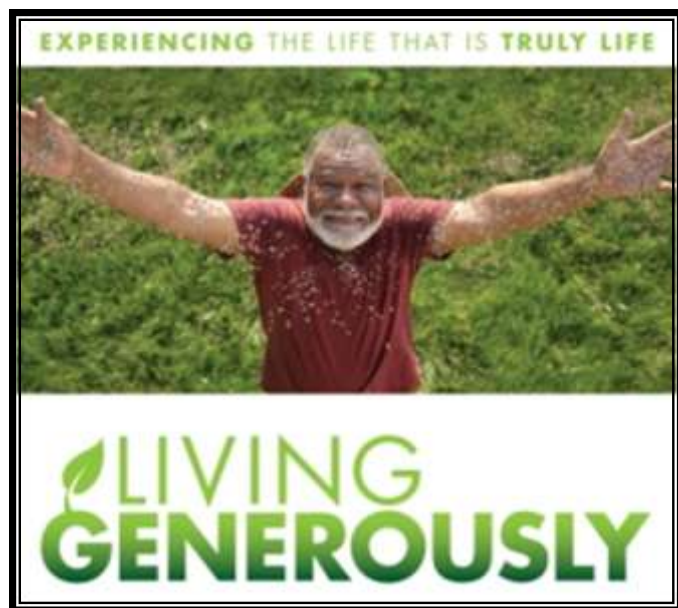


grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Learning to Live Generously

Grace begins a 5 Week Worship Series about abundance and generosity!

Welcome to an incredible five week journey to generosity as Grace embarks on a worship series entitled *Living Generously*. Why study generosity? We realize we live in a culture that has often lost the true meaning of a generous life. Much of today’s philosophy on giving teaches Christians to be faithful materialists. We try to balance the American dream with the call to follow God. The results? Jesus spoke about generosity throughout his ministry in ways that can seem foreign, even to those in a church like Grace. Although he promised that he would give his followers abundant lives, we can find ourselves living in scarcity and dissatisfaction.

We believe we have to live differently! We believe the promise given to Abraham – that he would be blessed so that he would be a blessing to others, is a promise we need to claim for our lives! Therefore, we believe we are called to LIVE GENEROUSLY!

The *Living Generously* journey will help us grow deeper in abundance and generous living. The series begins the first weekend in February and will engage us by using films, sermons, small group studies and more to explore the heart of generosity. And we can promise you this: the series will go beyond talking about money! It will challenge us to commit to a more radical generosity, modeled on the self-giving of Christ, through our time, skills, serving and abilities.

At the heart of the journey are the weekly video stories of Frank Donovan who is a very successful and wealthy business man. Yet with all his financial success and abundance, he lives in bondage to scarcity until God begins to teach him simple lessons about life, love, serving and giving. Heart-warming and tender, these videos will touch everyone’s heart as they become the springboards to the sermons. A special opportunity is available for further discussion and exploration in the homes of Grace members. If you are interested in learning more, please give the church office a call (763-421-6520) or email: krism@graceandover.org. If you want to learn more online, check out the Living Generously slider on the main page of our website (www.graceandover.org).

Come and join us for an incredible journey to abundance and generous living!

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Pastor Mark's Remarks:



Where I Learned Generously Living

It's been nearly a year since my father died. Amidst the sadness and grief, I found a profound gratitude has emerged overshadowing my family's loss. Yes, the recent Christmas holidays were challenging, but through them all I have found myself reflecting upon all the good and wonderful gifts I received through both of my parents.

One of those gifts, was the example of living generously. From an early age my parents taught me the basics of giving time, abilities, skills and financial resources to others, as an expression of my faith in God. And can I say, it wasn't so much what they said, as what they did!

For instance, I learned generous serving and caring from my mother, who took my sister and I on a monthly visit to see Annie Giotti, bed-ridden 18 years because of a severe form of Multiple Sclerosis. I still recall the antiseptic smell of her room, the sight of her lying in the bed with her limbs crunched beneath her, and hear my mother's remarks about her husband's care: "She's never had a bed sore in 18 years." Annie was just one of several hurting people I watched my mother visit and help each month.

I saw how to live generously as my parents took us out to John Kane County Hospital on Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to wheel the mentally and physically impaired patients to and from the chapel services.

