

THE GLEANINGS

of Grace Lutheran Church



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REV. BENJAMIN G. BAHR, PASTOR

February 2018



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews, the writer reminds us:

"Let brotherly love continue.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares...

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we

can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace..."

In this rich exhortation, the author encourages us toward the Christian's joyful privilege and duty to follow the 10 Commandments, touching on all ten in one way or another in this short paragraph. But while all of these are good, right, and salutary, I want to draw your attention to this: It all starts with love and comes to completion in Christ.

When our brotherly love for one another is placed first, Godly action will soon follow. After all, "whoever abides in love abides in God," and "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4).

But love itself is hollow unless Christ is the foundation and fulfillment of our life, He who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. For "in Him we live and move and have our being" and "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Acts 17 and Romans 5).

Love in Christ is strong and living... may His will in us be done! (LSB 706)

See you at worship!

Pastor Bahr

IC | XC
NI | KA

P.S. And now, for trivia's sake, I present: "2017 Grace Pastoral Ministry by the Numbers!"

84 – Sermons preached (not including children's messages)

121 – Classes/Bible studies taught

110 – Pastoral Visits (Hospital, Homebound, etc.)

12 – Funerals (4 age 40-70, 8 age 70+)

1 – Wedding

3 – Baptisms (1 adult, 2 children)

13 – Confirmations (8 adults, 5 youth)

5,234 – E-mails received (not counting SPAM)

1,350 – E-mails sent

32 – Potlucks attended

February 2018

Lutheran Hour Radio 9:30AM WXRL 1300

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Head Ushers: <i>Mark Binkley & Jim Storey</i>	Altar: <i>Liz Smith & Erika Tuscher</i>		Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 10A-2P	1	2	3
4 9A Sunday School & ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	5 6:30P Survivors Group	6 6-8P Confirmation	7 10A ABS 7P Choir	8	9	10
11 9A Sunday School & ABS 10:30A Worship	12 6:30P Survivors Group	13 6-8P Confirmation	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 10A ABS 6:30P Worship 7P Choir LENT BEGINS	15 Gleanings Deadline for March/April 6P Elders Meeting	16	17
18 9A Sunday School & ABS 10:30A Worship (HC)	19 PRESIDENTS' DAY OFFICE CLOSED 6:30P Survivors Group	20 6-8P Confirmation	21 10A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Worship 7P Choir	22	23	24 RED CROSS Blood Drive 9A-1P
25 9A Sunday School & ABS 10:30A Worship 11:30A Coffee Fellowship	26 6:30P Survivors Group	27 6-8P Confirmation	28 10A ABS 5:30P Simple Supper 6:30P Worship 7P Choir	Valentine's Day		

ABS – Adult Bible Study

(HC) – Holy Communion

Grace Lutheran Sunday School All-Stars

The following students had faithful attendance during the months of Nov. (N) and Dec. (D).

Toddlin to Jesus

Michael Bahr	N & D
Alyvia Dixon	N & D
Emma Fees	N & D
Zak Fees	N & D
Abram Smith	N & D
Annabella Agnella	D

KG & 1st Grade

Daniel Bahr	N & D
Audrey Markel	N & D
Nevaeh'a Haley	D

2nd – 5th Grades

John Bahr	N & D
Julia Dixon	N & D
Marissa Majka	N & D
Autumn Norton	N & D
Stewart Smith	N & D
Amorina Perez	D
Vance Adamson	D
Dillon Deskovic	D
Kaleigh Kendrick	D

6th – 12th Grades

McKenzie Gilmore	N & D
Alexis Majka	N & D
Abigail Markel	N & D
Emily Markel	N & D
Haley Markel	N & D
Rhyleigh Marshanke	N & D
Dominique Mena	N & D
Victoria Smith	N & D
Joseph Mena	D

Great Job
Everyone!

Worshipping with Kids

Worship Tip #1: Get Enough Sleep

Sleep: whether you have young children or not, it can be fleeting. The 6 to 8 hours recommended for adults easily becomes 3 to 5, and the next day you feel the effects.

