

# grace notes

The April Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

## Holy Week and Easter at Grace

### ***Grace's "Living Upside Down Journey" Ends on Easter, April 5***

Our Lenten journey comes to a dramatic climax during Holy Week as we walk Jesus' last steps to the cross. They are precious days as we gather to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem amidst the palms and loud "hosannas." We sit with the disciples in the Upper Room and then hear the crowds shouting for his crucifixion. We stand at the foot of the cross and see his blood freely flowing for the life of this world. These treasured moments help prepare us for the wonder and meaning of Easter. We invite you to walk our Upside Down Journey all the way to the Empty Tomb.

#### HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION

Palm Sunday (March 28 /29) begins **Holy Week**, as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem. Palm branches will be distributed prior to worship which will add to the festive celebration of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. We will present a dramatic reading of Jesus' passion.

Maundy Thursday (April 2) we will celebrate the Last Supper and Jesus' command to love one another in an unique and meaningful way. The service will be part of a wonderful meal. Called The Last Supper Church, the service will offer beautiful music, simple liturgy, good food and a special celebration of **Holy Communion with an "Upper Room" atmosphere.** For more information please turn to page 2.



On Good Friday (April 3) we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for the "Seven Last Words of Christ: A Choral Service at the Foot of the Cross. The service follows Jesus last journey of love...the journey to the cross through reflective music, dramatic readings and prayers.

#### EASTER CELEBRATION

Grace will offer many opportunities to celebrate the Victory of the Empty Tomb on Easter weekend. Our celebrations begin at the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday, April 4 at 5:00 p.m. This service has a special "flavor" of celebrating both Good

*Continued on Page 2*

---

## What's Inside

<b>Children's Ministry</b> .....	Pg. 8/9
Golden Rule .....	Pg. 10
Graceful Senior .....	Pg. 10
Lent Projects .....	Pg. 11
Outreach .....	Pg. 9
Stewardship .....	Pg. 6
Thanks .....	Pg. 11
Vision Board .....	Pg. 7
Women .....	Pg. 4/5

---

Staff Contacts

Phone - (763) 421-6520

Senior Pastor

Mark Hellmann..... Ext. 110  
markh@graceandover.org

**Director of Outreach & Women's Ministries**

Jeannie Hellmann ..... Ext. 122  
jeannieh@graceandover.org

Visitation Pastor

Gene Heglund

Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Steve Thomason,..... Ext. 105  
stevet@graceandover.org

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Tom Baker..... Ext. 123  
tomb@graceandover.org

**Co-Director of Children's Ministries**

Monica Allen..... Ext. 116,  
monicaa@graceandover.org

**Co-Director of Children's Ministries**

Kim DeVries..... Ext. 112,  
kimd@graceandover.org

Director of Worship & Music

Jonathan Orwig..... Ext. 113  
jonathano@graceandover.org

Worship Coordinator & Organist

Carroll Potter ..... Ext. 109  
carrollp@graceandover.org

Connection & Volunteer Coordinator

Kate Morphew..... Ext. 120  
katem@graceandover.org

Director of Praise Team

Jenn Hubal ..... Ext. 114  
jennh@graceandover.org

Director of Grace Choir

Doreen Hutchings  
doreenh@graceandover.org

Secretary

Kris Miller ..... Ext. 101  
krism@graceandover.org

Bookkeeper

Bonnie Trembath ..... Ext. 111  
bonniet@graceandover.org

Parish Nurses

Lily Tunby & Lori Ackerson  
..... Ext. 100

# Living Upside Down - **cont'. from pg 1**

Friday and Easter morning with readings of the Old Testament stories of rescue and salvation, as a backdrop to our celebration of the new life of Jesus' resurrection. The service will have lots of music and a sense of excitement!

Easter morning we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection at four Worship Services.



## Holy Week

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT GRACE

#### Maundy Thursday

April 2                      6:00 p.m.      Last Supper Church

#### Good Friday

April 3                      7:00 p.m.      Seven Last Words of Christ

#### Easter Saturday

April 4                      5:00 p.m.      Easter Vigil – From Death to Life

#### Easter Sunday

April 5                      6:30 a.m.      Sunrise Worship

8:00 a.m.      Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m.      Traditional with a Contemporary Flair

11:15 a.m.      Contemporary Praise Worship

## 2015 Youth Mission Teams Fundraising News

We have 21 youth who need to raise funds so that they can serve in Washington DC and Milwaukee, WI this summer. Check out how you can support their mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus:

### Need some help with Spring Cleaning?

Sign up on the blue sheets or contact Tom Baker to request help for your spring home projects. This can include anything from yard work to garage cleaning, washing windows, or even providing childcare so that you can get your home projects done. We will match you up with one (or more) of our youth team members, and they will contact you concerning the details of what you need done and when.