I experienced generosity during the terrible racial riots when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. My parents braved the police barricades in downtown Pittsburgh so we could pack sandwiches at the YMCA for the police throughout the night. I was so scared! I will never forget the mental images of the city in flames, the National Guard in the streets, and the anger of so many people. I still marvel at the audacity of my parents to teach me such a lesson about generosity!

In this past year of reflecting, I realize I learned generosity because they modeled it throughout their lives. They served tirelessly in the church, in the local PTA and other organizations, and our family. They taught me that God wants us to serve others because he was first served us!

My parents also taught me about generous giving. I still remember the night the pastor came to our house and challenged them to consider tithing 10% of their income. From that moment on, the 10% tithe became the benchmark for all of us. As a little child my mother taught me to put 10% of the money I got as gifts and allowance in a small yellow piggy bank. Once a year I would take it out, count it, and then decide how to give it to the various organizations at the church. Tithing and giving generously became a constant practice I learned from my parents. Their financial generosity continued when I came to serve at Grace. They would send part of their tithe to Grace. They were amazing and generous givers.

As I think of this upcoming Living Generously series, I can't help but think of what my parents taught me most...we can never stop learning generosity! No matter where we might be in our own giving journey, they taught me there is always an opportunity to learn more.

So join me in February as we consider how to live generously.

In Him,

Pastor Mark



**Associate Pastor
Steve Thomason**

Going “Deep in the Burbs”

Most of you know that I have been working on a PhD at *Luther Seminary* for the past 2.5 years. The time has come for me to do the real research! My research will involve gathering a group of 8-12 people from three local congregations to form an *Action Research Team*. We will be exploring the subject of spiritual formation, the Trinity, and life in suburbia.

I am very pleased to announce that *Zion Lutheran Church* in Anoka and *Faith Lutheran Church* in Coon Rapids will join our team from Grace to form the three congregations in this project.

The project involves three phases:

Phase One: The three teams will meet together for six Monday nights, from 7pm-9pm, February 24 – March 31. I will facilitate a listening/learning process as we explore spiritual formation, the Trinity, and suburban life.

Phase Two: Each team will create and facilitate an action learning project in their home congregation sometime between April and October.

Phase Three: The three congregational teams will come back together for two debriefing sessions on Monday, November 3 and Monday, November 10.

My job will be to listen well to everything that is said and done, to reflect theologically on the process, and to write about it in a way that will make sense.

If you would like to be on the Grace Action Research Team, please visit www.deepintheburbs.com and click the “Join the Team” button. You will find all the information you need.

My prayer is that this project will benefit our congregation as we seek to grow deeper in our faith and discern how to join God in what God is doing in Andover, Anoka County, and Beyond!



**Director of Worship
Jonathan Orwig**

Greetings, Grace family!

I want to take a few lines to say some words of thanks and also look forward to Lent and the Spring (which we are all praying desperately for, yes?)

First of all, a big thank-you to all of our artists and musicians for making this Fall, Advent and Christmas a rich and meaningful time. Our Liturgical Arts team did a wonderful job with decorations, and our musicians provided beautiful music to help us celebrate the special times in the Church Year. I so appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of time you all give so that we can have a beautiful place to worship, and times of worship that are rich and powerful.

As we look forward to Lent, I want to invite you to consider joining the music ministry – we can always use more singers in the Grace Choir (ages from middle school up) and there are also opportunities to serve with the Worship Band and Singers. We have some wonderful music ahead of us for Lent. I’d love for you to join us! You can get in touch with me at church (763) 421-6520 x113 Tuesday-Friday or by email at jonathano@graceandover.org.

Finally, a “welcome back” to Jenn Hubal, director of the Worship Band and Singers who has recently returned from maternity leave and is leading worship once more for 5 pm Saturday and 10:30 am Sunday. If you see her, make sure and say “hi” and give her a warm welcome back.

Blessings,

Jonathan



Vision Board Reflections:



In the listening process of the Holy Conversations, one of the concerns that has been expressed more than once is this: “The decision has already been made and we are simply going through the motions.” As a member of both the Vision Board

and the Holy Conversations Team, I want to respond to this concern and share how the Vision Board is preparing for the May decision.

In May 2013, as the Vision Board was having their monthly meeting, the Minnesota legislature was voting the same-sex marriage bill into law. In anticipation of the approval of this bill, our bishop sent out a letter to all the churches in the synod stating that each church would be responsible for discerning its own response to the pending new law.

