

The Voice

The Newsletter for:
Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church &
Grace Community Church

Grace Community to Hold Visioning Meeting

Grace Community will hold a Visioning Meeting with our friend, *Pastor Vicki Taylor*, Assistant to the Bishop, February 26, 2012.

After The Grace Community worship we are planning to continue our planning for the future. How can the ministries of Grace reflect the needs of the community? What are your hopes and dreams? We will be using some of the brainstorming ideas from our first meeting with Pastor Vicki and see what we can do to fulfill our calling as a congregation, living in GRACE.

As a congregation we realize that we are not bound by “We have never done it that way before,” but we also need help to dream what is possible. We need *your help* ... *everyone* ... *all ages* ... each of us has special gifts and special ways to look at things. So please plan to be there and give your ideas.



Lenten Schedule 2012

This year we will once again join the community churches to walk to the Cross of Jesus Christ during the Lenten Season.

Each week will have the same schedule with Soup and Sandwich at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. And yet, each week will be different as each pastor will lead a different theme during the season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Assembly of God, Bigfork

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

February 29, 2012 Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, Bigfork

March 7, 2012 *Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church, Effie*

March 14, 2012 Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, Bigfork

March 21, 2012 First Presbyterian Church, Bigfork

March 28, 2012 *Grace Community Church, Bigfork*

Rev. Ry's Ritings...

We receive challenges all the time. Recently "*The Lutheran*" offered a challenging approach to the Lenten Season which could transform the way we look at this powerful time of the year. The article was written by Lynne Morrow, a pastor in Illinois. It is a new look at what we can add rather than give up for Lent.

A busy family can add the following without adding stress.

1. Pray together as a family ... designate a time to celebrate where each of you saw God today.
2. Take time for one Family Night each week ... many families do this already, but we sometimes fall short, and forget to take time together. Schedule this time
3. Collect coins during Lent. You may wish to use the Lenten coin folders that will be available in the Narthex.
4. Write one letter each week as a family to someone you love and have everybody sign it and send it. (Not into snail mail? ... Skype someone each week.)
5. Do a service project together at church ... usher together, read the Lessons as a family together, ask me how you could help. There are many ways to serve God.

6. Begin planning a garden outside ... maybe think about how we could have a "community garden" together and give the harvest to the Food Shelf.

7. Visit somebody in the community and listen to the stories they have to share about the church and what they did when they were young.

8. Read together ... the Bible has wonderful stories in Genesis or the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) or read "*The Chronicles of Narnia*."

9. Go to the Edge Center and check out the arts in the front foyer. Go to an event together at The Edge and discuss what you learned.

10. Keep a family journal and write down what you did together. This could become a yearly event and a family keepsake for the rest of your life.

Yes, this is a challenge, but a fun challenge that could enrich all of our families, and it could be something that remains a part of our life beyond Lent and Easter.

God bless you,
Pastor Ryan

Biblical Texts for Sundays coming up...

February 5 Romans 1:16-18, Psalm 73:21-28, Luke 4:14-21

February 19 Romans 3:21-26, Psalm 75:1-7, Luke 5:1-11

February 12 Romans 3:19-20, Psalm 74:10-17, Luke 4:21-30

February 26 Romans 3:27-31, Psalm 77:11-15, Luke 20:1-19

Memorials

We have had several memorials for The Grace Community lately ... given in memory of our friends: Lillian Holt, Pearl Harwood & Dorrine Friendshuh. God bless the memory of these loving saints in Christ. Thank you for these gifts to the church.

We had a short memorial service for Dorrine in January. Since her public memorial service was held at Oak Grove Lutheran in the Cities, I share her obituary with all. Dorrine E. Friendshuh, age

87 of Bigfork, died on Christmas Eve ... we will all miss her dearly. She was a member of Grace Community Church. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Nicholas. She was a loving mother to Sherry Anderson, Bonnie Oien, Jane (Melvin Harding) Friendshuh, Debbie Benson and grandmother to five and a great-grandmother to Nicole Fracisco-Oien.

