

grace notes

The February Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

Living Upside Down

Grace's Lent Journey Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with worship

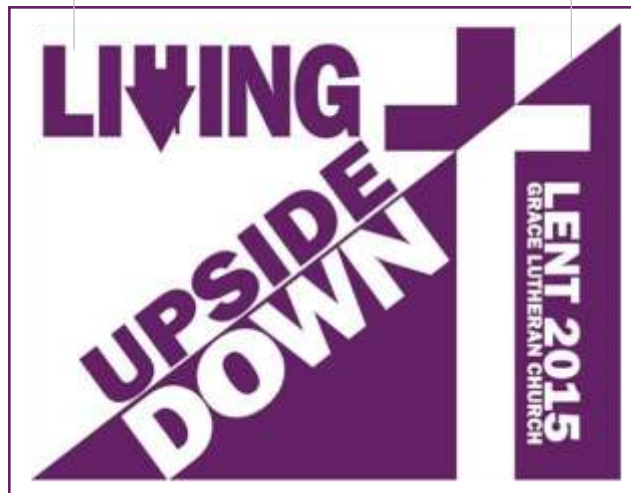
Do you ever sense the 'tug of war' between God's values and those of the world around us? For instance, the world says, "If someone hurts you, strike back and get even." Yet God's Word says, "Turn the other cheek." The American marketing theme is: 'the one with the most toys wins,' but Jesus says: "Seek first the Kingdom of God." The voice inside of us shouts, "It's all about me!" but God's Word reminds us to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Could it be that God's values turn the world's values upside down. Could it be that God calls us, and inspires us to a life that seems "upside down" to the world around us?

This may seem a bit strange, but this isn't the first time Christians have been described as those living upside down. Back in the early days of the church, people complained about Christians: "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also!" Acts 17:6

Have we ever considered Lent as a call to live upside down? Can we understand these 40 days of journeying with Jesus to the cross as a radical call to live his values and principles of his Kingdom which may be different from the ones we normally live? If so, then our 2015 Lent Journey may be a new way of living upside down!

Grace's Living Upside Down Lenten Journey begins on Ash Wednesday,



February 18th. This special 7pm worship service symbolizes our everyday struggle to live upside down. We want to follow Jesus in deep and authentic ways, yet we often find our intentions are not so easily connected to our follow through.

This is why on Ash Wednesday we begin with repentance. We admit we often turn back from following Jesus or give in to self-centeredness and pursue the wrong things. To publically admit our shallow commitment to follow Jesus, ashes are marked on our foreheads and words are spoken: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is the time we seek to hear again God's righteousness, forgiveness, and love.

Lent is a long journey. It is a 40 day period of spiritual investment.

During this journey we set aside time for deeper moments of prayer, worship, fasting, acts of charity, scriptural meditation and Bible reading...all meant to help us step away from those things that hinder us in our spiritual journeys, as well as prepare us for the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection on Easter.

In order for us to reflect upon the ways that the Kingdom calls us to live upside down, our weekend worship services will focus on some of Jesus' parables that teach a radical way to live differently from the world's

Continued on Page 2

What's Inside

Children's Ministry	Pg. 8/9
Free 2B GRACE.....	Pg. 5
Golden Rule	Pg. 10
Graceful Senior.....	Pg. 10
Lent Projects	Pg. 3
Outreach	Pg. 9
Pastor Steve.....	Pg. 4
Stewardship.....	Pg. 6
Thanks	Pg. 11
Vision Board	Pg. 7

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Living Upside Down - con't. from pg 1

standards: The Unforgiving Servant, The Laborers in the Vineyard, The Wedding Banquet, The Foolish Bridesmaids, and The Judgment between the Sheep and Goats.

In addition to weekend worship, a 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening Lenten Service will be offered. We will watch the powerful Animate video series called "Practices." Taught by some of today's most passionate and intentional disciples of Jesus, these video-teachings invite us to explore a way of life that is rooted in the traditional Lent practices of prayer, worship, money, service, and community.

One of the most meaningful ways we follow Jesus during our 2015 Living Upside Down Lent Journey will be putting our faith into action through several Outreach Projects. This year we will:

- Give special food offerings for ACBC Food Pantry and our own "May All Be Fed" Food Pantry.
- Send our Noisy Offerings to Rakai, Uganda, to help build a bakery which will provide skill training and income for vulnerable women.
- Pack food at a Feed My Starving Children
- Welcome families in homeless situations to stay at Grace for a week as part of Family Promise.