During that May meeting, the Vision Board asked Pastor Mark to put together a team, to lead the process of Holy Conversations, where the Grace congregation could engage in a dialog on the topic of same-sex marriage and how it would impact our ministry here at Grace. We asked that the process be designed and completed within the year so that, in May 2014, the Vision Board could vote on whether or not to allow same-sex marriages to be performed here at Grace. We determined that the team should consist of people from each of the worship services and its members should have experience in facilitating conversations. The team would also include someone from the Vision Board to be a liaison. Pastor Mark assembled the team, which had its first meeting in August.

The first phase of the Holy Conversations was held in October and November, where the team met with the congregation to give everyone the opportunity to voice their questions, concerns and views related to the topic of same-sex marriage. The team met again with the congregation in the months of December and January for the second phase to collectively study the scriptures that address homosexuality. Every member of the Vision Board has attended both phases and has been listening and prayerfully discerning all views brought to these meetings.

There are two additional phases yet to come in this process and we have committed to be present at those as well. It is also important to note that each meeting throughout the process ends in joint prayer, around the cross of Christ, for those attending to sincerely seek God’s guidance in this matter.

To be completely honest, we are quite apprehensive about the vote coming up in May. I can assure each of you that, to date, no decision has been made. We are prayerfully listening to and considering the concerns of all those who have participated in the conversations up to this point. We would also like to encourage anyone who has not participated yet to join the conversations for the next two phases. We would like to hear from as many of you as possible.

Above all, we humbly ask each one of you to cover this whole process, including the upcoming May decision, in prayer. Specifically, we ask you to pray for unity within our church; both now, and following the May decision. We want to be a church that celebrates divergent views within its congregation in order to learn from and challenge each other so that together, we can move closer to the center of our faith, Jesus Christ. Additionally, we also ask you to pray that our church is blessed abundantly through this process by growing stronger in relationships and learning to deeply trust in God in all things. And finally, we ask that you pray for an open mind and heart as we go through this together. It is when we do this that we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us and guide our minds and hearts toward His purpose and mission for our church.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a Vision Board member by going to the church website at www.graceandover.org.

Blessings,
Tari Yates



Thank you for passing the 2014 Budget!
Yes: 221 (184 members), No: 4 (4 members)

We appreciate the incredible support of the congregation as we work to *be a ministry of Grace in the Heart of Andover and beyond!*

Outreach 2013 Highlights!

THANK YOU to all the faithful Grace volunteers for serving God and His people in such generous ways as we continually seek to be *'a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover . . . and beyond!'*

Grace was involved in two new Outreach Ministries in 2013:

Angel Tree Ministry – Volunteers connected with care givers and children of prison inmates, seeking to share God's message of hope and love as well as gifts at Christmas.

Global Health Ministry – Grace joined efforts with this organization as Catechism students rolled bandages at their Servant event last fall.

Outreach in our local community continues in 2013:

Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School – We donated holiday food baskets, winter coats and hats, and Christmas gifts to students and families at this local school. Also, 40 volunteers from Grace worked in the school playground and gardens as part of the "God's Work, Our Hands" event in September.

Family Promise of Anoka County – Grace hosted Family Promise five weeks throughout 2013, offering nutritious food and safe shelter to families who were experiencing homelessness.

Family Table Meal – Volunteers cooked and served a complimentary meal on the third Sunday of each month as we welcomed and fed over 500 people in our community.

Giving Tree – Sharing God's 'abundance' with others during Christmas season, generous volunteers purchased books, clothes & gift cards for others in need in our community.

Grace Quilters – 300 quilts were lovingly made and gracefully donated this year, supporting such ministries as Hospice, Alexandra House and youth camp July 29, putting faith into action!

Habitat for Humanity - Grace sent an energetic team of volunteers to a Habitat work site in Crystal, MN on July 29, putting faith into action!

Hospitality for Funerals – Countless volunteers shared God's grace in tangible ways as they prepared and served meals at funeral luncheons.

May All Be Fed Food Shelf – Church members donated an abundance of canned goods, and we handed out over 350 bags of groceries to local families in need.

Our Savior's Shelter – Grace volunteers continued preparing and serving a delicious meal at this local shelter in Minneapolis on the first Monday of each month.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Faithful volunteers weave prayers into their knitting, and as a result over 43 prayer shawls were created and given to bless others this year.

