



January 2017

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Grace Notes

A publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church—LCMS

From Pastor Germán

The year of LOVE!

PREACHING LOVE

TEACHING LOVE

SHOWING LOVE

REACHING WITH LOVE

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (1 Jn. 4:7–12)*

Happy New Year!
Our Grace Community continues to grow, strengthen, and rejoice in God’s love. In 2017, I want that these four letters: L O V E, might be an important part in our daily lives, and in the experience of our Christian faith as members of GRACE. That’s why through the year we will make a special emphasis on God’s LOVE for us, and on our love for Him, and for one another.

As St. John, the evangelist, wrote: “This is love, not that we

have loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege and honor, as GRACE’s pastor, of sharing with the leaders of our congregation some ideas and plans of the next months, and even for 2018. More than just establishing an action plan, my intention was to give GRACE some guidance, a new identity, and a philosophy, centered on God’s Love.

Today, more than ever, it is very important that #1 we know where are we going as a congregation; and

#2 that we all might be able to walk united toward the same direction. God has promised to be with us always, because -at the end- this is His Church, and He is our Captain.

Obviously, all the members and friends of GRACE will receive a copy of this ‘Plan 2017’ during our upcoming Voters Meeting, on Sunday January 29.

Continued on page 2..

WWW.GRACE-OK.ORG

3030 W. Oklahoma Av. Milwaukee, WI. 53215

From Pastor Germán

THE YEAR OF LOVE

Our 'Plan 2017' is centered into four very important pillars: (1) Preach the Love; (2) Teach the Love; (3) Show the Love; and (4) Reach with Love.



1 The first emphasis, Preaching LOVE, is based on the proclamation of the Word of God to all people. This is the church mission: to preach Christ and the good news of salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life, through Him. That's why we need to create opportunities for people, so they can hear God's message. At this point, it's very important to strengthen our weekly services, and to commit ourselves to come to church, listen to God's word, and to invite others to come as well. We want that our weekly experience might be good for the spiritual growth of our people, and their relationship with the Lord.



2 The following emphasis, Teaching LOVE, is related to our Christian Education. We are called to be disciples, and to make disciples. Everyone in our families must be equipped and trained in the Word of God. For this reason, in GRACE, we are making an effort to improve our Sunday School for our children, youth, and adults; and to create again Small Groups to study together the Word of Love revealed in the Scriptures.



3 Third, Showing LOVE, which consists in all the activities we will do throughout the year in order to serve our communities with good works and acts of love. We are committed to help our neighbors, and we know that God uses our hands, and ourselves, to serve, bless, and help others. What we want is that people may see -in our love for everyone- God acting through us.



4 And finally, the fourth engine that drives the ministry of our church, is Reaching with LOVE.

Evangelism can't be a plan, a board, nor just a church program. It has to be a lifestyle of all. It goes beyond just promoting our events and activities. We all are called by God to share the treasure of our faith, and not to hide it in our hearts. With love, we are empowered by God to invite others to come to church, and to talk with them about Jesus. TO WITNESS! Also, we are called to take care of the spiritual life of those who are here in our congregation, especially the new ones! GRACE is called to be a Mission, not just with our Hispanic folks, which is an important ministry of Grace that we must

strengthen this year... but also we must be focused on our English-speaking friends and neighbors, our African American communities, and people from all races and nations. Every single day we need to remember that out there, in our city, in our world, we still have people who don't know Jesus, and who don't know about His infinite love for all peoples.



God's love for us is the force that leads us to love Him, and to love one another... this is the force that empowers us to change our lives, and to be a better church every day... a better GRACE COMMUNITY.

May the love of God be with you... ALWAYS!