In order to deepen our Lenten journey, we are asking everyone at Grace to consider the follow:

- Make Weekend Worship and Wednesday Vespers services a high priority.
- Join us for Lenten Suppers on Wednesday February 25-March 25. Enjoy fellowship and community around a simple meal, as various Grace ministries prepare and serve a simple meal at 5:30 p.m.
- Use the daily Bible readings in our Grace Lenten Brochure which are available at the Welcome Center in the Lobby or on our website.

We invite you to the Journey of living upside down as we journey to the cross and experience again, God's radical love shown in Jesus. May this be a time to **be challenged!** May it be a journey when we are assured of God's forgiveness and love. But most of all, may it be a time for us to deepen and live like Jesus...upside down all the way to the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter morning.



More Information About Lent Projects

As we learn more about the Lenten practices of worship, giving, praying and sharing . . . and as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus, both locally and globally . . . here are outreach opportunities that we invite you to embrace during our Lenten Journey of Living Upside Down.

SHARING FOOD - locally

Please bring non-perishable food items to the Welcome Center in the church lobby each time you come to church during Lent. All donated food will be given to the local ACBC Food Shelf or it will be used to restock our own 'May All Be Fed' Food Shelf at Grace. Each of your donated food items will be a blessing to nourish local families in Anoka County.

SHARING FUNDS - globally

Noisy Offerings during Lent will be invested in a business development called The Bakery Project in Rakai, Uganda. This global outreach to Africa continues through our relationships with Richard and Johnson who spoke to us during worship last November. This Bakery Project will provide skill training, job opportunities, **income resources for vulnerable women, revenue to fund school supplies . . . not to mention FRESH and affordable bread for the people in Rakai.** We simply cannot imagine the blessing this will be!

SHARING TIME – with local & global impact

You are invited to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children Sat. March 14 from 7-9 pm with over 120 volunteers from Grace!

You are invited to serve in ministering to families in homeless situations as we host Family Promise guests at our church March 8-15.

SHARING YOURSELF - both locally & globally

Please continue to pray and seek out opportunities to share your time, talents and treasures during this Lenten journey of Living Upside Down. Simple ways of **sharing God's grace may include** - sharing your listening ear with your neighbor, sharing your helpful hands with co-worker, sharing your gift of time with family and friends, sharing your food with the hungry, sharing your resources to support FMSC or The Bakery Project in Rakai.

The gift of SHARING has no limits, as we are strengthened and inspired by God's grace to be Living Upside Down!



Special Note about Grace Notes

Everyone in the congregation will begin to receive a printed copy of the Grace Notes in an effort to grow our communications. We continue to send out the Grace Notes electronically and post them on the website.

A Smorgasbord of Spiritual Food

An Invitation from Pastor Steve



I am excited to invite you to the next offering of Sunday Evenings @ Grace. This is like a smorgasbord of spiritual food for adults. We gather for food, fellowship, and digging into practical tools that will equip us for growing in all areas of life. We have a great line-up this Spring that will touch on many areas of life.

Sunday, February 15 – Sunday, March 29
(Seven Weeks)

5:00pm – 6:00pm Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:00pm – 7:30pm Break out into Classes

Prayerfully consider joining one of these courses.

Major on the Minors

Led by Pastor Mark Hellmann

This study will dig into two of the most important prophets: *Amos* and *Hosea*. The prophets challenge us to be boundary-crossers: to cross the boundary between *religion* and *politics*, and the boundary between *us* and *them*. You will hear about God's tough love and amazing grace which are extended to a people who have often broken the Divine heart.

GriefShare

Led by Ann Lange and Lynn Noren

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Learn more about this nation-wide ministry at www.griefshare.org

Financial Peace University

Led by Lindsay and Jonathan Orwig

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. This nationally known and time-tested course from Dave Ramsey will help you learn the steps to get out of debt and find the freedom that God intended for us to share.

The Overflow Principle: Stewarding God's Love for a Whole World

Led by Pastor Steve Thomason

Discover how God has uniquely designed you to be an **important part of God's amazing world**. This course will teach you the basic practices that will help you cultivate a deeper relationship with God, yourself, your family, and all the relationships in your life. When you connect with God you will overflow God's love to the world!

Daily Devotionals for Lent

Spiritual formation is just like physical formation. If you want your body to be healthy, then you have to eat regularly, drink lots of water, and get good exercise. These are practices of healthy living. Spiritual formation requires the same kind of practices. If you want to be spiritually healthy then you need to have a regular diet of scripture, prayer, worship, and service.