Outreach to people around the world in 2013:

Haiti Mission Trip – Twelve servants from Grace went to Haiti in May to repair homes, share God's grace and also witness first hand God's spirit at work in Haiti, and in our own lives as well. Several more mission trips to Haiti are planned for 2014.

Youth Mission Trip to Wind River reservation in Wyoming included 22 youth and five adults from Grace. We thank God for this life-changing experience, as seeds were planted in students' hearts that will bear fruit for years to come.

Feed My Starving Children – Over this year, 865 Grace volunteers helped pack 254,000 meals which will provide a daily life-saving meal to 697 children for an entire year.

Operation Christmas Child - We collected 359 shoe boxes filled with gifts, which will be shipped to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse ministry.

Walk for Water – Grace volunteers united efforts with friends at Prairie Oak Church to carry water for miles, while raising funds to build a water well. And good news to report: There is now a safe water supply in Kasama, Zambia! How exciting to make a small yet significant difference in this rural African community.



Hope 4 Youth

by Jan Anderson

Hello friends of Grace Lutheran - On behalf of Hope 4 Youth, I want to truly thank Grace and all who contributed to the winter coat drive and the noisy offering for the youth center in Anoka. You've been one of the best supporters of this ministry. The weather may be cold, but the warmth in your hearts is a reflection of God's love. Thank you many times over!

Serving youth experiencing homelessness through Housing, Outreach, Prevention and Education in Anoka County.



Church Administrator Ralph Holbrook

Grace has seen the blessings of a time of Spiritual Growth. Even with the challenging economic and political market, we have managed to pay our bills and increase our impact as *the ministry of Grace in the Heart of Andover... and beyond!*

There are many highlights from 2013 that reflect our incredible thankfulness for God's blessing:

We successfully completed Phase 1 of the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Campaign:

- ◆ weConnect: 348 of 519 families (67%)
- ◆ weEquip: 24 leaders and 92 volunteers
- ◆ weGrow: 154 families prayed with and sacrificially supported the campaign (30%)
- ◆ Received pledges of \$1,214,785
- ◆ Began addressing safety and deterioration issues – sidewalks, parking lot, portables, etc
- ◆ Covered the capital shortfall of \$1650 /month
- ◆ Made seven extra principle payments totaling \$35,000
- ◆ Saved \$47,100 in interest over the life of the mortgage
- ◆ We increased our benevolence from 8.5% to 9.0%
- ◆ Pastors completed 12 weddings, 11 funerals, and 25 baptisms
- ◆ We were able to give the staff a modest increase

We were blessed to share the Good news with:

- ◆ 2,766 people from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday
- ◆ 2,192 people over the Christmas services
- ◆ Parish Nurse ministry was started
- ◆ SWAT Saturdays began allowing youth to help lead services
- ◆ VBS - 351 children "Tell it on the Mountain"
- ◆ Music Camp – 28 children "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit"
- ◆ Adult Mission trip – twelve people from Grace went to Haiti
- ◆ Youth Mission trip – 22 youth and five adults to Wind River Reservation
- ◆ See the Outreach 2013 Highlights as well!

In addition, there were many more incredible blessings in 2013 that demonstrated the work of the Spirit in the midst of our community.

With God's help, our main goal for the 2014 budget is to strengthen the overall ministries of Grace. Goals to be pursued include:

- ◆ Providing an inspiring and spiritually relevant worship experience which includes support of four weekly worship services, holidays and special events services
- ◆ Welcoming, encouraging, and equipping families to begin their journey of faith with their child by supporting three sessions of SONday School, weekly Rockin' Kids Bible Club, and a week long VBS program
- ◆ Supporting and expanding Confirmation ministries by connecting Parents in Parent University, equipping more adult and high school leaders for catechism groups, empowering Own Your Faith mentors, and providing more social connections for middle school students outside of catechism.
- ◆ Supporting and expanding the Senior High Ministries by recruiting and equipping more adults to work with youth and provide a healthy balance of connecting, growth, and service activities for high school students throughout the year.
- ◆ Supporting and expanding Adult Spiritual Formation through Sunday Evenings @ Grace, Connect Class, Living Generously, etc.
- ◆ Supporting and providing community connections for groups like Graceful Seniors, WOW, Grief Share, etc.
- ◆ Supporting and funding outreach: ELCA benevolence, Family Promise, FMSC, Family Table, World Wide Village, Sand Creek Elementary, etc.
- ◆ Supporting the maintenance and care of our facility on the corner of Round Lake and Bunker Lake Blvds.
- ◆ Supporting, encouraging, and equipping the staff who serve the Grace community
- ◆ Equipping lay leaders who support the ministry of Grace with a Leadership Summit, Leadership Huddles, SaLT Meetings, etc.
- ◆ Continuing Stewardship teaching utilizing *Living Generously* to help Grace equip more leaders, connect with families, build spiritual formation, and develop an environment of generous living

