please fill out a form in the welcome center or see Mrs. Jeanie Taylor.

FEBRUARY BOARD OF LAY LEADERS MEETING:

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
6:30p.m.

MEN'S MINISTRY

You are invited to join the men at Grace for "Faith, Food, & Fellowship" on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00a.m.
Next Gathering: Saturday, February 9th

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY The Wednesday night Women's Bible Study continues with the 10 week study, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, on Wednesday's at 6 p.m. in the large conference room in the office section. We are liking this study topic very much had are having good discussion each week. There is still time to join us as this study will take our group through March 13.

THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH GROUP....

The youth would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support as they prepare to make this big trip to Minneapolis in July. We had about 100 people attend the dinner/concert generously giving to the youth. About \$985.00 was given overall to help the youth with expenses.

**CHURCH WORK DAY:
FEB. 16 beginning at 8:00a.m.**

We have old cabinets to haul away, and things that need to go to a donation center and general upkeep and maintenance on the building and grounds.



Key:
CB: Community Building
S: Sanctuary
WC: Welcome Center
OC: Office Conference Room
FH: Fellowship Hall



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm AA CB	2 7:00pm Moore GLC
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Svc. *Reception to welcome the Waggos to follow worship service *Care dog demonstration	4 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 6:45pm Stephens Ministry SC 7pm AA CB	5 8-9:30a.m. Organ Practice S 6pm BSF Men WC/S 6:30pm Call Committee OC	6 9am Adult Bible Study CB 2:30-4:00p.m. Recital- Jacob (S) 5pm Praise Band Practice S 6pm Choir Practice S 6pm Women's Bible Study	7 10:30am Badpads CB 6pm BSF Ladies WC/S/SC	8 7pm AA CB	9 8:00am Mens Breakfast
10 Stephen Ministry Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Svc. 11:30-2:00p.m. 3-5th Valentine Lunch/Trip 11-2:00pm Camp Dixie Dinner	11 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 7pm AA CB	12 8-9:30a.m. Organ Practice S 6pm BSF Men WC/S 6:30pm Call Committee OC 6:30pm BLL	13 9am Adult Bible Study CB 2:30-4:00p.m. Recital- Jacob (S) 5pm Praise Band Practice S 6pm Choir Practice S 6pm Women's Bible Study OC	14 10:30am Badpads CB 6pm BSF Ladies WC/S/SC	15 7pm AA CB	16 8-12 Church Work Day
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Svc.	18 President's Day Eggs Closed 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 7pm AA CB	19 8-9:30a.m. Organ Practice S 6pm BSF Men WC/S 6:30pm Call Committee OC	20 9am Adult Bible Study CB 5pm Praise Band Practice S 6pm Choir Practice S 6pm Women's Bible Study OC	21 10:30am Badpads CB 6pm BSF Ladies WC/S/SC	22 7pm AA CB	23 10:00a.m. Prayer Shawl CB
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Svc.	25 10:00a.m. Book Club OC 5:30 Christian Yoga FH 7pm AA CB	26 8-9:30a.m. Organ Practice S 6pm BSF Men WC/S 6:30pm Call Committee OC	27 9am Adult Bible Study CB 5pm Praise Band Practice S 6pm Choir Practice S 6pm Women's Bible Study OC	28 10:30am Badpads CB 6pm BSF Ladies WC/S/SC		*Calendars are changing constantly. Please check bulletins and weekly emails for most current event listings.

Stephen Ministry Sunday

February 10, 2019

Stephen Ministers: The After People: People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"

One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People* Stephen Ministers are there:

- *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get
- *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- *after* the funeral, when everyone has let and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away, and the house suddenly seems empty.
- *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.



Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.



Serving at Grace



John Brooks-Youth Director youthministry@gracepensacola.org
Allison Daseler-Sunday School Director sundayschooldirector@gracepensacola.org

Office Staff:

Nathan Krause-Ministry Assistant graceprayers@bellsouth.net
Sherri Adkisson-Office Manager grace@gracepensacola.org
Teresa Parish-Finance Assistant gracefinance@bellsouth.net
Rich Trampe-Office Volunteer
Karen Ducker-Facilities

Board of Lay Leaders:

Dan Klug	President	Jon Navarro	Vice President
Virginia Bunde	Treasurer	Karin Moore	Secretary
Mike Weis	At Large Member	Celeste Scott	At Large Member

bill@gracepensacola.org
Head Elder: Bruce Dietly

Amazing Grace Preschool:

Amy Onkka-Director graceprek@bellsouth.net
Amazing Grace Preschool Board:
Kevin Hammer Virginia Polk Pam Trampe
Allison Daseler Terry Weis Alan Sabanosh

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday
9:00a.m.—2:00p.m.

850-476-5667—Office Phone

Website:

www.gracepensacola.org

MAINTENANCE & UPKEEP:



To report maintenance issues, damages, or need help with a project around the church, please fill out a Work Order/Request form. Copies are located in the main office and in the welcome center. You can also email requests to grace@gracepensacola.org