### Moms Day Out:

Show your appreciation for all that “Moms” due by giving her some time away from the kids to go shopping, have a pedicure, see a movie, or even go fishing! We will provide childcare at your home on Friday evening, May 8th or anytime on Saturday, May 9th. Sign up on the blue sheets or contact Tom Baker (tomb@graceandover.org).

### Miles To Go Sponsorship

You can support our team by pledging one of our 15 youth and 3 adults who are going to Washington DC in July or one of our 8 youth and 2 adults who are going to Milwaukee. Beginning on April

25th and for the first two weekends of May, we will be gathering support from our congregation. Our youth will be in the narthex to talk with you and to give you the opportunity to support them through prayer, and financially.

### Garage Sale

As you begin your spring cleaning, don't forget to put aside some items for the Grace Garage Sale to be held June 11th – 13th. This year's sale will benefit our Washington DC and Milwaukee Mission Teams and the children and youth who are going to Luther Point Bible Camp in July.

Beginning on Monday, May 18th, we will be accepting clothing and household items in Portable #1 (the portable closest to the church building). Items can be dropped off during normal, weekday business hours and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:30-noon. Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition.

We would appreciate NOT receiving any of the following items as they are hard to sell and are expensive to dispose of: **No computers, monitors, printers, TV's, appliances, electronics, mattresses, or exercise equipment.** All furniture donations must be in good condition and must be “approved for sale” before you leave it at the church. You may contact Tom Baker (tomb@graceandover.org ) concerning questions on items, or to arrange pick up of bulky items, after May 31st.

**MISSION:  
POSSIBLE**

## Looking for a Summer Camp Adventure?

We're adventuring at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI this summer. This camp is only 1 ½ hours from Andover and has lots of options for children, youth, and families. We are planning to take a group from our church the week of July 12-17 which offers the following camps:

- Jr. High camp, Jr. High Horse Camp
- 5th & 6th Grade Camp,
- 3 day 3rd & 4th Grade Camp.

We would also like to take a group of families up on Friday July 10 for the Weekend Family Camp.

NOW is the time to start making your summer plans. As usual, we will offer campers the opportunity to reduce their camp costs by working at the Grace Garage Sale which is June 11-13.

Of course, you can always go to camp during the other summer sessions. Please check out all the Luther Point Camp information and options at Lutherpoint.org and you can also register ONLINE. Please contact Tom Baker with any questions.



# Message of Hope for Marriages

After 11 years of marriage, Angie asked Doug for a divorce.

This was not an easy decision, nor something she wanted. For both of us, marriage was for life, through better or worse. **But we didn't REALLY understand how hard marriage could be.**

The major challenge we had in our marriage wasn't something that came out of the blue, it was there from the beginning. It wasn't a big deal then, it was more of a small crack that we felt was just a small difference between us. But as the years went on, the stress of responsibilities hit hard, especially as we cared for our children and home while striving for successful careers. It felt overwhelming! The little crack was creating a divide between us, leaving Angie feeling frustrated, angry and rejected and Doug feeling like Angie was never happy with him, no matter what.

We both wanted our marriage to work, so we went to counseling - and while it certainly helped in some areas, it really did nothing to fix our issues. Angie felt as if she was shouting from the rooftops with a megaphone and Doug felt like Angie was asking him to fix all of her problems. Every time we tried to talk about it, instead of becoming clear, everything just became fuzzy.

Now our little crack was a ravine. After years of being lonely, sad, mad and frustrated, Angie didn't like the person she was becoming, so she asked for a divorce. Doug felt like Angie was just giving up.

Then Doug heard about a program called Retrouvaille. It

was a weekend retreat, with some follow-up workshops. Hesitant at first, Angie agreed to go into the weekend with an open mind.

Retrouvaille isn't your run of the mill weekend marriage retreat. It is specifically for troubled marriages, for

couples who are separated and/or thinking about divorce.

For us, Retrouvaille was the lifeline we needed to save our marriage. This program was showing us both that maybe there was still hope for us. It's not a silver bullet or magic wand. It takes commitment and desire to

rebuild a loving relationship. On the weekend, you don't have to share your problems with others. Yet this program taught us ways to process and communicate our feelings with love and forgiveness. The cost is \$150, including food and lodging, but please don't let limited funds stop you from contacting them as they may assist you with financial help.