I invite you to join me during Lent to grow in a basic practice of *daily scripture reading*. I post a short devotional on my website every day about the scripture from the Narrative Lectionary text for anyone to read. I call them *Daily Devos*. I will share these devos on our Lent webpage during Lent. Join me in setting aside a little time each day to read these texts, meditate on them, and share them with others. You can find the *Daily Devos* at www.graceandover.org/lent

See you at the table!

Pastor Steve

It's Time to Celebrate Again!!!

We're now at another celebration milestone in our Free 2B GRACE Campaign. We have completed our second year of sacrificial giving and it's time to celebrate God's blessings.

At Grace we celebrate God's blessings in a unique way...we vote on how we're going to tithe 10% of the money that has been given so that we might bless others. It's at the heart of who we are! We know we have been blessed so that we might bless others.

In this past year we celebrate the \$187,000 dollars have been given to support our Free 2B Campaign. What have we been able to do with these sacrificial gifts? Lots! We have:

- paid the mortgage costs and lowered the principle by an additional \$60,000! This has resulted in lowering our debt by more than \$100,000! We celebrate the fact that in December 2013 our mortgage debt was: \$1,261,129. In December 2014 our mortgage debt was: \$1,151,684. Praise the Lord!
- repaired our building. We celebrate our new roofs over the Worship Center and Fellowship Hall, the repair to the crumbling outside brick walls, the replacement of bulbs with efficient LED ones, new carpeting in the Nursery, hallways, and Day Care (with the help from Golden Rule)

- upgraded the computers and failing video projectors due to the summer lightning strike.
- tithed \$12,000 last February to: World Wide Village in Haiti, Family Promise, Hope 4 Youth, and New Creations Lutheran Mission Church in Texas.

In addition to the projects listed above, there is something we can't see or notice, but nevertheless, it's something we want to celebrate...the spiritual growth that comes as people give sacrificially. This was one of the major goals of our campaign: to grow spiritually through sacrificially giving beyond ourselves. We believe this has been happening throughout the year! There is a strong sense of mission continuing to grow at Grace. There is an emerging sense that we don't exist for ourselves, but for God to use us in order to bring his love and healing to our world. We believe this is the



result of our Free 2B Grace Campaign and we want to celebrate.

So, we invite you to join us on the weekend of February 7th & 8th as we celebrate God's blessings during our worship services and at a special donuts and coffee time afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a list of new mission opportunities for you to vote and help us determine how we can send our blessings on to others. But most of all, it will be an opportunity for us to connect and celebrate the blessings God has given us!



All ladies are invited to our next Women's Fellowship

Event, MUGS, MUFFINS & MORE,
9:30 – 11:30 am Saturday, Feb. 28
Fellowship Hall at Grace.

This will be a casual gathering time for ladies to enjoy a morning beverage in a MUG, to simply savor a tasty MUFFIN and to thoroughly enjoy MORE growing friendships at Grace.

You bring a favorite MUG . . . We'll bake the MUFFINS . . . & together we'll enjoy MORE fun & fellowship!

Please pick up your free tickets at the Welcome Center or Church Office. And bring a friend (and your mug) to MUGS, MUFFINS & MORE Saturday, Feb. 28 at 9:30am. Hope to see you there!

Introduction to the Wholeness Wheel

A Word From the Fun Stewardship Team

Hi Again People of Grace,

Yep! This is another letter from your "The Most Fun Team at Grace." Remember us from last month's Grace Notes? We're the Stewardship Team planning Fun Future Events and Awesome Activities in 2015! And we're hoping you remember what we said last month:

"Stewardship is not about money!" REALLY! Now we know this may take some convincing, but we've got a whole year to prove it to you! So...here goes!

We start by introducing to you something we call The Wholeness Wheel. You may remember our definition of whole life stewardship is: "living our lives centered on Jesus, as evidenced in our relationships with God, self and others." Well...we're trying to illustrate how life centered on Jesus can naturally overflow into all parts of our lives and not just our wallets!! (Dah dah!!! See...we proved it! Stewardship is not about money! Not convinced? Read some more!)

The Wholeness Wheel illustrates the truth that Spiritual well-being depends upon the balance between all the parts of a person's life: interpersonal relationships, the environment we live in, our mental and intellectual abilities, our emotional well-being, our life-purpose and vocational needs, our physical health, and finally our financial needs.

We're so used to thinking that spiritual health and well-being is only about...well, the spiritual side of us. We forget that God created us more complex than that, and that he's interested in all aspects of our lives. The more we can learn how to let Jesus help us manage these parts, the more health and well-being we have. And we call that stewardship!