But you know the experts are right; it makes a difference. Sleep is an essential ally in the fight against worshipping-with-children anxiety. It helps the kids' ears work better and helps the parents think more clearly and patiently. Keep in mind that one good night's sleep is not enough; you need at least two nights of good rest prior to Sunday morning. If Saturday is super packed-full of exhausting activities, this is especially the case. Fill up the kids' sleep tanks if you want their best behavior, and remember to fill your own as well!

In the morning choose a healthy breakfast. The mornings when I take the time to prepare fresh fruit and protein, we are more even-keel for the day; but when we run around and grab sugar for breakfast, we all crash at about the time we need to walk into the sanctuary.

If all this "advice" does is make you feel like an inadequate or hopeless parent, let me reveal to you my ugly truth: I don't do this. I do not regularly, persistently get my kids to bed on time and have a perfectly balanced, fresh morning meal ready for them when they awake. Life is messy, schedules are crazy, and I'm just not that focused on it.

But once in a while... sometimes... it all comes together: the kids cooperate, my pantry is stocked, and all the pieces fall into place so that we are rested and well-fed – and it makes a difference! The kids have smiles, I'm more patient, and we get out the door faster. It's amazing!

Please do not let this reminder be a condemnation of what you aren't doing, but an encouragement to keep trying to do what's best. God gave us our bodies to physically care for our children, let's take care of them together. Let's support one another as the body of Christ to make healthy choices for His glory. If you need a buddy to keep you on track, that's why we have the Church. God does not leave us alone, but gives us His Spirit and the Christian community around us to lift us up as we walk together. Peace – and rest – be with you!

-Lacey Bahr, *Toddlin to Jesus* Teacher

Sunday School

CHRISTMAS THANKS!!!

Thanks so much – again this year – to Gladys Beningo (and Kathy Majka) for applying to the Thrivent Action Team and receiving a \$250 Seed Money VISA card to provide for our Sunday School & Adult Choir luncheon following our Christmas Program practice on Dec. 16. It allowed us to enjoy BUZZYS pizza, Wegman's subs, chips, drinks and desserts. THANKS to THRIVENT and SS staff, Choir members and congregational members for all the goodies for our reception following our SS *Happy Birthday Jesus* worship service on Dec. 17. Also, thank you Adult Bible Class for the \$40 donation to help provide for our Welcome Back Breakfast prepared by our Sunday School Superintendents for all to enjoy as we started the new year on Jan. 7, 2018.

AND THANKS to Mrs. Amy Folmsbee for once again writing and directing the Sunday School Christmas Program – Happy Birthday, Jesus!! Thanks to Maye Smith for playing organ/piano, Adult Choir for your participation, Sunday School staff for your flexibility and assistance, and all students who participated; readers, actors, costumed parts, instruments, singers – everyone did a great job in sharing the Christmas message – HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!!



The Wisemen bring their gifts to Jesus



Sunday School singing "Happy Birthday, Jesus"



Jesus was born, and they lay him in a manger because there was no room at the Inn.



"Happy Birthday Jesus" Cake



THANK YOU to those who have served at Social Ministries meetings and projects during 2017, including Trish Andrews, Pastor & Lacey Bahr, Ken & Brenda Boyd, Jane Brese, Barbara Burns, Wendy Coleman, Dick & Marla Crawford, Ross & Amy Folmsbee, Russ & Jane Hughes, Karen Kumm, Jennifer Maines, Virginia Markel, Brian Miller, Alice Moll, Luann Pyska, Sherry Reed, and Robin Stephenson. We are also thankful for the many years of service and fellowship we enjoyed with Ruth Kumm, who we dearly miss. Because of the hard work of these individuals and

the generous donations from Grace members and friends, we were able to donate \$11,133 in 2017 toward the care and comfort of those in need. In addition to monetary donations, Grace made donations to local agencies in the form of food, undergarments, hats & mittens, socks, toilet tissue, baby items and diapers, school supplies, toiletries, books, and numerous miscellaneous items. We also have donated over 100 handmade afghans and shawls made by talented women of our congregation to Hospice and nursing homes. Our youth spent a weekend in the spring at Camp Pioneer, helping them get the camp ready for the summer season. We sponsored a flu shot clinic in September, and a neighborhood Trunk or Treat in October attended by over 100 children. To God be the glory, great things He has done!