We hope our story provides people with an option for their troubled marriage relationships. We are so thankful for this program. For us, it saved our marriage and family. If you have any questions, please see website at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). Or if you want to talk to Angie or Doug or both, please don't hesitate to contact either of us, either personally or anonymously, and we'll gladly answer any questions you have.

Angie – [aj\\_peacock@yahoo.com](mailto:aj_peacock@yahoo.com) or 612-508-6540  
Doug – [dlhanson@rocketmail.com](mailto:dlhanson@rocketmail.com) or 612-751-6227

**retrouvaille**  
(n.) the joy of meeting or finding someone again after a long separation; rediscovery

## ADVENTURES this Summer for WOMEN of Grace

Are you a woman in search of adventure? Have you ever wanted to go on a canoe trip, but worried you were too out of shape or too old to do it?

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE! Join the women of Grace for a "beginner friendly" canoe trip to the BWCA (Boundary Waters Canoe Area)! Whether you've never paddled a canoe in your life, or you remember the days of campfires and portages fondly - this trip is for you!

Our journey will take place over a long weekend in northern MN with two overnight stays in a modern cabin

(with plumbing!) as well as two nights on trail/canoe in the BWCA. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! This "Adventure" is planned for July 29 – Aug. 2, and the cost is to be determined, depending on group size. For more information, contact Sonja Birkeland at [sonjathebirk@gmail.com](mailto:sonjathebirk@gmail.com) or 651-442-9501 or inquire at the church office.

# Ladies...Let's hit the beach!!!



All Ladies Are Invited  
**The Great Escape Women's Event**  
**"Flip Flops, Faith & Friends"**  
 6:30 to 9 pm Friday, April 24  
 Fellowship Hall at Grace.

Please join us for this fun evening of lively laughter and tasty treats .... Flip flops are optional

Escape to . . . Food, Fun & Fellowship - a special night out just for YOU!  
 Escape from . . . Crazy schedules, humdrum routines, or dirty dishes  
 Escape with . . . Your friend, sister, neighbor, co-worker - or come & meet new friends here

- ◆ Tasty hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30
- ◆ Door prizes will be given throughout the night
- ◆ You guessed it - we'll chat about Flip Flops, Faith & Friends
- ◆ Dessert will be delicious
- ◆ You'll be glad you came to this Great Escape Women's event

Advanced tickets (\$7) are available at the Welcome Center on weekends or in the church office during the week. Please purchase tickets in advance to help with the event planning. (thanks)

And if you desire childcare for this Friday evening, please contact Tom Baker, our Coordinator of Youth Ministries, and he will connect you with youth from Grace who will babysit your child(ren) to raise money for their upcoming mission trips this summer.  
 tomb@graceandover.org

We'll look forward to seeing you at the Great Escape, **"Flip Flops, Faith & Friends"** on Friday, April 24. For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, jeannieh@graceandover.org 763 421-6520, ext 122

# Putting Jesus at the Center of Our Lives

## A Word From the Fun Stewardship Team

Hi Again People of Grace,

Here's another word from the Stewardship Team, "The Most Fun Team at Grace." Last time you heard from us we introduced The Stewardship Wholeness Wheel to help us visualize the crucial importance of stewardship. We hope you remember our suggestions about family dinner times? You do? Good!

Now to take another step and consider the most important part of any wheel: the hub! In our stewardship wheel hub is a cross inside a heart. (If you notice, it's part of our church logo as well!) This, of course illustrates our definition of whole life stewardship: "living our lives centered on Jesus, as evidenced in our relationships with God, self and others."



I feeding my soul? What would Jesus do? Am I exercising and resting my physical body? What would Jesus do? Could I nurture my children better? What would Jesus do? Am I supportive enough to my friends? What would Jesus do?

It is a personal decision of course, but how serious am I about putting Jesus at the center of my life? During the season of Lent, I think it's a moment for all of us to think about stewardship, and putting Jesus at the center of our lives. From my personal reflection, it will most likely be uncomfortable and challenging, but it could be life changing. - Ruth DeLine

*What does stewardship and putting Jesus at the center of my life mean to me?*

What does it mean to center our lives on Jesus? Well, it depends on who you talk to. It's different for each and every one of us. So we thought during this month of Living Upside Down 2015 Lent Journey, the Stewardship Team will share personal reflections on what we think it means to center our lives on Jesus.