To help us learn more about the Wholeness Wheel, we are going to explore one area of the wheel each month. Now what is the most fun day of February? It's Valentine's Day! So, we thought we'd begin by focusing on love!!! (Specifically on our social and interpersonal relationships - namely, our families)

Now there's lots that can be said about stewarding our family relationships, but we want to start with something basic AND easy. And what can be more basic to our families'

well-being than the family dinner table? But do you find that your schedule is so hectic that you don't eat together as a family very often? Or, do you migrate to the TV far too often, and eat there instead? Maybe it is easier to just do drive-through and call it dinner? If you've answered yes to anyone of those questions, you are far more normal than you might think!



So, how do you turn things around? Here are some simple ideas from the Stewardship Team

- First, aim for one night a week as a Family Night. At least three family meals a week is ideal, but let's start with one.
- Make it fun! There are great resources on the Internet for making dinner time more than just eating!
- Have a "time out" place for TV, tablets, and cell phones so no one is distracted!
- Begin with a table prayer. If

that's a bit challenging right now, have everyone share something that they're grateful for that day.

- Finally, have everyone takes turns sharing something positive and negative that has happened to them during the day.
- Give each other a special handshake and a blessing!

What if there aren't any kids at home or you live alone? No problem. Go outside your comfort zone and invite someone into your home for a simple meal and conversation. Can't cook? No excuses. Buy a rotisserie chicken and a salad in a bag. Just be brave and try it once. You will feel great.

In the meantime, start to think of other ways in which we can strengthen and grow our family relationships. If you want to share them, please contact the team at: delineruth@icloud.com. And remember our catch phrase for the month of February: "It All Begins At The Family Table."

With LOVE,

The Stewardship FUN Team

A New Year, A Fresh Start

A Vision Board Word

Jessie Crooks

“God uses people who fail—'cause there aren't any other kind around.” - John C. Maxwell

A new year; a fresh start, we often talk of this but what does it mean? To me, it means another chance given to me by God, to work to align my life with what God desires for me. Practice makes progress I tell my children and it's a good reminder to me as well as I strive for physical, mental and spiritual good health.

My life verse that I cling to is from 2nd Corinthians 12:9 *“Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.”*

I am so thankful I serve God, who knows my imperfections, gives me space to try, and loves me just as much, whether I win gracefully or fail miserably.

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work **through me.”**

II Corinthians 12:9

Just as God gives me this strength and power, so too does that strength, power and grace embody the Vision

Board as we strive to serve the community of Grace.

The Vision Board accomplished much before you gave me your trust to be a member, and now as a member of the Vision Board, I am glad to be part of the process, the care and thought that goes into serving the members of Grace.

I look forward to the future of Grace as we continue to try to grow our community of Love and yes, Grace. I thank you for your trust as I carry on my new term as Vision Board Member. I am joyous and humbled to be a part of the living breathing spirit of Grace.

With much love

Jessie 😊

Vision Board Notes

Grace Lutheran Church Vision Board Notes

The Grace Lutheran Church Vision Board met at the home of Jessie Crooks on Tuesday, January 13th, 2015. Members present were Dennis Grabowski (via Skype), Tari Yates, Jessie Crooks, Greg Ackerson, BreAnn Haugrud (from 7-9) Bernard McDowell and Alden Riley, along with Pastor Mark. Good conversation and dinner were enjoyed by all.

After dinner, the board discussed a study, “10 Ways to drive first time guests away” and “10 things I would tell you as a first time visitor to your church.” We discussed how Grace can improve new guest experiences.

The board discussed many items including, finalizing the budget to present to the congregation on January 22nd and vote on January 24/25th.

We also discussed Greg Ackerson and Mark Hellmann’s mission trip to Haiti. There are exciting things happening and possible new areas for members of Grace to participate without a trip to the country.

The meeting ended in a time of prayer.



February's News

Family Worship Weekends - February 1

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon.

Rockin' Kids Wednesday Evening Club

It's a King Thing, a Royal experience, dust off your crowns and scepters, and get ready for the drama of the Kings and Queens of the Bible. We will be meeting the "good" and "not so good" kings of the Bible. Join us as we sing our HIGH Energy worship songs, meet Lady Legomutton and Chester the Jester, our puppets each week, and enjoy a fun activity such as Malt Night, Crafts, Games, and Bible Discovery!