"Dear God, Thank You for Your love for me, for your pardon, for the Love that You have shown when You sent Jesus to come to this world, and to die for me on the cross... lead me to love you, and to love one another, through all the things I do in this my Church, Amen"

Pastor Germán
novelligrace@gmail.com



Congratulations to everyone!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1— *Julie Kacmarcik-Rinka*
 1— *Timothy Winiarski*
 4— *Brittany Vanacker*
 6— *Virginia Hansen*
 6— *James Klawien*
 6— *Bonnie Mathe*
 8— *Irving J. Blaesing*
 9— *Lynda Trapp*
 10— *Nadine Hukarevic*
 15— *Mary Draeger*
 18— *Edna Hoffman*
 20— *Karen Ewert*
 21— *James Teske*
 24— *Rellis Herzfeld*
 25— *Diane Blank*
 25— *James Beyer*
 26— *Katherine Deaton*
 26— *Kenny Lovas*
 27— *Joyce Budish*
 27— *Jose Elias Garcia*
 28— *Kathleen Tuler*
 28— *Karen Paap*
 31— *Bob Rothwell*
 31— *Lynnette Chadwick*



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Congregational Officers:

Terrence Donaldson, President

Mark Jubeck, Vice-President

Marian Laub, Treasurer

Staff

Karen O. Paap, Secretary

Sue Brahm, Sunday School Superintendent

Marilyn Jubeck, Senior Fellowship/ LWML

Dan Kacmarcik, Lay Readers (Early Worship)

Jane Donaldson, Lay Readers (Traditional)

Michelle Lenski, Bell Choir, VBS, Youth Group Leader

Kenneth Lovas, Interior Custodian

Shirley Lovas, Altar Flowers, Thrivent

Sue Pritzlaff, Ruth Guild President/ LWML

Dennis Szymborski, Choir Director

Telva Szymborski, Organist

Dorothy Schenzel, Thrivent Rep

Judy Zarzynski, Caring Connectors, Piece Makers

Jane Donaldson and Marge Wodvarka, Altar Guild

Rev. German Novelli (Sr.), Comunidad de Gracia

Board of Directors

Don Ewert, Board of Elders

Jim Barndt, Board of Evangelism

Brenda Nitz, Director of Stewardship

Kimberly Mallegni, Board of Education

James Van Acker, Board of Trustees

David Biermann, Board of Fellowship

Kenny Lovas, Board of Human Concerns

www.grace-ok.org

Amazing Grace... Our News & Events



Ruth Guild's Notes

There will be no meeting in January. Please watch Grace Notes and bulletins for the date and time of the next meeting.

Upcoming LWML Event

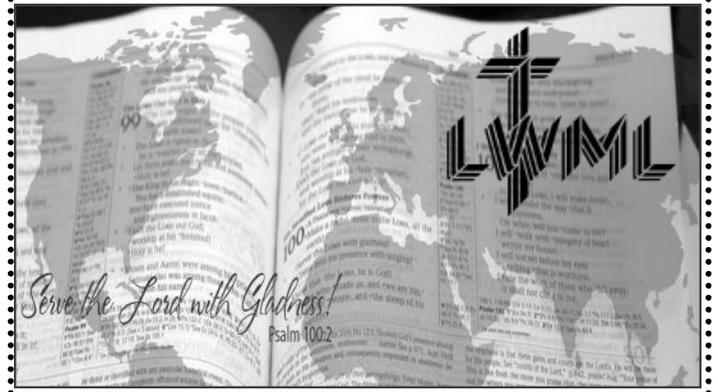
Winter Gateway "Rooted with Love... Serving with Gladness" will be on January 27 and 28 - 2017, at Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells. Sponsored by the young women of LWML - SWD.

Visit lwml-swd.org for more information.

Happy New Year!

Sue Pritzlaff

Grace Ruth Guild/ LWML



New Worship Time



COMUNIDAD DE GRACIA
Centro de Familia

**¡Bienvenidos a la
Comunidad de Gracia!**

CADA DOMINGO, 12 PM



 **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**
www.facebook.com/graceitsamazing

Piece Makers Every Thursday 9:00AM-1:00PM

Come join us for a time of fellowship and in piecing together quilts to keep our veterans warm.

All are welcome!