Thank you Grace Family for your incredible support of our mission to be a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!





FAMILY PROMISE – An opportunity to share God’s love with others!

Grace will host **Family Promise** at our church the week of Feb. 16-23. We invite **YOU** to join many other Grace volunteers as we provide warm hospitality and safe shelter for families in Anoka County who are temporarily experiencing homelessness. Yes, this is an opportunity for **YOU** to share God’s love!

Even if you’ve never served in this ministry before, there is a special spot for **YOU** to help...here’s a list of various volunteer opportunities:

- ◆ Prepare an evening meal for 16 people one evening
- ◆ Serve the meal and clean up the kitchen (5 - 7:30 pm one evening)
- ◆ Provide overnight security at the church (8:30pm – 7 am) Yes, you’ll get to sleep at church
- ◆ Be an Evening Host - chat with guests, play games, help with homework, etc. (5 – 9 pm)
- ◆ Set up and take down beds on Sundays
- ◆ Donate food supplies, such as milk, juice, bread, fruit and snacks.
- ◆ Transport guests in the FPAC van (approximately 6:30 am or 5 pm)

What is Family Promise? Family Promise of Anoka County (FPAC) is a network of 15 local congregations who provide temporary housing to families without homes. Guests are housed at each host congregation for one week on a rotating basis, moving to a new location in the network each week until they regain their independence.

How Does It Work? Grace will provide lodging, meals and caring hospitality four different weeks this year. During our Host Week, the guests come to Grace each evening for dinner and an overnight stay at the church. After breakfast, families are returned to the Day Center in Ramsey. During the day, the children go to school, and parents go to work or use the resources at the center to seek employment and future housing.

Volunteer Training will be held from 6:30–8pm Monday, Feb. 10

Questions? Please contact: Jeannie Hellmann at 763 421-5620 ext. 122 or via email at jeannieh@graceandover.org or visit www.familypromiseanoka.org

Join us at FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
Turn Hunger into Hope with Your Own Two Hands



PLEASE join the 250 Grace volunteers on Feb. 7 & 8 as we pack meals at Feed My Starving Children! Volunteering for just two hours will make a big impact in this world, especially in the life of a starving child!

Friday, Feb. 7 - 6 – 7:30 pm
Sat. Feb. 8 - 9 – 11 am

To REGISTER – call the church office 732 421-6520 or register on line at www.fmcs.org

1. Click “Volunteer Registration,” then “Permanent site,” then “Join a Group”
2. Type in “Grace Lutheran”
3. Choose the shift/date that you’d like to volunteer, then click “join”

FMSC warehouse is located at 401 S. 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids. Please arrive 10 minutes before your shift begins and please wear close-toed shoes.

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

**Check Out our Online
Calendar of Events at
[www.graceandover.org!](http://www.graceandover.org)**



Parish Nurse News

Lily Tunby & Lori Ackerson

Heart Matters! Heart Health! Start Today!

February is American Heart Month. According to the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/>), every year about 715,000 Americans have a heart attack. About 600,000 people die from heart disease in the United States each year—that's 1 out of every 4 deaths. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. In other words, heart disease is a major problem.

Here are some helpful and healthful hints when starting a heart healthy lifestyle:

One Step at a Time - As you begin your journey to better heart health, keep these things in mind:

- **Don't become overwhelmed** - Every step brings you closer to a healthier heart.
- **Don't go it alone** - The journey is more fun when you have company. Ask friends and family to join you.
- **Don't get discouraged** - You may not be able to take all of the steps at one time. Get a good night's sleep and do what you can tomorrow.
- **Reward yourself** - Find fun things to do to decrease your stress. Round up some colleagues for a lunchtime walk, join a singing group, or have a healthy dinner with your family or friends.
- **Prevention is key** - Eat a healthy diet, Maintain a healthy weight, Exercise regularly, Monitor your blood pressure, Don't smoke, Limit alcohol use, Have your cholesterol checked, Manage your diabetes & Take your medications. For more information on heart disease or other health and wellness topics, call or email the parish nurses, Lily Tunby and Lori Ackerson (parishnurse@graceandover.org). *Parish nurses are available for in-home or hospital visits, blood pressure checks, questions and education regarding medications or disease management, and coordination of care services if needed.*

Let us know what interests or speakers you think would be beneficial to our church.



