

Grace Lutheran Church
is a caring community
of disciples, proclaiming
the good news of
Jesus Christ.

Grace Notes

March 2018

Greetings in Christ to my sisters and brothers of Grace!

Lent has taken hold. As we reflect on our brokenness and need for healing, let this season be a time of gentleness and care. Our sin is not a cause for condemnation, but a reason for tears and giving. When I recognize my own sin, the Holy Spirit transforms that recognition into the power to make another sister or brother whole by sharing with them my own need for grace. We are not a Church of the righteous but a Church of sinners. Through our baptism into Jesus we are given the gift of the Spirit who makes us holy.

Right now, we are in the midst of a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of stewardship. Each of us has gifts to build up the community. Some of us make soup, some read lessons at the church service, others volunteer to help out with the kids during the after school program. It is not important how you give to the community, as long as you are making this community your own. Grace belongs to each of us. If you have something you feel called to, let us know and we will try to incorporate your vision into who we are as a church. The Holy Spirit is alive in each of our hearts.

Thrivent, by the way, has let me know that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in our area waiting to be designated for charities chosen by Thrivent members. The deadline to mark those dollars for giving is March 31st. If you are a Thrivent member, make sure you designate the free money Thrivent has given you for donation to your favorite charitable cause. And please think of Grace in your charitable planning. (If you are not familiar with the charitable giving programs Thrivent has available, talk to me or your local Thrivent representatives for more information.)

The first meeting on five practices of the early Church will be held on Saturday, March 17th from 10:00am to 12noon. We will have a reconciliation service to begin, and then we will spend some time looking at reconciliation and the power of binding and loosing Jesus gave to His Church. My hope is that we will grow in our sense of the depth of the forgiveness our Father has granted us as well as increase our capacity to heal and forgive others.

Today, I visited with Karl and Carolyn Rundman in Marquette. Karl is doing wonderfully. He is staying at the hospital a few extra days for rehabilitation. We are all grateful that Karl is being healed and we look forward to having him with us again. Continue to pray for Karl and Carolyn and hold their family with love in your thoughts.

As always, I am here for you and want to hear from you. Drop by my office, grab me after church or stop me at Walmart... I look forward to talking with you.

With faith and hope and love,
Micah

From The Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It used to be that Palm Sunday was a day of celebration. The better part of the worship service was hosannas and palm branches waving. Children and adults looked forward to this upbeat worship, especially after 40 days of somber, penitential Lent. And the service acted as a sort of reprieve, before the intensity of Holy Week began.

But then, attendance during the Great Three Days began to decline. Maybe Holy Week was too intense for some. Maybe it was too sad. Maybe these three days somehow were no longer given the focus and attention due them as the central worship of our faith.

Whatever the reason, missing Holy Week meant that folks were experiencing the “happy happy joy joy” of Palm Sunday and then leaping over Holy Week to the “happy happy joy joy” of Easter Sunday. They would completely skip over death, and suffering, and sadness. They would miss the betrayal, the last supper, the crucifixion of Jesus. And I guess, who can blame folks for wanting to avoid all that grim darkness. We would much rather celebrate and be joyful than sad and somber.

But worship that only considers the happy hosannas and the empty tomb misses the whole point of Christ on the cross and the sin of the world that put him there. There is value in looking at the death of Jesus, in pondering his suffering, and in dwelling on his last hours of life.

Because you know and I know that life is not all “happy happy joy joy.” To worship in Lent, and to dive in to Holy Week is to admit the truth to ourselves, no matter how unpleasant – that life can be hard, and death can be harder. We live in the shadow and fear of death. We suffer. We sin. We die. And we need saving.

So I am glad that our Lutheran tradition dwells in the darkness, if only for a little while. It is good that our worship reflects the truth of life and the truth of our faith. Constant joy is not the way things are. And worship that only celebrates feeling good, soon seems hollow, no matter how upbeat the music.

So during Lent and Holy Week we take the time to consider the suffering and death of Jesus. During these 40 days, we sit in the knowledge of our sinfulness and consider our need for God. And we take this time, not so that we feel condemned and sad, but because death is the only way to new life.

Jumping from Palm Sunday to Easter is like jumping from fall to spring with no winter. Fall and winter are necessary before spring can come. And Jesus must suffer death before he can rise again. There is no resurrection without the crucifixion. There is no rising without dying. Easter joy is real when we admit that death is real. We receive the freedom of forgiveness with relief and gladness if first we understand our need for God’s grace.

So Palm Sunday is now Passion Sunday and our hosannas quickly fade. During Holy Week, we will pause in Jesus’ final hours and give them their due. In our Lutheran tradition there is no escaping the sacrifice and death of Christ. But then neither do we miss the new life of resurrection and the fullness of Easter joy... in this life, nor in the life to come.

~Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan



Kiitos Paljon



Thank you to Dave Aro for his time of serving on the council.

Notes from the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

Birthdays

Nancy Harris 4

Janet Kokko 7

Dave Aro 7

Billy Griggs 12

Justin Nicholas 14

Sherri Lystila 21

Emma Juntunen 21

Susan Slinde 22

Heather Aro 23

Chris Bohjanen 25

Sam Jenkins 25

Anniversaries

Sam and Joleen Jenkins 20

Bruce and Sandy Maki 25

GAMES AT GRACE

Join us for games every Thursday starting at 12:30pm, with a light lunch, followed by games until 3:00pm.

This event is open to all – anyone from the community is invited.



Quilters

Wednesday,
Mar. 7th & 21st

Knit, Pray, Crochet

Every Tuesday,
1:00pm
All are welcome.

Lenten Service and Soup Supper Schedule

Mar. 7th ~ Soup supper by
Christian Education

Mar. 14th ~ Soup supper by
Council and LRVRT

Mar. 21st ~ Soup supper by
Hospitality & Mutual Ministry

If anyone would like to help by donating
bread or milk, please sign up in the
narthex.

March 25th Palm Sunday
Service at Grace Lutheran 11:00am

March 29th Maundy Thursday
Service at Grace Lutheran 6:30pm

March 30th Good Friday
Service at First Lutheran 6:00pm

March 31st Saturday Vigil
Service at Grace Lutheran 6:30pm

April 1st Easter
Service at Grace Lutheran 11:00am

March Worship Text

Sunday, March 4
John 2:13-22
The cleansing of
the temple

Sunday, March 11
John 3:14-21
The lifting up of
the Son of Man

Sunday, March 18
John 12:20-33
The grain of wheat
dying in the earth

Sunday, March 25
Mark 14:1-15:47
The passion and
death of Jesus



Lutheran Dictionary

by: Walter Lieder
Concordia Publishing House
Saint Louis, Missouri

Augsburg Confession: The first specifically Lutheran Confession (1530). It contains 21 articles of faith and 7 articles on abuses.

Disciple: One who follows the teachings of another; thus every true Christian is a disciple of Christ. Originally, one of the twelve Apostles (Matt. 10:1-4).

Fasting: Abstaining from food, or limiting one's food, especially as a religious observance; not commanded in the New Testament.

Golden Rule: "Do to others as thou wouldst be done by." Cp. Matt. 7:12.

Lent: 1. The 46-day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter. If all Sundays are excluded, which have never been days of fasting, there are 40 days of Lent.

NGLS 2018 World Hunger Quarters

This year the Synod World Hunger Committee is sponsoring a quilt making. All NGLS congregations are taking part in making a quilt block which will represent their church. The finished quilt will hang in the Synod Office in celebration of our congregations' efforts to address issues of hunger.

Each week as we raise funds for World Hunger we are to add more mosaic tiles to our quilt square.

Let us work together so we can get our quilt square finished by April 1st, 2018.

**Birthday and Anniversary
Fellowship on the
1st Sunday of the month**

We are in need of volunteers to make a large
cake (or cupcakes) for fellowship.
We have a large pan for you to use if needed.
You would not be obligated to serve or clean up.

If you'd like to make a cake,
please sign up in the narthex. Thank You!



Grace
Lutheran is a
member
of the
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
in America.

**Pastoral Care
and Visits**

If you need pastoral care or
would like to schedule
a visit please
call Vicar Micah
at 906-281-9558.
You may also email
Vicar Micah at
vicar@gracesoutherange.com

Our Hearts to Their Homes

Nancy Harris at home
Susan Koskela at home
Delores Paavola at home
Elaine Aro at Gardenview
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs
Jan Mikkola at the Bluffs
Amanda Mountjoy at home
Laurel Johnson at Lighthouse
Bill & Sandra Mannisto at home

Gentle Reminder

The office and financial staff do not work on
Sunday mornings. Thanks for respecting their
worship time with their families.

Service Workers for March

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Counters	Pam Long Jeanine Baillod	Karen Johnson Sue Slinde	Angela Harju Chris Davis	Marianne Bohjanen Heather Aro
Fellowship	Birthday/Anniversary Cake Fellowship	None	Stewardship Fellowship	None (Palm Sunday)
Ushers	Pam Long	Don and Sally Rule	Bridgers family	Tom and Cheryl Stimac
Acolyte & Bell Ringer	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth
Communion Assistant	Pam Long	Jeanine Baillod	Katie Bridgers	Cheryl Stimac
Reader				
Sunday School	Janet Kokko	Heather Aro	Janet Kokko	Chris DeForge

CALLING ALL ADULTS! A NEW SOCIAL GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED!

We will meet regularly for outings, get together, and perhaps even plan a trip here and there. If you feel you're a young adult (or young at heart!) and you want to get together with others in the community, this group is for you! Open to all in the community.

**Our first meeting will be
Sunday, March 18th
5pm to 8pm.
Grace Lutheran Church**

A sloppy joe supper with all the fixings will be served. After supper there will be a game night. Feel free to invite your friends, loved ones and community members.

February Council Highlights

Sayen's Office Planning Group submitted a proposal for a new printer, which we do not need.

Vicar Micah stated his goals to get to know everyone at Grace and learn about the community. He is also taking a close look at the profile that the call committee put together. He will also be working with the Worship & Music Committee for the Maundy Thursday service and Easter Vigil.

The "Teaching Committee" members that will be meeting/working with Micah directly are Jan Maierle and Janet Kokko. Micah will ask Julie Belew to contact them to establish their responsibilities.

Katie will talk to Karl about the need for one more Synod delegate and one more Conference delegate and also find out who the Nominating Committee has already approached.

Pam nominated Cheryl for President, and Joe seconded the motion. Joe volunteered for Vice President and Heather volunteered for Secretary. There were no objections.

Pam moved that Cheryl Stimac remain Financial Secretary and Laurie Aho remain Treasurer. Joe seconded the motion and all approved.

We reviewed and revised the committee lists. We will finish updating them when all the members are complete.

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Patty Savola	281-5100
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship	Carolyn Rundman	482-6344
Ushers	Pam Long	482-4065
Greeters	Heather Aro	482-0341
Ride Coordinator	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Office Volunteers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Grace Lutheran Council

Cheryl Stimac (President)	281-7909
Joe DeForge (Vice President)	482-8068
Laurie Aho (Treasurer)	482-0817
Vicar Micah Cavaleri	281-9558
Heather Aro (Secretary)	482-0341
Chris Bohjanen (482-8459)	

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Tom Stimac 281-7910 Joe DeForge 482-8068
 Heather Aro 482-0341 Katie Bridgers 482-2011

Pam Long (482-4065)
 Janet Kokko (482-2368)
 Jan Maierle (482-2011)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:30 Gentle Exercise 12:30 Games at Grace	2 8:00 AA	3
4 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School and Confirmation 11:00 Worship 12:00 Birthday and Anniversary Fellowship	5	6 10:30 Gentle Exercise 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet	7 8:30 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Service	8 10:30 Gentle Exercise 12:30 Games at Grace	9 8:00 AA	10
11 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 4:00 – 6:00 “Let’s Eat”	12 12:00 LCW	13 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet 1:00 Primetimers at Rockhouse	14 8:30 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 3:00 ASP 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Service	15 12:30 Games at Grace	16 8:00 AA	17 10:00 to 12noon meeting on first of five practices of the early church
18 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School and Confirmation 11:00 Worship 12:00 Stewardship Fellowship 5:00 to 8:00 Young Adults	19 4:00pm Prayer Service	20 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet 6:30 Council	21 8:30 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 3:00 ASP 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent Service	22 12:30 Games at Grace	23 8:00 AA	24
25 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Palm Sunday Worship	26	27 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet	28 8:30 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study	6:30 Maundy Thursday Service at Grace Lutheran	6:00 Good Friday Service at First Lutheran	6:30 Saturday Vigil Service at Grace Lutheran



Grace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 249, South Range, MI 49963
906-482-2011, www.gracesouthrange.com

Thursday, March, 1st 2018

Dear Friends who serve as part of Grace Lutheran Church,

It is great to be a servant of Jesus and member of this congregation! God is alive in this church, this community, the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Look at all the Lord is doing for us! We are serving God's mission in the world by having meaningful worship services each week in church, by teaching the Word of God in adult studies, during our After School Program, Confirmation and at Sunday School, by providing pastoral care for our congregational members and friends and by reaching out with the Gospel in this area. We are also supporting the world-wide work of Christ through the Synod and the ELCA. God is good all the time!