Any questions please call Judy Zarzynski at 414-327-5759

Christmas Peace, Presence, and Praise

Christmas Peace

Every Christmas celebration draws us nearer to Christmas eternal. Until that day of glory dawns, we remain in this dark world. But in the darkness, a Light shines and the darkness cannot extinguish it. (Jn1:5)

Jesus is the Light of the world. The Light has conquered! Sin, death and devil cannot extinguish the light:

*Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
And usher in the morning.
Ye shepherds shrink not with affright,
The day of grace is dawning.
This Child, though weak in infancy,
Our confidence and joy shall be,
The pow'r of Satan breaking,
Our peace with God now making.*

Christmas Presence

This year has been one of struggles and victories. How has it been with you. Sometimes we get overwhelmed by the struggles and lose hope. But Jesus continues to shine with his light of love and healing.

What a blessing it is to be a part of the Grace community; a community of friendship, love and forgiveness. Our bond does not depend on our reaching out from a position of power and control. Rather it is a sinner to fellow sinner; redeemed saint to redeemed saint. Not looking down but reaching out, heart to heart. So our dear Lord came; so he dwells in our hearts:

*O dearest Child, whom I adore,
Whose grace surpasses measure,
My Brother, whom I cherish more
Than earth with all its treasure:
Haste from Thy manger to depart,
O come and dwell within my heart;
With joy will I receive Thee,
A cradle there will give Thee.*

Christmas Praise

The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who have his good will!" (Lk2:14 GW)

All of heaven rejoiced. And in the darkness, light and hope began rise. Fallen people and a fallen world respond with hope and joy. Christ is born.

Emmanuel - God with us.

Jesus - Savior and Deliverer.

Prince of Peace - Peace between God and people.

Peace between people

Where is peace to be found in this dark world? Creation cries out for the day of deliverance, we too wait and groan. Even the Holy Spirit groans in us for the needs of God's saints. (Rm 8)

What a mystery and marvel is God's reply . . .

God in the person of Jesus Christ came to be our Brother and Friend. Alleluia!

*All blessing, thanks, and praise to Thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given:
Thou hast my Brother deigned to be,
Thou Lord of earth and heaven.
Help me throughout this day of grace
To praise Thy love and seek Thy face;
And when I stand before Thee
Forever to adore Thee.*

Johann Rist 1607-67

Text: © Openbook Publishers

Now join Mary and ponder the wonder of the Christ Child. God takes to himself human form. "The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth." (Jn 1:14 GW)

The Word was made fully human, yet without sin. It was our sin that he carried from infancy to death on the cross. God was born in a barn to die on a beam! And on the third day he rose again! Merry Christmas.

Pastor Ferd





NEW YEAR NO STRESS

Discovering the 12 Principles
that will help us to deal
with our daily stress

THREE SESSIONS
JANUARY 8, 15 and 22
SUNDAY, 9:15AM

GRACE COMMUNITY
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI. 53215

USHERS

January 1st

Jim Barndt, Mark Jubeck, Dave Biermann, Chester Zbrozek

January 8th

Dave and Danny Gaus, Sheryl Pelican and Lori Eschelman

January 15th

Art and Amy Socha,
Terry and Jane Donaldson

January 22nd

Sue Pritzlaff, Lynda Trapp,
Brenda Nitz, and Shirley Lovas

January 29th

Chuck and Alana Zielesch,
Don and Karen Ewert

GraceNotes is a publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The newsletter is published ten times each year, monthly from September to the following June, and delivered the first Sunday of every month.

Submissions for the February 2017 issue are due January 22.

Editor is Pastor German Novelli-Oliveros.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary. We also encourage submissions via e-mail to info@grace-ok.org.



Caretakers Tales: TIME - TALENT- TREASURE

A few years ago I had the opportunity to teach the Hispanic children of the first adults taking ESL at Grace Church.

In the after school program we did homework, played games and did crafts; eventually the program involved music. Grace volunteers helped with the program. This was where I met the Munoz family: Maria, Emily, Edgar, Joshua and Katherine. Maria was learning English and Emily and Edgar participated in the program. Joshua and Katherine were about

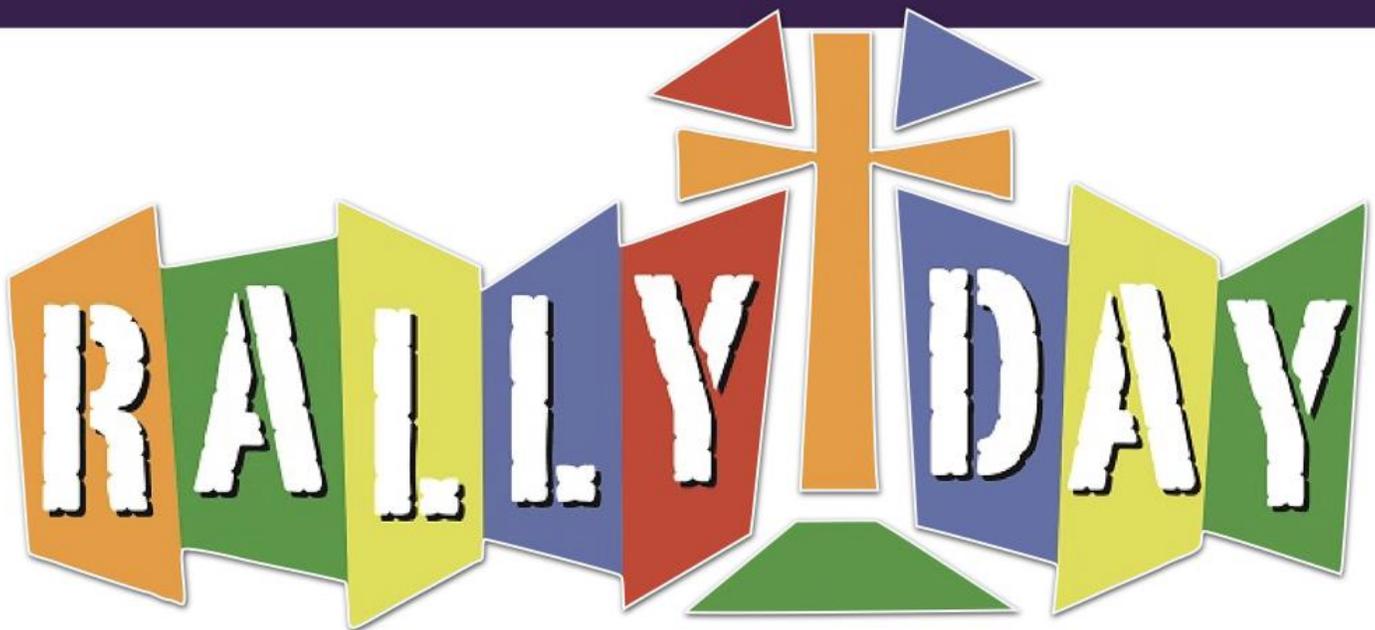
four and five. I read to Joshua as we worked on his English and Katherine read to me with the books upside down. We always stayed in touch.

I would look for them when I taught ESL at St. Martini's and they came to Grace's picnics. The family is now a member of Grace Church so I get to see them often. Maria has told me that I am their Grandmother now. How great is that? I have received many gifts from my involvement with the Hispanic Community: new friendships, new



understanding and appreciation of the Hispanic culture and shared spiritual growth. I am so glad I took my time and talent to get involved with the Hispanic families because the treasures I am receiving from this involvement is endless. Blessings!

Diane Blank



JANUARY 8, 2017
9:15 AM



GYG GRACE YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming events:

Jan. 6

Friday fun night

Jan. 21st

Snow tubing 2-4pm

Feb. 3

Friday fun night

Feb. 11

Valentine Dinner

Mar. 3

Friday fun night

Mar. 24-25

30 Hour Famine

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is available to all; you can pray for a member of the congregation, family members or friends. Anyone who you would like to pray for, please pass on their name to the prayer chain. We have no restrictions who or when we will pray.

To start a prayer, please call
Shirley Lovas at 414-645-1282.



Happy Crafters

Thank you for your support during the holidays. We will be having a sale on holiday items in January. Watch for it!

We will continue to meet from 9-11am on Thursdays during the winter when we don't get snowed out.

The Purpose of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Because we are God's mission, Our purpose is to know Christ and make Him known as we GATHER, GROW and SOW.