February Birthdays

2 Gene Rajala
3 Naomi Roberts
4 Kathy Olsen
4 Bill Swanson
5 Stacey Harnden
5 Abe Klamm
6 Nicholas Ostendorf
8 Linda Jacobson
8 Caden Kallinen
10 Kermit Linder
12 Ricky Cormican
12 John Van Nyhuis
13 Virginia Bloch
13 Randy Bloch
14 John Jacobson
14 Jade Nei
16 Tom Evensen
16 Carol Van Nyhuis
17 Howard Cook III
19 Stacy Gallus
23 Amy Youngkin
23 Makayla Aakhus
24 Kenneth Newman
24 Cole Youngkin
26 Nick Porter
26 Tim Bloch
27 Bob Salmi
27 Harvey Moland
28 Corrine Hubbard

Grace Community Service Coffee

Feb 5 LeeAnn Baker & Zona Kinn
Feb 12 Linda Buckingham & LaVonne K.
Feb 19 Donna Loosbrock & Kyle Buckingham
Feb 26 Leslie Harnden & Marie Kinn

Grace Community Church Financial Report

Checkbook balance 11-30-2011: \$5,563.88
Total Monthly Income \$11,588.65
Total Monthly Expense \$15,769.56
Checkbook Balance 12-31-2011 \$1,382.97

Effie Fredheim Service Coffee

Feb 5 John & Carol VanNyhuis
Feb 12 Diane Mitchell & Marlene Sethney
Feb 19 Tom & Janice Evensen
Feb 26 Ron & Moriah Nei

February Anniversaries

No February Anniversaries.

Education Opportunities

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY

ADULT BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY EVERY FRIDAY, NOON TO 1 P.M.

Sunday School is held at both churches ... We gather as one at 8:30 at Effie for worship and 10:15 at Grace for worship ... shortly after worship starts, Pastor Ryan dismisses the young people for Sunday School.

This is a good opportunity to once again publicly thank Nikki Scanlon for her leadership at Effie and Joey Jacobson and Marie Kinn for their leadership at Grace. There are many others who step in to make our Sunday Schools possible, thank you all!

Our 3-B Study is going each Friday (*Brown Bag Bible Study*). The 3-B study meets every Friday at noon at The Grace Community. Men and women come together to study Luke and Acts and discuss the impact of Jesus on our lives. Bring your Bibles, a brown bag lunch and all your friends. Everyone in the community is welcome.

Grace Community Church (GCC) Special Council Meeting

A special meeting of the GCC was held January 15, 2012. Laurel, LaVonne & Del were absent and Vice Pres. Carol led the meeting. Linda Gross also was absent from part of the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to hire a new Parish Secretary, review the 2012 budget and confirm the slate of officers for 2012.

After discussion LeeAnn made a motion, with a second from Al, to hire Linda Gross as Parish Sec. Motion carried. She will also continue as GCC custodian.

Treasurer Zona led the discussion of the budget. A motion by Al, seconded by Linda, to approve

the budget and present it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, Jan. 29. Motion passed.

The slate of officers for 2012 are as follows:

President- Al Gustaveson,
V. President- Carol Warren,
Secretary- Angie Storlie,
Treasurer- Judi Nixon,

Members-at-Large- Del Knepfelkamp, Leslie Harnden, Bill Loosbrock.

Motion by Linda, second Zona, to adjourn; motion carried.

Submitted by Laura Rajala, Council Secretary

Grace Community Church (GCC) January 8, 2012 Council Meeting

GCC Council met January 8, 2012 with all members present. LeeAnn Baker and Bob Duda were also present. Laurel gave devotions. The December minutes and treasurer's reports were accepted as printed in the Voice.

December 2011 INCOME & EXPENSE:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance 11-30-2011 | \$ 5,563.88 |
| Income | \$11,588.65 |
| Expenses | \$15,769.56 |
| Balance 12-31-2011 | \$ 1,382.97 |

W/ELCA Report:Ten women & Pastor Ryan met on January 4, 2012. Donations were given as follows: \$1000 to GCC building fund, \$60 to GCC in memory of Lil Holt, Pearl Harwood & Dorrine Friendshuh, \$50 to the Over 50 Club, \$100 to GCC Sunday school. New officers installed were LeeAnn Baker, Pres.; Taunya Rautio, Vice Pres.; Kay Hubbard Sec; Karen Wetzel Treas. There was discussion about having a dinner after church services on Feb. 19. Quilting will start on Jan. 9.