This spring, our stewardship ministry centers on God's generosity and our response. It is always a good time to recall how God has defeated death. St. Paul says it best:

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

On Sunday, March 18th, our congregation will celebrate God's generosity with "Welcome, Worship, Witness" Stewardship Sunday. **Please bring with you on that Sunday the enclosed pledge card (estimate of giving form) which we will present at God's altar during worship.** After worship on Sunday, there will be a luncheon to thank you for your faithfulness.

God is at work in this church! Our prayer is that you will increase your financial giving. Can we count on you to increase your giving? Please complete the pledge card (estimate of giving form) and, in doing so, you will continue to show your confidence in the work that is being done in Christ's name at Grace Lutheran Church. See you in church soon! If you have any questions or concerns, contact the church office or call upon us as together we thank God in "Welcome, Worship, and Witness." What a privilege to be a part of the Body of Christ.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Stimac

Grace Lutheran, Council President

Plan for Giving 2018
“Worship, Witness, Welcome”

I/We commit my/our entire life in service to Christ, and therefore will offer _____% of annual income.

Of this percentage, I/we will offer \$ _____ a week through the congregation.

Name _____

I understand that this commitment may be revised if necessary.

Keep this portion of the card with your offering envelopes as a reminder of your plan for giving.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

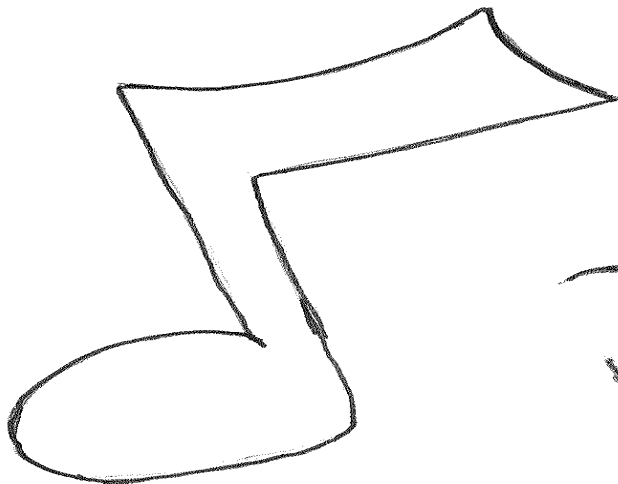
City _____

Phone _____

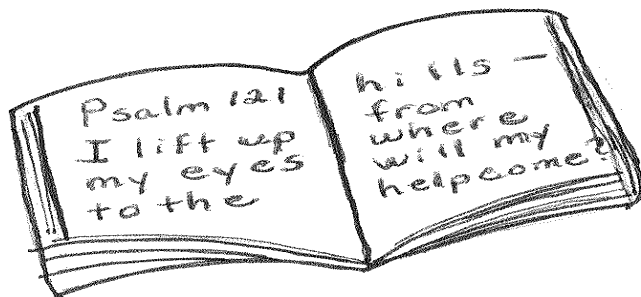
E-Mail _____

So others may know God’s love, I/we plan to offer \$ _____ each week to the Lord’s work through this congregation.

Grace Lutheran Church
a congregation of the Northern Great Lakes
Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Thanks,
Worship and Music
Committee!



Thanks,
Readers

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A Christian Based Addiction Recovery Program

If you are struggling with an addiction and need help you can come to a “Celebrate Recovery” meeting and start making a change in your life through an 8 step program that is based on the Beatitudes found in the Gospel of Matthew. Let Christ take your burden of addiction away from you and start living a free life in Christ.

We meet every Sunday evening at Our Saviours Lutheran Church located at 47281 Adventure Street in Atlantic Mine, MI. The meetings start at 6:30 PM and last until 8:00 PM in the basement of the church.

This program is through Dawn of a New Day Addiction Ministry. For more information call (906)523-5066 or (906)370-2829.