We **GATHER** around Jesus Christ and invite others to gather with us to receive God's love and be changed by that love revealed and received through Christ.

We **GROW** in Christ-likeness in character, faith, love and service; and provide opportunities for others to do the same.

We **SOW** the seeds of God's love in the world as followers of Jesus Christ, that still others may know Christ and make Him known.

"Gather, grow and sow with us, so that together, we may enjoy the fullness of life and the fullness of God's love in Christ. You are going to love what you become."

STEWARDSHIP

New Year, New Life

Celebrating New Years is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in the hope and anticipation and perhaps even worry of what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be; what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Years is our own version of Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents, and futures.

St. Paul writes: ***"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6-15).***

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving of years past, which will help you to change what needs to be changed, improved, or done away with altogether.



First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness, and feast of the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you—all of you (Matt 22:20-22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1-16).

Third, consider what the Church is and what the Church does. The Church is a mercy place. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward the neighbor. You are a member of the Church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy in showing mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the Church in and for the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev 27:1-34).

Submitted from the LCMs by Brenda Nitz

According to the Bible Dictionary, the 12 disciples, in faith, received instruction from the Divine Master. Matthew 10 made me pause and really think about the disciples. For one, they did not find Jesus, he found them. They were convinced that he was the promised Messiah.

They left their livelihood behind to follow him. They were home-schooled by the Son of God who was their friend. They did not yet understand the full extent of Christ's mission.

Did they understand they were being promoted from student to teacher? Probably not until Jesus sent them out with the following instructions:

Do not go to the Gentiles but to the lost sheep of Israel. Preach that the Kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse those with leprosy. Drive out demons. Furthermore, do not take along gold, silver or copper. Don't take extra tunics, sandals or staff (A staff is a long stick for support in walking or a rod carried as a symbol of authority). A worker is worth his keep. When you reach your destination, seek out worthy persons to stay with until you're ready to move on. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet and leave that town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for them. Though I'm sending you among wolves, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves (I take that to mean: Don't be a hero, your battle is with Satan, not men. Confound them with the message of love).



The Twelve

I try to imagine their reaction to this assignment. Were they speechless? Weak in the knees? Afraid? All of the above?

Upon realizing the proof of authority authorized by Jesus, they might have believed people would be eager to hear their message.

That is until Jesus gave them a reality check. This is a summary of the words of Jesus. On my account you will be arrested but don't worry. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the spirit of the Father speaking through you. You will cause riots. Because of me all men will hate you. The reality is the student is not above his master. If the head of the house is called Beelzebub how much more the members of his household. Jesus assures them that

he is with them always, he will give them the words. They are not to be afraid, they are loved. Even the hairs of the heads are numbered.

The assurances and promises of Jesus brought to mind a once published prayer in our bulletin:

Lord help me to see myself as you see me. Not in my weakness, infirmity and self-doubt, but as a chosen, gifted, responsible disciple. Lord make me part of your plan for this world. Use me to bring a healing touch to those in need.

Thanks to the disciples who passed their firsthand account of the presence of Jesus in their lives, God's kingdom has come to us according to his will.

Lillian Hughes

PLEASE JOIN US

GRACE VOTERS MEETING Sunday, January 29 @noon



This is our CHURCH!



Let's grow together in God's Amazing GRACE!

JANUARY'S MOVIE NIGHT @GRACE



TOM HANKS

THE UNTOLD STORY BEHIND
THE MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON

A FILM BY CLINT EASTWOOD

-SULLY-

SATURDAY
JANUARY 14, 2017
6 PM



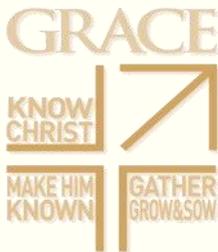
GRACE - MILWAUKEE
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee

FREE EVENT! / ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

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First Class



worship times

Let's grow together in God's Amazing Grace!

Every Sunday
8am & 10:30am
Sunday School, 9:15am

GRACE COMMUNITY
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI. 53215
(414) 384 3520 / info@grace-ok.org



www.grace-ok.org

Comunidad de Gracia

Celebraciones en Español
Domingos, 12:00pm