*What does stewardship and putting Jesus at the center of my life mean to me?*

I can talk all day about what God has done for me, but is he really at the center of my life? Hmm... that is a really hard and a potentially humiliating question. I can feel somewhat superior about recycling (environment), using my money wisely (financial) and helping at the occasional Feed My Starving Children work day. But, is Jesus really at the center of my life? Or, am I just giving God my stinky sheep (as we saw in the Living Generously films).

I don't know if you remember the old saying "What Would Jesus Do?"? If I honestly ask myself that question it makes me feel woefully inadequate. Am I doing enough to preserve the environment? What would Jesus do? Am

For most of my life, I considered stewardship to mean responsibly using the things I have been given. Yes, I understood everything was a gift from God, but it was very difficult to wrap my head around the concept of "everything". Some of His gifts seemed fairly obvious to me: the beautiful earth, my financial resources, and my family and friends. Therefore, stewardship meant giving to the church, trying not to pollute or abuse creation, and showing love to family & friends. But I've come to understand that some of God's gifts are not so obvious. Gifts, like my own body and mind, my time, or the talents and aptitudes, and my relationships with everyone, even those I may not consider family or friends.

**Dictionary.com** defines stewardship as "the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving". Since everything comes from God, and I believe he considers it all worth caring for and preserving, I see putting Jesus at the center of my life means I should do my best to take care of all his gifts, use them to bring glory to Him, and strive to bring me and others closer to Him.

*Doug Hanson*

## Putting Jesus at Center (con't.)

*What does stewardship and putting Jesus at the center of my life mean to me?*

Like many of you, my stewardship journey has taken me from my early childhood days of never hearing the word *stewardship* before, to figuring out it was "Oh- the money talk", to beginning to hear the words, Time, Talent and Treasure, and finally, to actually working on becoming a good steward myself. To me, stewardship is the acknowledgement that all we are and all we possess are gifts that God has given us for our temporary use and for our use in helping others. So in turn, a good steward is someone who uses the gifts God has given responsibly, generously and courageously. I say courageously because I think it's a battle to truly give up something, whether it's our time, talent or treasures.

Five years ago when my family first came to Grace, we were just "pew-sitters". Unsure of our talents, short of

let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
Hebrews 12:1-2

time and not knowing what our true treasures were. We made a conscience decision to put Jesus more at the center of our lives, and become more involved at church. Through that decision we have met some unbelievable friends and feel even more connected both at Grace and in the community, which in turn has helped us to grow more in our own faith. And most importantly, we have realized that the time, talents and treasures needed to give have been there all along, we just needed to get out of our own way and let God do his work.

*Stacy Lenz*

We hope these reflections cause you to stop during our Living Upside Down Lent Journey to consider how you might put Jesus into the hub of all your life.

Your Fun Group at Grace,

*The Stewardship Team*

## Vision Board Notes

The Grace Lutheran Church Vision Board met at the home of Tari Yates on Tuesday, February 10th, 2015. Pastor Mark Hellmann was present along with board members Dennis Grabowski, Tari Yates, Jessie Crooks, Greg Ackerson, and Alden Riley. BreAnn Haugrud and Bernard McDowell were unable to attend. Delicious food and good conversation were enjoyed.

After dinner, the board discussed a study by Brad Keeper, "Trends in 2014 for church tithing, Giving and Stewardship." The board discussed the focus and communication regarding giving and discipleship.

The board discussed many other agenda items including: Budget follow up for various questions raised during the Budget Hearing, Church Building projects, Vision Board Nominations Committee, Lent, Easter, and the Upcoming Synod Assembly.



## April's News

### Easter SONday School

No SONday School April 4/5 – Happy Easter, enjoy Worship together as a family!

### Rockin' Kids Wednesday Evening Club

We have had a great year learning about the Bible, meeting new friends, and expressing our faith through games, craft, fellowship, and of course, SONG!

Please join us for our end of the year musical program, *God is Love* on April 22 at 7 p.m. in the Worship Center. The children will share Bible Verses set to music, all with the theme **God's Love for us and how we should love each other.**



#### RKBC Dates:

- Wed. Apr. 1 No RKBC
- Sun. Apr. 12 RKBC sings in Worship.  
Kids will meet in Room 106 at 9:35
- Wed. Apr. 22 Last RKBC  
Meet at 6:30 to rehearse for the End of the Year Program for parents, family, and friends at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program.

### 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.



### Baptism Workshop – May 2 at 9 am

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, May 2, at 9 am in room 105. 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 May will be Mother's Day, May 10.

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 July 11, at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

### SONday School Birthday Offering

#### We Have 7 Flocks!

Our Birthday Offering this year will be going to Heifer International to purchase flocks of chicks. Our offering total as of March 15th, \$154.62- that's 7 Flocks!



Chicken fact – in addition to laying eggs which provide protein, chickens also eat bugs which can damage crops, and they provide fertilizer.

Children with Summer birthdays may bring their Birthday Offering anytime during April or May!

### Musical Adventure Camp



Join us August 3rd-9th for Nic at Night, a musical experience for kids entering 3rd Grade in the fall through 9th grade completed. Nic at Night is a play within a play exploring the life of Nicodemus. Kids and youth will have a chance to share their faith through song,

drama, dance, and art.

Registrations will be available online soon with specific dates and times. Check it out at: [www.graceandover.org/get-connected/childrens-ministries/musical-adventure-camp/](http://www.graceandover.org/get-connected/childrens-ministries/musical-adventure-camp/).

## It's not too early to think about VBS....

Put June 15–19th 9:30am – Noon on your calendar!

Get ready to travel on a life-changing adventure that leads kids in search of a love that lasts forever! At Bible Blast to the Past, kids will participate in the large-group excitement of Blast to the Past Bash, **experience God's Word at Timeless Truth Tent**, discover ancient arts and crafts at Discovery Ruins, and enjoy snacks and **games at Backtrack Bazaar**. **There's even a place for the littlest explorers at Playtime Pasture!**



WHERE KIDS DISCOVER  
GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE!

### We're Searching for Volunteers

Our Bible Blast to the Past Vacation Bible School needs **great volunteers**, and we're hoping you will help. Please help children know and grow in belief in Jesus by serving this year! You can sign up on the opportunity sheets in the bulletins or contact Kim DeVries: [kimd@graceandover.org](mailto:kimd@graceandover.org)

We provide all the resources and training you need!

## Join the HABITAT Team on June 5. . .

Be the hands & feet of Jesus!

Your willing hands and feet (and heart) will be a blessing to others as we serve with Habitat for Humanity on Friday, June 5 at a home construction site in Fridley, MN. We hope to gather a team of 20 Grace volunteers to serve onsite from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. You do not need to be an experienced carpenter, just a willing servant, as the Habitat site supervisor will give a brief training in the morning.

Also, Grace volunteers will provide lunch for the volunteers on June 5. So if you prefer a spatula over a hammer, **we'd appreciate your willing hands and feet (and heart) to prepare a hearty lunch for the workers.** Please consider joining the Habitat team on June 5. By offering your hands & feet (and heart) while serving with Habitat, a local family will be truly blessed with a place to call home! For more information, please contact Terry Kornberg [Terry.kornberg@centurylink.com](mailto:Terry.kornberg@centurylink.com), 763 202-1700

## Experience something NEW on Thursday May 14!!!



Grace Volunteers will be PARTNERS IN SERVING with the staff of Sand Creek Elementary School as we pack meals together and build relationships through our Faith & Community Partnership. Please join us from 6 – 7:30 pm Thurs. May 14 at FMSC in Coon Rapids MN – it will be a **fun evening of 'connecting'** as we meet new friends from Sand Creek and serve together!

The Faith & Community Partnership is a collaborative effort of the Anoka-Hennepin School District and faith based organizations to raise awareness and understanding of compelling community issues and to mobilize people to help meet the basic needs of students. During this past year, our church has partnered with Sand Creek to reach

out to local students and families by delivering Holiday Food Baskets, adopting families at Christmas, giving handmade quilts to children (thank you Grace Quilters), bringing snacks and encouraging notes to the school staff, etc.

Join this FUN event as we as we build our relationship with Sand Creek and become PARTNERS IN SERVING together at Feed My Starving Children on Thurs. May 14. To register: Sign-up on blue opportunity page during worship, call the church office or register online at [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) (note that the group name is Grace Lutheran & Sand Creek School) For more information, please contact Jeannie, [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org)

## Golden Rule Childcare 2015 Summer Program News

Are you wondering how to keep your children busy this summer? If you want to avoid a case of, "I'm bored! There's nothing to do!"

then Golden Rule is the place for you! We have a summer that is bursting with fun, friends and faith!

Our theme this summer is "Celebrating Summer".

The children will begin their summer break by participating in Vacation Bible School. Kim and her team always do an amazing job and our children always have so many fun songs to share with us. **This is one of our children's favorite activities of the summer.**

Because our field trips were such a hit last summer, we have decided to have a special event planned every week this year. Some of our offsite field trips will include:



"Chutes and Ladders", an award-winning outdoor creative play area; "Como Zoo"; "Andrew's Park Splash Pad" for

some splashy, splashy fun; and "Elm Creek Park Reserve" for one of our state's largest outdoor play areas. Some of our onsite field trips will include:

"Rad Zoo" for an engaging, interactive

opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of fascinating reptiles and amphibians; an interactive performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" where the children become part of the play; and a Bubble Party with a professional DJ and bubble machine that produces thousands of amazing bubbles for the ultimate party experience!

If you would like your child to share in the fun and excitement this summer please contact Tami Mielke at [tamim@graceandover.org](mailto:tamim@graceandover.org) or 763-421-1996.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry at Grace

Do you love to knit or crochet? Did you know that Grace has a team of people who knit, crochet and pray while creating warm prayer shawls and lap robes to be given to those who are struggling and suffering? If you are

interested in being a part of this ministry team, please contact Bev Jovanovich at 763-427-4122 for more information. Also, if you know of anyone who is ill or homebound and would be blessed by a prayer shawl or lap robe, contact Bev at the above number or call the church office.



## Senior Moments

An Ad Hoc committee of Graceful Senior men is initiating efforts to resurrect the original steel cross that stood over the first church from 1967 to 2014. It was removed in 2014 due to roof repairs and the committee feels it has too much history to be relegated to a scrap heap. The cross is

approximately 9 feet by 6 feet.

The committee is composed of Kent Swedberg, Dean Keller, Alden Riley and Phil Knutson. In consultation with Pastor Hellmann, a decision has been made to place the cross in the front of the first church where there is a natural bend in the wall offering ideal viewing. It will be easily seen by those walking up to the church.

Dean Keller has done a mock-up drawing as a guide for cross placement, and a metal plaque will be attached to the cross so church members and visitors may read about the early history of the cross and the church.

It is hoped funding will be available through Thrivent Insurance for this church project, as they do give money back to churches as a part of their mission giving program.

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 for The Gifts of Ministry

## Lent Projects Updates

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all the energetic and enthusiastic Grace volunteers who gave of their time, talent and resources during our Lenten Outreach opportunities. **Thanks for embracing the Lenten challenge to 'live upside down' as we strive to focus on others rather than our own self-focused lives, to consider the needs of others over our own greed, and to freely share God's grace without conditions or limits.**

Thank you for donating an abundance of non-perishable food items to fill the pantries of our 'May All Be Fed' Food Shelf at Grace and also the Pathways Food Shelf with Anoka-Hennepin School District. Your generosity will truly bless others in our local community!

Thank you to the 100 awesome volunteers who packed 46,000 meals at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, March 14. What a fun and 'healthy competition' packing event to feed God's precious children around the world who are hungry in body and spirit. 129 kids will be blessed with a life-saving meal every day for an entire year, thanks to your packing efforts!

Thank you to the 85 volunteers who served with Family Promise March 8 - 15, ministering to families in homeless situation. What incredible team work of many faith-filled servants - including cooks, van drivers, evening hosts, set up crew, overnight hosts and kitchen servers.

Thanks for your amazing generosity through Noisy Offerings, Lenten suppers and special gifts to support The Bakery Project in Rakai, Uganda. We were able to help purchase the ovens and mixers, as well as the initial ingredients needed for this Bakery project. FRESH and affordable bread will be available to the people in Rakai, because of your compassionate giving! Amazing!

*"God, to those who have hunger, give bread –  
and to us who have bread, give the hunger for justice."*

A special thanks to Alden Riley, Dennis Grabowski, John Peterson, Dick Thompson, Norm Kroeger, Bill & Joseph Morphew, and Walt Vadner, who took the time to replace the ceiling tiles in our Preschool and Nap Rooms. It really looks nice and is a huge improvement for both rooms! We really appreciate all of the hard work that you put into it. We want to thank you for your support and dedication to the up-keep of our classrooms. Many thanks,

The Golden Rule Staff

# 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](http://www.graceandover.org)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Anoka, MN 55303  
PERMIT No. 118

Address Service Requested