MINISTRY UPDATES

OUR ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL PENNY WAR will be held during Lent, beginning on Sunday, February 18, and continuing through Palm Sunday (March 25). Watch the bulletin boards and Sunday bulletins for further details.

TOILET TISSUE is one of the items most requested at Heart, Love, and Soul Food Pantry, and they often run short on their supply. This is something that is needed on a daily basis, and it is an item that cannot be purchased with government benefit cards. We will have a table available in the chapel to accept donations of toilet tissue during February. Please speak with Russ or Jane Hughes if you have questions about this project.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: Thank you for your generous donations to our Advent Tree. Four local agencies were helped by your donations. Deliveries were made in January to Summit Life Outreach, Harry Abate Elementary School, Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission, and the Magdalene Project. Each of these agencies has an ongoing need for assistance as they reach out to help those less fortunate in our city. Your help is appreciated!

WE RECEIVED \$395 in gift card donations to Home Depot and Lowe's. These will be distributed to families in Houston that are still rebuilding their lives and homes after Hurricane Harvey and the resulting floods that devastated the area last August. Thank you for helping your brothers and sisters in Christ!

WITH THRIVENT MATCHING FUNDS for our November/December special mission envelopes, we were able to send \$1192 to LCMS Disaster Response at the end of December! They continue to help those affected by recent hurricanes, floods, fires, and mudslides throughout our country.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL MISSIONS

LUTHERAN CHARITIES COMFORT DOGS is the designated project for our February special mission envelopes. These dogs are available to travel throughout our country with their owners, offering comfort and a message of Jesus' love and care during times of natural disasters or community emergencies. They have been present after hurricanes, fires, floods, mudslides, and shootings. They are proud to be able to have "paws on the ground" within 24 hours of being invited to a community. The Comfort Dogs have grown to include three divisions: "K-9 Comfort" which are dogs responding to disasters and community needs, "Kare 9" which are dogs owned by military service veterans that respond to veteran or service situations, and "Police Ministry" which uses police K-9 officers to respond to tragedies involving police officers. 100% of your donations to this mission go directly to the care of these dogs and travel expenses of the owners. If you wish to support this ministry, please place your special mission envelope in the offering plate during February.



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUNG LIFE FUNDRAISING BANQUET
THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd 6:15 PM – 8:30 PM
CLASSICS V BANQUET CENTER

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS DINNER.

If you wish to support Young Life, free will donations will be accepted during this event. Please sign up on the glass case in the chapel to reserve your seat if you plan to attend. Tables will be reserved for Grace members and friends.

Young Life is an interdenominational organization with local chapters run by Christian adult volunteers. They believe that kids' lives can be dramatically influenced when caring adults meet them on their turf and their culture, sharing God's love. They help youth see that their lives have worth, meaning, and purpose.

Dick Crawford has been associated with Young Life for many years and will be glad to answer your questions about this wonderful Christian organization that is reaching out to our local youth.

ONGOING PROJECTS

CARD MINISTRY—Please let Trish Andrews know if you are aware of a member or friend who is experiencing an illness, injury, personal loss or challenge, and we will send them a card to let them know we are thinking of them and keeping them in prayer.

OLD GLASSES & HEARING AIDS can be donated on the glass case. These will be refurbished by the Lion's Club and distributed throughout the world to those who otherwise would not be able to see or hear.

TOILETRY SAMPLES that you receive in the mail or from hotel visits are needed by the Magdalene Project in Niagara Falls as they reach out to ladies living and working on the streets with the love of Jesus. Please leave them in the basket on the glass case in the chapel.

*Thank
You!*

Beverly Mills

For many years, Bev Mills has volunteered her time to edit, assemble, copy, fold, label, and mail *The Gleanings*. After long and faithful service, as of this issue, Bev has retired from her role as Gleanings editor. On behalf of the people of Grace, I want to extend our gratitude for a job well done. Please join me in thanking Bev the next time you see her!

Future newsletter submissions may be e-mailed to office@gracenf.org, preferably in editable format (not PDF). You may also drop them off at the office.

—Pastor Bahr

2017 Financial Recap

	2017	2016	2018 Budget
Receipts	175,978	158,978	174,092
Expenditures	172,957	167,908	174,092
Surplus (Deficit)	3,021	(8,930)	0
Cash balances			
	12/31/2017	12/31/2016	
Total checking and savings	66,690	88,136	
Designated receipts:			
Altar	8,075	10,000	
Sunday School	1,009	0	
Memorials	35,174	60,385	
Building fund	10,949	7,422	
Organ	0	4,139	
Youth	468	490	
	55,675	82,436	

Official Acts

† Jackie Anderson	called to Jesus on 12-06-2017	Service held on 12-11-2017 at Grace LC
† Marjorie Sikula	called to Jesus on 12-19-2017	Service held on 12-22-2017 at Grace LC
† Ruth Kumm	called to Jesus on 12-27-2017	Service held on 01-02-2018 at Grace LC
† David Kobler	called to Jesus on 01-18-2018	Service held on 01-23-2018 at Grace LC
† Marvin Miller	called to Jesus on 01-01-2018	Service held on 01-29-2018 at Grace LC

Brian Miller	Confirmed on 12-24-2017
Erin Grant	Confirmed on 12-24-2017
Daniel Tighe	Confirmed on 12-24-2017
Melissa Tighe	Confirmed on 12-24-2017

Zelda Henry	Baptized on 12-06-2017
Brian Miller	Baptized on 12-24-2017
Dèjà Morefield	Baptized on 01-10-2018



www.lcmsfoundation.org 800-325-7912 Ext 1684

February 2018: Gift Planning Newsletter Article

For Gift Planning Counselors and Associates

Love: More than an Emotion

Love is described in the dictionary as affection that is felt for another. Love causes one to be devoted to the object of love, whether a person, place, thing or thought. People find the object of their love irresistible. People hold their loves dear and are very keen on these objects.

Love is a consuming sense that has the capacity to control a person's life. To be sure, love triggers the emotional senses, but is love more than emotions?

Martin Luther's explanations to the Ten Commandments began with the words, *"We should fear, LOVE and trust in God so that. . ."* Love, being associated with the words 'fear' and 'trust' tell us that our motivations are entwined.

How interesting that the Apostle whom Jesus loved writes, *"For God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son."* Love is of God!

God told Abraham, when speaking of the son He had promised, to *"Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you LOVE and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* Can LOVE for God ever compete with our LOVE for our own family?

Paul, in his letter to the Romans says, *"God's LOVE has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."* Indeed, LOVE is God's gift, given to us to reflect His desire to bless.

Love is more than an emotion. Love defines our relationships, motivations and priorities. When your last will and testament is read, will your LOVES be evident? Want to talk? *For more information, contact Robert Wirth, LCMS Foundation Gift Planner @ robert.wirth@lfnd.org or 716-863-4427.*



Special Announcements/Upcoming Events

WORSHIP SERVICES

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 10:30A

Special Services:
Lent: Wednesdays starting
Ash Wednesday, Feb 14th to
March 21st @ 6:30P

EDUCATION

Sunday School:
Sundays @ 9:00A

Adult Bible Study:
Sundays @ 9:00A
Wednesdays @ 10:00A

GRACE LADIES

NEXT MEETING:
February 27th
@ 12:00P
Lunch, Topic & Mites
Hostesses: Joyce
Learned and Ursula
Zimmerman

SOCIAL MINISTRY

NEXT MEETING:
March 11th
11:30A after worship
*New members are always
welcome. We meet five
times each year for about an
hour, and a light lunch is
included. Please consider
joining us!

Issue
01

February
2018

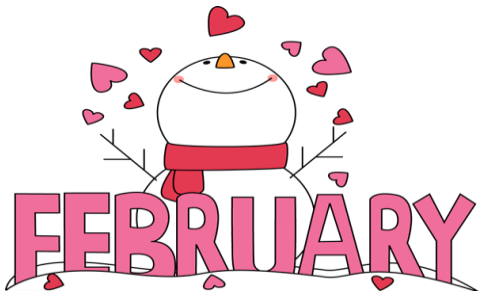
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