Wellness Council

We are excited to welcome the Wellness Council to join with the parish nurses in guiding the health ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. Council members include Scott Lien, Steve Potter, Barb Keller, Cristy Frazier, Diane Phillips, Lily Tunby and Lori Ackerson. This is a motivated group of people that are passionate about encouraging the health and wellness of the people at Grace Lutheran Church. They will help drive projects for the parish nurse and health ministry.



Thank You:

Thank you so much to everyone at Grace for the prayers, visits, cookies and cards while I was home recuperating from surgery. All has been so helpful to me. I hope I will be back to normal very soon.

I love my Grace family,
Joan Hackleman

Thank you Grace family for your prayers, support, and love shown over the loss of my brother, Richard. We are very thankful for the ministry of Grace that you have been to our family.

May the Lord bless you,
Ralph & Candy Holbrook



All Ladies are invited to

The GREAT ESCAPE

“Love through the Years”

Friday, February 28 6:30 - 9pm

Escape to a night of Laughter, Food, Fun & Fellowship



We would like to introduce you to the **Faith 5**. These are five easy things that you can do with your family each night to deepen your faith and help it stick. The five things are simple--*share* highs and lows, *read* scripture, *talk* about it, *pray* together, and *bless* each other. That's it. Simple, but meaningful.

We would like to offer you two opportunities to learn how to use the Faith 5 during Lent. (you can learn more about Faith 5 at www.faith5.org)

The first is a one-time orientation to Faith 5. All parents of children and youth are invited to join us at the **Parent University**, Wednesday, February 26, 6:30-8:00, in the Fellowship Hall.

The second is a four-week class for parents and children that will be held as part of Sunday Evenings @ Grace. Each class will meet for four weeks, from March 23 - April 13, 5:00 - 7:30. Dinner is from 5:00-6:00 and class from 6:00-7:30.

The classes are age specific:

Holding Your Family Together - led by Kim DeVries and Monica Allen

This class is for families of elementary and middle school age children. Parents and children are invited to attend together and learn as a family.

Sticky Faith - led by Pastor Steve and Tom Baker

This class is specifically designed for juniors and seniors in high school and their parents. We will meet all together at times, and break out into adult and student groups at times. These four sessions are designed to help you prepare for the transition into post-high school life, whether it is work or school, and how to make sure your faith sticks in the process.

Children's Ministry:



Kim DeVries
Co-Director of
Children's
Ministry



Monica Allen
Co-Director of
Children's
Ministry



Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry

Like our new Facebook page and keep up with everything happening in Children's Ministry here at Grace!



Rockin' Kids Bible Club

We have been doing our favorite Bible stories chosen and presented by our Small Groups. We have had the story of David and Goliath, Samson, Ruth, Esther, and coming up in February our final Kid Pick, and Daniel in the Lion's Den! We are beginning to work on our spring music project, **Hide 'em in Your Heart**, a musical where we will share verses from the Bible. Please mark your calendars for April 30 at 7 p.m.



Nursery

New in the nursery, we have pagers. When you bring your child to the nursery, you will receive a pager that will allow our nursery staff to contact you if your child should need you for comfort or a diaper change. When in worship, your pager will lightly vibrate and you will know it is time to check in on your child. We hope this will make your morning in worship and your child's experience in the nursery, a pleasant one.



Family Worship Weekend - February 2nd & March 2nd

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon. The SONday School children will be sharing a special song in worship. Children may just come forward when it is time to sing.



SONday School

At Grace, we believe in engaging the whole child—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Our SONday School curriculum has a fresh, creative, approach that will encourage children and families to nurture life-long relationships with Jesus Christ.

We offer SONday School on Saturday at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 and 10:30 am.