WORSHIP Team Report: Celebration of Grace Band will be practicing another service. Kristie Gustafson is contacting pastors for Pulpit Supply in 2012. Special events coming up

include Sub Sandwich Sales, Dinner by W/ELCA on Feb 19.

PASTOR Report: Parish Sec. Lori Thaxton has resigned & will leave by the end of Feb. Constitution changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. A new computer will be purchased for the Parish secretary. The Lent service on March 28 will be at GCC. Ben & Barb Beyer have donated a small altar to our church.

BUSINESS: Bob Duda talked of getting the congregation involved in projects, such as Facebook, with appeal to different age groups. A Day Care/Nursery would be nice to have. Linda Gross was given permission to look into having a banner rack made by the school shop class.

2012 Slate of Officers: President-Al Gustaveson; V. President-Carol Warren; Secretary-Angie Storlie; Treasurer-Judi Nixon; Members at Large-Linda Gross, Del Knepfelkamp, Bill Loosbrock.

Next Council meets February 12, Al will have devotions.

Submitted by Laura Rajala, Council Secretary

GRACE COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-JANUARY 29, 2012

Those in attendance included: Rev. Ryan Aarestad, Mary Aarestad, Laurel Laudert, Zona Kinn, Laura Rajala, Judi Nixon, Howard Cook, Viola Cook, Bill Loosbrock, Donna Loosbrock, LaVonne Knepelkamp, Del Knepelkamp, Bob Duda, Coleen Nyberg-Duda, Linda Gross, Angie Storlie, Marie Dorr, Delma Johnston, Midge Carlson, Mae Ondracek, Kay Hubbard, Don Hubbard, Lorna Pula, Esther Johnson, Gordon Johnson, Sharon Karels, Terri Peterson, Lillian Miller, LeeAnn Baker, Karen Wetzal, Al Gustaveson, Connie Lovdahl, Carol Warren, Katherine Olsen, Ron Olsen, Linda Buckingham, Nate Buckingham, Taunya Rautio, Rudy Rautio.

President Laurel called the meeting to order at 11 AM at G.C.C. Pastor Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer. **The minutes from 2011 were approved** by a motion by Howard, second by Del, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Zona was applauded for the many hours she has spent on her treasurer's job over the years. The treasurer's report was approved by a motion by LaVonne, second by Taunya, motion carried. The 2012 budget was explained by Zona and discussed. Motion made to approve the 2012 budget by Al, second by Bill, motion carried.

President Laurel gave a verbal report. A copy of her report is attached.

Slate of Officers for 2012 was presented: President Al Gustaveson, Vice President Carol Warren (one year term), Secretary Angie Storlie, Treasurer Judi Nixon, 3 Members at Large-William Loosbrock, Delbert Knepelkamp, Leslie Harnden, Financial Secretaries-Terri Peterson, LeeAnn Baker & alternate Sandy Thoennes. No nominations received from the floor. Howard moved we accept the slate as stated, second by Donna, motion carried.

Old/New Business:

LaVonne called attention to the W/ELCA report and her thanks to the men who were a big help this last year in doing many jobs to get the church building looking as it does today.

Constitutional Change-Our official name is Grace Community Church-GCC. Motion by Zona, second by Carol, to accept this name, motion carried. This will be voted on again at the next GCC congregational meeting.

Pastor Ryan gave a short report, "Grace C.C. is thriving because of our People of God working together." He encouraged all of us to come Feb. 26; Pastor Vicky Taylor will be here for a "visioning" meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Del; second by Howard. Meeting adjourned & the table Grace was sung.

Submitted by Laura Rajala, Council Secretary

Attachment: 2011 Council President Report for 2012 Meeting

Think back to last January...when we were meeting at the Presbyterian Church, watching and waiting for this structure to take shape. All the planning and prayers, the challenges and decisions, making a dream become reality. God puts dreams and desires in us and creates opportunities to make things happen. God, through His Holy Spirit, has given us each the power to transform the world around us. By the Grace of God, this property was transformed. He helped us realize a dream. It's God within us that makes things happen. Now it's up to us to continue to make things happen here at Grace Community Church as well as in our community...

I listen to Psalm 99.5, the Christian radio station out of International Falls. Recently, two specific programs really spoke to me and I'll share some of the messages from Chip Ingram and Gus Booth.

Continued on page 6

Grace Community Annual Meeting Minutes Continued...

Council President's Annual Report:

1. We need to continue to be faithful in listening to God as He shares His plans for this structure and for us. As we've done the things He's had us do, we are preparing for the extra ordinary things He is leading us to do. How wonderfully He has changed this piece of ground, and changed us at the same time. We need to draw closer to God.

2. We need to look through Jesus' eyes. God's Holy Spirit lives in us and looking through Jesus' eyes opens us to see the deep and sometimes desperate needs of others. We should never assume the way it is, is the way it needs to be or the way it always will be. The thing that makes the difference is Christ in you; Looking at people the way Jesus looks at them can transform them as well as changing you.

3. We need to act on our good impulses. As Jesus gave His disciples power as He sent them out into the world, so He makes unlimited power available to us. The Holy Spirit is still prompting people to do the right thing. Act on your good impulses and you will be God's presence in someone else's life.

So, with all that said, and with this wonderful structure that God has provided for us, listen up because what you're about to hear won't make sense unless you really listen...

You should NOT go to church.

Going to church does not make you a Christian. Just like going to the Dairy Queen does not make you an ice cream cone. As a matter of fact, no one can even go to church. You can't drive there; church is not a place to visit, or a destination to find. That is true because the church is not a building. You and I are the church. So instead of going to church, we bring church. We should believe, "Wherever I go the church goes, because I am the church" (or at least part of it).

If someone asks you if you are a church-goer even if you are, you should say, "No." You

should answer the question by saying, "I'm a church-bringer,"

Bringing church is the key to being the church. Going to church is like window-shopping. It doesn't really satisfy. If, however, you are a church-bringer you will be satisfied.

The difference between church-goer and church-bringer is:

A church-goer is not really that involved.

But a church-bringer is involved.

A church-goer is an attendee.

A church-bringer is a contributor.

A church-goer comes for the show.

A church-bringer is the show.

A church-goer is selfish.

A church-bringer is selfless.

A church-goer wears a bib and says, "Feed me."

A church-bringer wears an apron and says, "Let me feed you."

Think of the Dead Sea...all the water flowing into it from the River Jordan never flows beyond its shore; the water flows in but doesn't flow out. The Dead Sea is like a church goer. On the other hand, the River Jordan flows through the countryside, flowing into and feeding the Dead Sea. This is like a church bringer...feeding others and constantly flowing.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as President of the Grace Community Church-GCC Council. I have enjoyed working with the extra ordinary Council members and the members of this body of Christ. Let us continue to listen for God's direction. Let us remember to Draw closer to God; Look through Jesus' eyes & Act on our good impulses. Because being the church and bringing the church continues to be our goal and our challenge.

God Bless us all.

Laurel Laudert, Grace Community Church-GCC Council President

Memorials

A memorial was given to Effie in memory of Gerald Gilbert.

God bless the memory of this loving saint in Christ. Thank you for this gift to the church.

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church Council January 19, 2012

Present: Meryl Ostendorf, Marsha Root, Sandy Allen, Neil Allen, Darrel Powell, Dora Powell and Mary Rahier. Devotions were given by Sandy.

Secretary Report was read from the December meeting; Motion to approve by Meryl; seconded by Dora.

Treasurer's Report:

Income: \$6,072.88

Expenses: \$4,326.36

Cash on hand: \$4,451.59

Old Business:

- ◆ Thank you note was received from the "Over

50 Club."

- ◆ There will be a potluck brunch after the annual meeting Feb 29th.
- ◆ Jim Aakhus will be the nominee for Trustee; this is a 3-year term.