During Lent, RKBC will begin our night with choir at 6:30 in the Nap Room, attend a portion of the worship service, and then explore our night's story and activity. Kids attending worship who do not normally attend RKBC may join us either at 6:30 or when the children are dismissed from the worship service. All children are to be picked up in Nap Room after worship.

RKBC Dates:

- Sun. Feb 1 Sing in Worship – Meet in 106 at 9:35 a
- Wed. Feb. 18 NO RKBC – Ash Wednesday – Kids are invited to worship with their families. There will be a special children's time during the service.
- Sun. Mar. 8 Sing in Worship - Meet in 106 at 9:35 a
- Wed. Mar. 18 Sing in Worship

RKBC & SONday School Service Project



We began our year working with Scott Lien and Global Health Ministries learning about healthcare in Africa. It is so different from we experience here in America. Our project was to roll bandages. We rolled a total of 288 bandages. We will also be donating our offerings of \$78.64 to Global Health Ministries. Thank you Scott Lien for letting us be a part of this ministry!



March Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered. for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace, on Saturday, March 7, at 9 a.m. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God.

Baptism Sunday in March will be March 15. Families can schedule baptisms at either the 9 or 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. Baptisms can also be scheduled for most Saturday Night Worship as well. The next Baptism Workshop will be May 2, at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

SONday School Birthday Offering

We Have a Flock!

Our Birthday Offering this year will be going to Heifer International to purchase flocks of chicks. \$20 can buy a flock of chicks which could be 10 to 50 chicks. Our offering total as of January 23 was \$63.68 which is well on our way to 4 flocks of chicks. Chicken fact – a hen will lay an average of 530 eggs in her lifetime. Think how many people can be fed by your birthday offering!



It's not too early to plan for ...

Vacation Bible School

June 15–19th 9:30am – Noon

Our Theme this year is “Bible Blast to the Past”

Get ready to travel on a life-changing adventure that leads kids in search of a love that lasts forever!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 28th 10:00am – 11:30am

We will have fun games, crafts, stories, and an exciting hunt!

First Communion Class

Saturday April 18th 9:00am - Noon.

Pastor Mark and Kim DeVries teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on April 18th at the 5:00 service, or April 19th at the 9 or 10:30 service.

Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Call the church office to sign up.



Please join the team of gregarious Grace volunteers as we pack meals at FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN on Friday Feb. 13 and Sat. March 14. There will be Free Admission for the first 300 volunteers from Grace (smiles). Bring your neighbors, co-workers and friends to these fun serving events! You may be changed through this event, but your serving will certainly change the life of a starving child!

Friday, Feb. 13 6 – 7:30 pm & 8 – 9:30 pm

Sat. Mar. 14 7 – 9 pm

The 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.

To REGISTER: Sign-up on line (see below), on blue sheets in worship, or call church office 763 421-6520

Online – go to www.fmsc.org

Click “Volunteer Registration”

Click “Permanent site”

Click “Join a Group”

Under group name, type “Grace Lutheran” ... and under Location type “Coon Rapids, MN”

Choose the shift/date that you’d like to volunteer, then click “join”

Click “confirm”

Then you will be prompted to set up an account the first time you register, after that it will be easy for you to reserve or change your volunteer spots on line.



Just 1 More 5K Benefiting World Wide Village” City On A Hill Haiti Project”

Get active this spring and join us for Just 1 More 5K, at Bunker Hills Regional Park on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Organized by volunteers from Grace Lutheran Church, this fundraiser 5K, 10K and kids’ fun run will raise money for World Wide Village’s City on a Hill project in Haiti. Register for the race at Just1More5K.org.

We can only do this race with your help. Sponsors will have a great advertising opportunity when they support this event. If you have a contact you think would be interested let us know. You can also volunteer on race day! We have many different jobs available, sign up and join in the fun!

Haven’t participated in a 5K before but have always wanted to? Join our Couch to 5K program starting up March 15th!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please email us at Just1more5K@gmail.com.

Golden Rule Childcare Center News

Golden Rule is proud to announce that in 2014 we became a nationally recognized NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Accredited Early Childhood Program. Our teacher's put in a great deal of time and effort to prepare our program for the high standards that are required to achieve this distinction. This award is definitely deserved and attests to our staff's dedication to providing the highest quality of care and early childhood education. I am so proud and thankful for our amazing team of teachers.



in both of our hallways and our classrooms. Secondly, thanks to some of Grace's amazing volunteers, we had our deck stained outdoors in our nature based playground. Thirdly, thanks to the great guys in Grace's Men's Property Ministry Team! They helped us out with so many odds and ends projects throughout the year, including replacing some of the ceiling tiles in our classrooms. We really appreciate everything that the Grace community has done for us. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church community.