SONday School Memory Champs – Please check out our Memory Champ Bulletin Board! Kids have been busy hiding God's Word in their hearts this year, learning Bible Verses set to music. In February, Preschool and Kindergarten children will continue with Ephesians 4:32. You can see the music video on Facebook. Grades 1-5 learned the Ephesians verse in January, so we are going for the "extra challenge" and learning John 3:16. You can also find this video on Facebook. Kids will get their names on the bulletin board and receive a piece a candy when they say their verses to Kim and Monica.

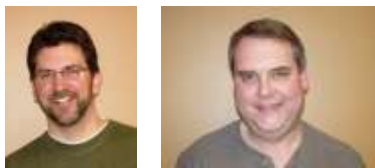


We have 3 Flocks. Our Birthday offerings now total \$77.68! Through Heifer International, \$20 can buy a flock of chicks which could be 10 to 50 chicks, so doing the math, we have a potential of 150 chicks. Birthday offerings will be taken the 2nd-5th weeks of the month in Large Group. Kids can bring their money from home on those weeks and be recognized, receive a sticker, and a birthday pencil. Remember silver coins add up fast!



Memory Milestones

Each class of SONday School has a BIG year long memory project. As children learn their memory work, they will say it to Kim or Monica, receive a prize from the wishing well, and then in Large Group they will be presented with a Milestone that they can keep in their Memory Milestone Box. We presented Milestones in January to four children. We will present Milestones again in Large Group on February 9.



Youth Ministry Happenings: Steve Thomason & Tom Baker



High School youth to participate in the 30 Hour Famine:



February 21 & 22! Don't Miss It!

Our high school youth will be participating in **World Vision's 30 Hour Famine** on **February 21 and 22nd** as part of the national program where youth hope to raise over \$10 million to help children who are living in poverty. As part of the **2014 Release the Feast** event our youth will be also serving at Global Health Ministries. Please consider sponsoring one of our youth who will begin accepting pledges on the weekend of February 8th and 9th.

Grace High School Youth are going BEYOND our borders in 2014!

During the summer of 2014, our high school youth will be challenged to go beyond their comfort zones to serve and grow. For those who have previously attended a YouthWorks site, we are offering a week at the YouthWorks Beyond site in Puerto Rico from June 21-28. This Beyond site offers a deeper understanding of the people and communities we will serve along with the challenges of a different language and environment.



For those who have never been on a mission trip, we will be heading north from July 19-26, to serve in the communities near Thunder Bay, Ontario. This trip is open to all youth currently in the 8th grade through high school seniors. Check out the website below for more information and to register.

SWAT Saturdays!



SWAT stands for *Students Worshipping All Together*. On the second Saturday of every month, high school students will *plan* and *lead* the 5:00 worship service.

After the service we'll grab some food and hang out in the Youth Room and Fellowship Hall.

This is an excellent opportunity to step up into leadership, take the next step in your worship experience, get connected to more people at church, and invite your friends to a unique worship experience. There will be an opportunity for musicians, artists, ushers, communion servers, scripture readers, testimonies, sound techs, and party planners to serve at this event each month.

It's Not Just a Place to Serve, It's a Place for Students to Worship

Let's see how many high school students we can get to attend the next SWAT Saturday's on **February 8 and March 8** at the 5:00pm service.

The SWAT team is led by *Noah Vaillant* and *Kari Trembath*. If you would like to participate in this service contact Pastor Steve, Noah, or Kari.

Have you visited the youth website yet? All the up-to-date information is there:

www.graceandoveryouth.com

Grace Lutheran Church

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A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

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Join us for 'Sunday Evenings@Grace'

Beginning Sunday, March 2nd from 5:00-7:30pm - Dinner & Childcare Provided!

5 Class Offerings this Fall - Don't miss out!!!

Grow



- ◆ **Animate.Bible** - An introduction to the Bible. What it is and why we read it.
Led by Pastor Mark Hellmann

- ◆ **Financial Peace University** - A plan that teaches God's way of handling money.
Led by Lindsay and Jonathan Orwig

Connect



- ◆ **Divorce Care** - a divorce recovery support group where you can find help and healing for hurt of separation and divorce. *Led by Deb Stang*

- ◆ **Faith Forming Families** -

***Holding Families together** - faith practices for younger families led by Kim DeVries & Monica Allen*

***Sticky Faith** - Helping families transition into college. Led by Steve Thomason and Tom Baker*

Equip