New Business:

Received a form from the post office, Meryl will take care of this, also got a statement from the insurance company. This will be \$1330.00 for this year.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by, Marsha Root

Effie Fredheim Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 29, 2012

President Sandy called the meeting to order. Pastor Ryan led in devotions.

Karen Scanlon made a motion to accept the minutes for the 1/23/11 annual meeting as read, seconded by John VanNyhuis.

Treasurer's report was presented. Motion to accept by Betty Aakhus and seconded by Carol VanNyhuis. **Spending plan for 2012** motion to approve by Darrell Powell; seconded by Helen Oestreich.

Slate of officers by nomination was presented as follows:

President: Julie Aakhus

Vice President: Greta Drewlow

Secretary: John VanNyhuis

Treasurer: Neil Allen

Deacon: Carol VanNyhuis

Trustee: Jim Aakhus

Sandy asked for nominations from the floor: none received. **Motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by Marsha Root;** seconded by Bud Drewlow. Nominations closed. Nominations accepted.

New Business: Vacation Bible School will be held again this year in Effie.

Pastor's Report: Thanked the congregation for another good year.

Darrell Powell made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sue Larson

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Marsha Root, Secretary

NEWS & NOTES

GCC HUNGER/WATER PROJECT

As we pass our wooden bowls on each month's second Sunday, Consider this: Over one billion people lack access to clean drinking water. And remember...."*Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple--Truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.*" - Matthew 10:42 "*Go and do likewise.*"-Luke 10:37 **(On our first Sunday we collected \$142 towards our twelve month goal of \$2500 for the drilling of a new well!)**

THANK YOU

A BIG "***Thank You***" to everyone for making my nine years as parish secretary such a fun learning experience. I am blessed to have come to know everyone from Effie Fredheim Lutheran & Grace Community Churches. I know that Linda Gross will do a great job as she learns the ropes. God Bless all of you as you continue your ministries in Bigfork, Effie & the surrounding areas. -Lori Thaxton

AARP DRIVING LESSONS

Dale Fuhrman is the instructor of the AARP Safety Class scheduled to be at The Grace Community on Thursday, February 9th. The class will run from 4-8 p.m. Watch for other details in other publications. We will be taking registrations at the Parish Office (218) 743-3368.

VALENTINE'S DINNER

Sunday, February 19, 2012 following Worship Service at Grace Community. Bring your Sweetie, family and friends to the Worship Service on Feb. 19 and plan to stay afterward for a wonderful "home-cooked" meal of meatloaf, potatoes, vegetables, salad and buns, followed by bars and coffee. We appreciate your signing up in the narthex on the bulletin board so we know how many people to plan for. This will be a "free-will offering" dinner. We look forward to enjoying a meal and fellowship with you!

YOUTH BOOTH

The youth are working to raise funds for the 2012 Synod Servant Journey to New Orleans. Six people in our parish are attending this event in July. One of the ways you can support this event is to buy Sub Sandwiches which will be available on the day of the Super Bowl, February 5th. Order forms are available in the newsletter, online at the website, **or in the narthex of both churches!** **Please turn these in by Monday, January 30th.** Don't forget to include your payment with the order form! The sandwiches will be available at the churches on the morning of February 5th, or we will also make other arrangements for delivery if needed. These sandwiches cost \$7.50.

There are several other Youth Fundraisers at the Bigfork High School Commons during games. The fundraisers will be February 6th from 4-7 p.m.-\$4 Sloppy Joes; February 21st from 4-7 p.m.-\$3.50 Sloppy Nachos; February 17th from 4-7 p.m.-Bucket Raffle. For more information contact Deb Porter at 218-244-1623: On February 11th there will be a Father/Daughter/Grandpa/Granddaughter Dinner & Dance at Grace Community Church from 4-7 p.m. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner for everyone with the Dance following dinner for fathers/daughters. Tickets are \$20. A photographer will be available for pictures. Please RSVP to Heather Lovdahl @ 218-244-0698. **All of the funds will go to the youth.**