Rev. Roger Jenkins

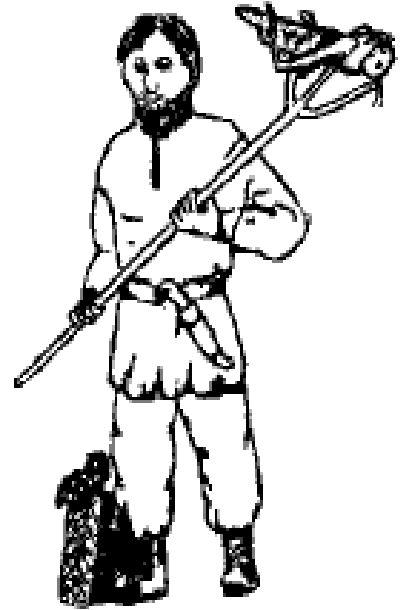


The Origin of St. Urho

(<http://www.sainturho.com>)

The legend of St. Urho is not the product of one person, but of many. The original character is usually traced to Virginia, Minnesota, but like most good legends, there have been many voices in creating the history of St. Urho.

St. Urho was created by Richard Mattson, who worked at Ketola's Department Store in Virginia, Minnesota. Mattson is generally credited with conjuring up a Finnish counterpart to St. Patrick in the spring of 1956. Just as Patrick had driven the snakes from Ireland, Mattson's saint drove a plague of frogs from Finland. There were several Finnish names suggested, but Saint Ero or Saint Jussi, or even Toivo or Eino, just didn't have the correct ring of a saintly name. Urho Kekkonen became president of Finland in 1956, and some believe that is where the name came from. Others say that Kekkonen was called "Saint Urho" by the citizens of Finland, and the name was attached to Mattson's legend.



Gene McCavic took the St. Urho legend and, with help from Mattson, wrote an "Ode to St. Urho". It told of a boy ("poika", Finnish for "boy") named Urho who got strong on sour whole milk ("feelia sour") and fish soup ("kala mojakka"). In the original, Urho chases out "tose 'Rogs" (those frogs) with his loud voice. The original Ode also celebrates St. Urho's Tay as "twenty-fourth of May". The original poem was written on a piece of wrapping paper, and is on display at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisolm, Minnesota.

[*Brief note on the Finnish language:* Finnish has several fewer consonants than English. Missing are B, C, D, and G. Consequently there are no sounds for those letters, and B becomes P, C becomes S or K, D becomes T, and G becomes K. When Finnish rally drivers talk about transmission problems with their cars, they refer to it as a "kearpox". There are also no articles in Finnish sentence structure -- *the, a* or *an* are not part of Finnish grammar.]

Also credited as the originator of the St. Urho legend is Dr. Sulo Havumäki, a psychology professor at Bemidji State College in Bemidji, Minnesota. He is credited with changing the plague to grasshoppers, who were consuming the grape crop that would become wine in ancient Finland. (Pre-historic Finland was allegedly a much warmer place than it is today.) St. Urho's triumph was saving the vineyards and the jobs for those who picked the grapes. That is how St. Urho became the Patron Saint of Finnish Vineyard Workers.

The legend spread, originally across Minnesota to Finnish settlements on the Mesabi Iron Range, and to Menahga, New York Mills, Wolf Lake, and of course, Finland. St. Urho's Day is now celebrated in towns with Finnish heritage across Michigan's Upper Peninsula; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Burlington, Vermont; Butte, Montana; and Hood River, Oregon.

Today, the St. Urho tradition is carried on in many Finnish communities, sometimes as an excuse to add an extra day of rowdy celebration to the St. Patrick's Day festivities. In many Finnish-American communities, however, St. Urho's Day is *the* celebration, and St. Pat's feast day is merely an afterthought, a day to sleep off the hangover.

Ode to Saint Urho

(<http://www.sainturho.com>)

Ooksi kooksi coolama vee
Santia Urho is ta poy for me!
He sase out ta hoppers as pig as pirds.
Neffor peefer haff I hurd tose words!

He reely tolt tose pugs of kreen
Braffest Finn I effer seen
Some celebrate for St. Pat unt hiss nakes
Putt Urho poyka kot what it takes.

He kot tall and trong from feelia sour
Unt ate kala moyakka effery hour.
Tat's why tat kuy could sase toes peetles
What krew as thick as chack bine neetles.

So let's give a cheer in hower pest vay
On Sixteenth of March, St. Urho's Tay.



by Gene McCavic and Richard Mattson
Virginia, Minnesota

Gene McCavic reads the Ode to St. Urho
The Ode as originally written refers to St. Urho
chasing out frogs instead of grasshoppers, and to May 24th as St. Urho's Day.

purple
and
GREEN
On March 16!

purple
and
GREEN
On March 16!