In 2014 we had to say goodbye to our beloved friend and cook, Cathy Stoll. She made the very difficult decision to retire after being with Golden Rule for over 34 years. Although Mrs. Stoll can never be replaced, we wanted to continue our mission of serving delicious, healthy snacks and meals to our children. We chose "Healthy Bites", a local caterer to prepare our food for us. Their vision is to expose children to different foods and combinations to expand their palate at a young age. This will promote healthy food choices as they grow.

We continued to be blessed in 2014 with amazing children and their families. Both the Toddler and Preschool classrooms are full, with families anxiously on a waiting list to join our Golden Rule family. We currently have 52 children enrolled in our program, both full and part time. We are looking forward to continuing our mission of providing high quality Christian care to the families of Andover and our surrounding communities in 2015.

In 2014 we continued to make building improvements. First of all, we completed the installation of new carpeting

Many blessings in 2015,

Tami Mielke

Director of Golden Rule Child Care



Senior Moments

12 Grace's senior men rang bells for the Salvation Army at County Market for the 14th year in a row. They were thankful that it was a much warmer Saturday than most and are thankful for all the ongoing commitment.

In 2014, the Grace quilters donated two of their beautiful quilts to Shriner's

Hospital for Children, where each hospitalized child receives a quilt. Numerous times, hospital personnel have commented on the quality and beauty of Grace's quilts and consistently express their thanks and appreciation. Recently the hospital asked for the names of the quilters, a group photo and permission to place the information on the hospital web site to be seen worldwide. This is indeed another kudos for the quilters and they are also thanked for their ongoing commitment.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Pastor Gene Heglund leads the "breakfast" seniors in a Biblically-related study at the Farmstead in Andover. The current charge for a delicious breakfast buffet served by the Farmstead staff is \$6.50. The meeting begins at 8:30 and is usually completed by 9:45 (because the seniors have other commitments!). Reservations need to be made for the breakfast and there is a calling committee who does this each month. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Kris at the church office and she will follow through. We are continuing to study Proverbs.

If you are a senior who has not been contacted by the church office and would like to know more about programs for seniors, call Kris Miller at Grace's office and someone will contact you.

Notes of Thanks from our Friends

Sincere heartfelt thanks to our Grace family for your countless expressions of sympathy, from kind words and tender cards to compassionate listening ears and generous memorial gifts to Feed My Starving Children. Your care is truly ministering to us during this journey of grieving the loss of Jeannie's mother. **Once again, we are so thankful for our Grace family!**

In His love,

Pastor Mark & Jeannie Hellmann

Dear Grace Lutheran Church -

THANK YOU so much for your incredible, heartfelt, generous gifts and basic needs for our families at Christmas! We are so grateful for the support that your parish provides for our students and families at Sand Creek Elementary.

You have made such a difference in the lives of 11 families and 39 children! Your kind gifts and clothing meant more than we can express in words. Thank you! Truly! We are appreciative beyond measure.

*Julia Messenger, Social Worker
Paul Anderson, Principal
Sand Creek Elementary School*

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you and your staff, congregation and to everyone at Grace Lutheran Church.

Our family has been through a very rough year. We hope 2015 will be a better year for us. Just to give you a little bit more about our family, our son has Epilepsy and he has had quite a few seizures this year. He ends up in the hospital every time he has one. Our daughter, who was born 3 months premature, was in Children's Hospital for a week with an abscess in her Lymph Node on the right side of her neck. We almost lost her. So, those things, along with some other events in our lives have taken their toll on us.

Again, we wanted you to know how very much we appreciated your gift at Christmastime. It is so good to know that there are good people who take the extra step to help people who are in need.

With warmest thanks and grateful hearts, and deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness.

The Ferrari's

Did you know that on any given weekend at Grace we need more than 60 volunteers to help with worship? On Christmas Eve over 100 people volunteered to help with all the services. To those of you who volunteer. Thank you. Your work is appreciated. You help make worshipping at Grace a Spirit led experience for those who attend.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to serve at Grace on a monthly basis during worship, I would like to work with you in finding that role. There is a place for you to serve and your service would be a blessing.

If you would like more information please contact, Kate Morphew. katem@graceandover.org

Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304

A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!
www.graceandover.org

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WORSHIP SERVICE

FEBRUARY 18 ■ 7 PM

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion