

Light of Grace

“Learning to live and love like Jesus”

a monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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May 1, 2014

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

I had a comforting vision on Good Friday I believe four things combined to create the vision.

- 1) Following Holy Thursday I thought to myself the Lenten gatherings where soup was served seemed a little better attended—and I did miss the conversation over soup beforehand.
- 2) Reading on Good Friday where the soldiers crucify Jesus brought sadness and a desire for comfort.
- 3) On Easter Sunday's sermon preparation images of white-robed angels were in my mind.
- 4) Preparing to celebrate Easter reminded me life is wondrous, beautiful, and worth celebrating.

What vision proclaimed life is wonderful, beautiful, and worth celebrating? Strawberries, angel food cake, shortcake and whipped topping! Summer can get quiet around Grace. People embrace the season when the lakes are thawed and stepping outside does not include bundling up to brace for the wind-chill before the late sunrise. Embracing nature's beauty and soaking up summer is great. Yet, it's not only hard on church attendance and offerings. It can leave us feeling a bit disconnected from one another. Wednesday evenings during Lent I enjoyed the opportunity to connect and reconnect with people over a bowl of soup. It warmed my spirit. Honestly the soup was a key piece of the well-attended Dare to Dream Lenten studies.

When I envisioned the strawberries, angel food cake, shortcake and whipped topping, I did NOT imagine eating it alone. I imagined eating with others at the church on a Wednesday evening in June. We visited and reconnected with one another in the season when lakes, vacations and adventures take up the weekends. We had a brief time of prayer needs and a devotion to

wrap it up. We even thought about doing it again one Wednesday in July—except for July we were trying to decide between cheesecake or ice cream. Plus, for July we started thinking, “maybe we're not the only ones that enjoy a good dessert.” Maybe we could bring extra and invite the neighborhood. We closed with a song, a prayer and I shared a devotional thought.

I did NOT picture us doing this every week during the summer. In churches that worship about 100 research shows every week events usually become overwhelming, tiring and discouraging.

>**The practical mantra for modest-sized churches is “Once-a-Month Works.”**

>**The missional mantra for all-sized churches is, “We've a story to tell to the nations...for the darkness shall turn to dawning and the dawning to noonday bright; and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.”**

There's something fitting about celebrating life and nurturing hope over a strawberry shortcake dessert or bowl of ice cream on a warm summer evening. It's fitting to share hope while sharing something tangible.

If this vision tickled your taste buds or stirred your soul, let me know. If you have other ideas for us to keep in touch this summer I'd love to hear them. Simply put, good communication within any group and with God really depends on quality time face to face. Simply put, dessert with a friend is always good and dessert with neighbors tends to create good friends. Now I'm envisioning a bumper sticker.

Grace UMC - Nurturing Hope and Building Community one dessert at a time.

God's Peace

Pastor Roger



Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
Elouise Brendemuhl (Kinder Care)
Mabel Burkhardt (Bethany)
Lois Ferguson (Eventide)
Hyacinth Kronbeck (Park View)
Marjorie Ladwig (Eventide)
Tom Collins (Eventide)
Mabel Johnson (Bethany)
Delores Dronen (Fairmont)
Ruth Ann Kruta (Elim)
Jim Johnson (Golden Living)
Mary Jane Phillips (Eventide)
Jeanne Schwager (Sheyenne Crossing)
Vi Williams (Bethany on 42nd)
Mary Ann Held (Bethany)
Duane Enkers (Eventide)

PRAYER LIST at Home

Vicky Westra Roger Opp
Charlie Bowman Dale Smith
Shirley Mohr Larry Possehl
Rae Offutt Linda Collins
Janet Wilson Luann Larson



Ministry TEAM Program.. The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation .

TEAM #2 (May/Nov) TEAM Coordinator is N. Grow, 701-541-4136

701-237-6738—C. Anderson
 218-233-5347—G. & T. Anderson,
 218-236-5753—P. & K. Anderson
 218-287-1676—I. Beving
 218-359-9000—E. Brendemuhl
 218-233-8038—G. Clifton
 218-287-1969—B. & J. Fraundorfer & Family
 701-541-2490—S. & L. Gedrose & Family
 218-233-4054—L. Jensen
 218-233-8746—J. & B. Johnson,
 218-236-4814—M. Johnson
 218-236-1747—J. & C. Ladwig
 218-236-0434—J. & T. Lindblad
 701-271-9270—C. Ollestad
 701-205-1645—R. Opp
 218-236-5746—J. Ostlie,
 701-280-2173—G. & K. Triptow
 218-233-3888—E. Volbrecht



May Birthdays

1—B. Krogen
 2—K. Anderson
 3—A. Gumto
 4—T. Moon
 J. Miller
 6—O. Larson
 11—E. Hilgers
 14—J. Burkhardt
 15—J. Gould
 19—E. Vollbrecht
 22—B. Hanna
 24—L. Andel
 25—T. Schindler
 27—G. Mohr
 29—M. Burkhardt
 30—N. Grow
 31—C. Naasz



May Anniversaries

19—T. & B. Church
 22—B. & Z. Hanna
 27—R. & C. Abel
 31—V. & S. Fangsrud

SPRING CLEANING

Sweep over me Lord
 And brush out my sin!
 Replace it with faith,
 And live here within.
 Amen—
 Peggy Farrell, from
Prayers and Poems



THANK YOU

Thank you to I. & D. Smith for donating all the ingredients and preparing and serving the meals during Lent. Also thanks to everyone who donated bars and helped every Wednesday evening.—
The Martha Circle

THANK YOU

Thank you to A. Horn for donating the bulletin covers for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

FINANCIAL UPDATE APRIL

INCOME: \$ 10,656.10
EXPENSES: \$ 13,317.15
APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 1,140.86



GENERAL OPERATING FUND

FINANCE QUARTERLY

Grace UMC Financial Report
First Quarter 2014

Income During First Quarter

Balance start of quarter	\$24,446
General Fund Giving	\$26,258
Rollag 2013 Profit balance used this qtr	\$ 5,532
Designated Funds received	<u>\$ 3,462</u>
Total:	\$59,698

Expenses for the First Quarter

General fund spent	\$40,569
Designated operational funds spent	<u>\$ 1,290</u>
Total:	\$41,859

Estimated Income for 2014

Checking Account balance start of year	\$ 24,446
Annual General Funds average ¹ (average 2011-2013)	\$125, 643
Rollag Profit from 2013 ² of 11/2013)	\$ 9,306 (as
Designated Funds for Operating ³ 3/31/2014)	\$12,799 as
2014 Rollag profit	\$00,000

Estimated Expenses for 2014

Average Local Expenses ⁴ (average 2011-2013)	\$140,000
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Notes:

1. Our General Fund giving totals have been going down by about 5.5% (\$7,100) per year each of the last years. 2013 General Fund giving was \$118, 618.79.
2. Rollag profit stayed about the same over the 3 year period.
3. The designated funds operating category is income we have available in 2014 if we spend all of it as it was designated, which we hardly ever do.
4. Local Expenses has been going up by about 2.5% (\$3,100) per year each of the last 3 years. 2013 total expenses was \$143,514.19

Not included in this report are:

Apportionments to the Minnesota Annual Conference
Pass through mission funds (UMCOR, Love Offering, One Great Hour, etc.)

Longer Term Funds (Savings)

Designated funds for longer term projects of 3/31/2014)	\$8,472 (as
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BABY SHOWER



Everyone is invited to attend a baby shower for A. Loeks on Saturday, May 17th at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

LOVE OFFERING



On Sunday, May 12th the Fellowship Coffee fund will go to the Love Offering. Each year at the Annual Conference a Love offering is taken for missions to benefit international, national, and local mission projects. Some of these projects supported by this offering are the International Women & Community Association, Emma Norton Services, and Native American Ministries in Minnesota.

POTLUCK



All Women of Grace are invited to attend the spring Potluck on Tuesday, May 13th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

DONUTS



Homemade buttermilk donuts will be made on Wednesday, May 14th beginning at 6:00 AM. Please place your orders with J. Anderson, 218-236-0183, or the office, 218-233-1857. Donuts are to be picked up by 9:00 AM. The last day to place your order is the Monday, May 12th.

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Thur, May 1	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Exod 16:10-22	1 Peter 2:11-25	John 15:12-27
Fri, May 2	am: 16, 17, pm: 134, 135	Exod 16:23-36	1 Peter 3:13-4:6	John 16:1-15
Sat, May 3	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	Exod 17:1-16	1 Peter 4:7-19	John 16:16-33
Sun, May 4	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	Exod 18:1-12	1 John 2:7-17	Mark 16:9-20
Mon, May 5	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Exod 18:13-27	1 Peter 5:1-14	Matt 1:1-17
Tue, May 6	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Exod 19:1-16	Col 1:1-14	Matt 3:1-12
Wed, May 7	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Exod 19:16-25	Col 1:15-23	Matt 3:13-17
Thur, May 8	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Exod 20:1-21	Col 1:24-2:7	Matt 4:1-11
Fri, May 9	am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45	Exod 24:1-18	Col 2:8-23	Matt 4:12-17
Sat, May 10	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Exod 24:1-22	Col 3:1-17	Matt 4:18-25
Sun, May 11	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Exod 28:1-4, 30-38	1 John 2:18-29	Mark 6:30-44
Mon, May 12	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Exod 32:1-20	Col 3:18-4:18	Matt 5:1-10
Tue, May 13	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Exod 32:21-34	1 Thess 1:1-10	Matt 5:11-16
Wed, May 14	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Exod 33:1-23	1 Thess 2:1-12	Matt 5:17-20
Thur, May 15	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 114, 115	Exod 34:1-17	1 Thess 2:13-20	Matt 5:21-26
Fri, May 16	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Exod 34:18-35	1 Thess 3:1-13	Matt 5:27-37
Sat, May 17	am: 55, pm: 138	Exod 40:18-38	1 Thess 4:1-12	Matt 5:38-48
Sun, May 18	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Lev 8:1-13, 30-36	Heb 12:1-14	Luke 4:16-30
Mon, May 19	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Lev 16:1-19	1 Thess 4:13-18	Matt 6:1-15
Tues, May 20	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Lev 16:20-34	1 Thess 5:1-11	Matt 6:16-18
Wed, May 21	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Lev 19:1-8	1 Thess 5:12-28	Matt 6:19-24
Thur, May 22	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Lev 19:26-37	2 Thess 1:1-12	Matt 6:25-34
Fri, May 23	am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48	Lev 23:1-22	2 Thess 2:1-17	Matt 7:1-12
Sat, May 24	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Lev 23:23-44	2 Thess 3:1-18	Matt 7:13-21
Sun, May 25	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Lev 25:1-17	James 1:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
Mon, May 26	am: 80, pm: 77, 79	Lev 25:35-55	James 1:12-18	Matt 13:1-16
Tue, May 27	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Lev 26:1-20	1 Tim 2:1-6	Matt 13:18-23
Wed, May 28	am: 119:97-120, pm: 68:1-20	am: Lev 26:27-42 pm: 2 Kng 2:1-15	am: Eph 1:1-10 pm: Rev 5:1-14	Matt 22:41-46
Thur, May 29	am: 8, 47, pm: 24, 96	Dan 7:9-14	Heb 2:5-18	Matt 28:16-20
Fri, May 30	am: 85, 86, pm: 91, 92	1 Sam 2:1-10	Eph 2:1-10	Matt 7:22-27
Sat, May 31	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Num 11:16-17, 24-29	Eph 2:11-22	Matt 7:28-8:4

GRACE UMC

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 7 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 PM No Cub Scouts	2	3 12:00 Noon H. Stalboeger's Baby Shower
4 3rd Sunday of Easter 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 10:15 AM Children's Sunday School	5 1 PM Quilters	6	7 1:45 PM Martha Circle 6:00 PM Yard Clean— 6:30 PM AWANA's	8 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 7 PM Cub Scouts	9	10
11 4th Sunday of Easter  9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Children's Sunday School	12 1 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Trustees	13 6:00 PM Women of Grace Potluck	14 6:00 AM Donut Making 6:30 PM AWANA's	15 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 7 PM Lydia Circle 7 PM Cub Scouts	16	17 12:00 Noon A. Loek's Baby Shower
18 5th Sunday of Easter 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Children's Sunday School New Member Sunday	19 1 PM Quilters	20 7 PM Ad Council	21 6:30 PM AWANA's	22 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 9 AM Park- view Terrace 10 AM Golden Living 2 PM River Pointe 7 PM Cub Scouts	23	24
25 6th Sunday of Easter 10 AM Worship	26  Office Closed	27 7:30 PM Finance Committee	28	29 9 AM Bulletin Deadline	30	31
ANNUAL CONFERENCE —May 28-30 in St. Cloud Pastor Roger and Paul Anderson, Lay Member Delegate, will be attending the Conference.						



GRADUATION

Do you know a High School Student or College Student who is a member and/or a friend of the congregation who is going to graduate this year? Please let the office know by June 1st the name of the graduate and their future plans.

Grace UMC would like to recognize these young adults for their successes and accomplishments.

ON PERSEVERANCE

Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint on the clouds of doubt,
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar.
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things go wrong that you mustn't
quit. -

Author unknown

WAITING ON GOD

On May 1, Americans observe the National Day of Prayer. Waiting on God is an important component of prayer. It's hard to understand why God delays when we cry out for help. Why does he allow us to suffer, when he could just say the word and make it all better? Why must we wait?

Consider a child whose parents always give her whatever she asks, as soon as she asks for it. That child has little opportunity to learn patience or gratitude. Because she doesn't know what it's like to not have, she cannot appreciate the true value of something.

God may have some of these things in mind when our prayers go unanswered for a time. As the psalmist exhorts, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage, wait for the LORD!" (Psalm 27:14, NRSV)



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED