

January 2012

### Pastor Clay's Potter's Wheel

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

Most Biblical scholars believe this month's passage from the prophet Isaiah was written some time around 537 B.C. when the Israelites were returning to Israel from exile in Babylon. Fifty years earlier, Israel had been conquered by the Babylonians and, as was customary, the Babylonians forced many Israelites to move to Babylon to work as slaves. After Babylon itself was defeated by the Persians, the Israelites were allowed to move back to Israel. There was much celebrating among the Israelites and many expected a panacea as they moved back to their homeland. It was a new beginning! But as they moved back to Israel the people soon faced harsh realities. Their farms and homes had been taken over by others, the Temple in Jerusalem was in ruins, they did not have places to live and work, and life was very hard. The morale or countenance of many took a nose dive.

Circumstances can be much the same with us today. The beginning of a new year is a time of great celebration, optimism, resolutions, and new starts. Yet, as January moves into February, the harsh realities of "real life" set in and our New Year's resolutions can slip. The pounds don't melt off as quickly and easily as the buff people in the ads had promised, work requirements or other factors prevent us from spending as much time with family and friends as we had hoped, unexpected expenses cause our finances to be in ruins, we can't find time to make it to the gym or to walk as often as our doctor says we should, poor health prevents us from doing what we would like to do, and the list could go on and on. The result? Like the Israelites over 2,000 years ago, our countenance can take a nose dive, especially during the dark and cold winter months.

But Isaiah reminded the Israelites and reminds us that even in harsh circumstances we can rejoice and exult in the LORD! Why and how? Isaiah uses the metaphor of garments. We are "clothed" in garments of salvation, and like a bridegroom decked out in garlands and a bride adorned with beautiful jewels so are we "clothed" in God's salvation. Through our faith in Christ, no matter what our circumstances, we have a new redeemed life as God's beloved people. As Isaiah's examples of shoots coming up in a garden (notice the allusion to new life in spring) and as the dawn and a burning torch (notice the allusion to light shining in darkness) we too, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives, are called to bring forth new life and light into the world. Through our holy work for and of the kingdom we reflect the true life and light of Christ and, as such, both God and those around us see our works of service as something of great beauty, like a crown and a royal diadem in the hand of our God.

Whatever other resolutions you make for 2012, consider a resolution to serve in some simple way. Once a month visit just one person in a nursing home or at their house/apartment; volunteer at a school, food pantry, or hospital; start a new family tradition, or pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance for some other form of service. When we do this, not only do we reflect and share Christ's love, life, and light with others, but we receive it too.

God bestow his love, light, guidance, and peace to you for a blessed 2012.

In Christ, Pastor Clay

## Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting set for January 15, 2012

Mark your calendars now to be a part of Grace Lutheran's Annual Meeting, January 15, 2012, after late service. Come celebrate how God has been at work among us this year, and help guide the future ministry of Grace. The meeting will begin shortly after the conclusion of the 10:30 worship service, and will be followed by a potluck meal and fellowship. Come and make your voice heard!



### BEAT DEBT & LEAVE A LEGACY



Financial Peace University is a 13-week, biblically based program that teaches you to eliminate debt and leave a lasting legacy!

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Mayparty Drive, Ripon, WI

Starting Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 3-5 pm. Call 748-8210 for more info

December was a festive month for our preschoolers. We decorated wreaths, snowflakes, gingerbread men, Christmas trees and candy canes. We laced stockings, made reindeer handprints and so much more!! Both classes loved hearing the story about the first Christmas, when Baby Jesus was born to us in a stable. We learned that Jesus is God's Greatest Gift to all of us!! It truly is a blessing to share this part of Christmas with the children.



A few highlights of our month:

- \*Grace Pre-School was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place for our Enchanted Forest Christmas Tree!!
- \*This year's Dickens Living Window was a success and tons of fun!!
- \*The four year old class was able to visit with residents at the Prairie Place here in Ripon. They decorated ornaments and Christmas cookies and performed Christmas songs for them.
- \*Our Christmas Program completed another wonderful Christmas season at Grace Pre-School. The families enjoyed a potluck dinner together followed by a short program. Who wouldn't love 3 and 4 year olds singing Christmas songs for their families? It was precious!!

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Grace Pre-School!!! We wish you many blessings in the upcoming year!!**

### STOCK THE PANTRIES!

How better to start the New Year than by helping feed those that area less fortunate.

This program is quite simple. Here's how it works. The customer buys any canned or non-perishable food item at Pick'n Save between December 27th and January 2nd. Ripon Pick'n Save and The Commonwealth Press/Express will match your gift, giving both food items to the pantry of your choice. The Food Pantries include: Ripon, Green Lake, Berlin, Princeton, Markesan, and Brandon. Please pick up 2 (or 4 or 6) of anything you want to donate. Tell our cashier at the time you checkout which items are to be donated. We will only charge you for one (or two or three) of the item(s), but both will be placed in the Food Pantry box of your choice. Some of the higher demand items include: Cereal, Hamburger Helper, Mac& Cheese, Any Boxed Meals, Jelly, Soups, Canned Carrots and Peas, Tuna, Cooking Oil, Sugar and Flour, Canned Fruit, and Diapers. **OR...**

We are going to have bags already made up and we will be selling them for a set dollar amount, \$10.00 each. These bags will have 2 of each item already in it. All the customer has to do is pick up a bag and the cashier will know what to charge them. Decide which way works best for you. These bags will be filled with Grocery items.

On behalf of Ripon Pick'n Save and the Ripon Commonwealth Press/Express, we would like to Thank You in advance for your help in making this program a HUGE success. If you have any questions concerning this program, please feel free to contact DuWayne at Ripon Pick'n Save, (920)748-5498.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECTS

One of the many projects that the Women of Grace support is the collection, assembling and shipping of kits for LWR. This year we would like to enlist the support of Grace with this undertaking by designating the last Sunday of the month as LWR Sunday. We would like to begin by asking that every family bring one item for the Personal Care kits to church on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

When natural disaster strikes or political conflict flares, families often have little chance to gather their belongings before fleeing the danger and so they arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

Below is a list of needed items for each kit:

One light weight bath size towel, dark color recommended.

Two bath sized bars of soap

One adult-size toothbrush

One sturdy comb

One metal nail clippers



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

There will be containers in the narthex for these items. We thank you in advance for your help and concern.

### The New Face of Grace

Congratulations to Jessica Stollfuss who has accepted a position with Schenck Business Solutions in Appleton. Jessica's last day as our Office Manager is December 26th. We thank her for devoting 4 1/2 years to serve this congregation as Office Manager and we pray God will bless her in her new endeavor.

Congratulations to Norine Zimdars who has accepted the position as Office Manager. We also pray that God blesses Norine in her new position and we look forward to her ministry with our church. Norine comes to us from Kilgore Law Office where she worked as a secretary for 15 years. Norine and her husband Terry and their three children, Aaron, Nathan, and Seth have been members of Grace for many years.

### A Note from the Social Concerns Committee

The members of our congregation showed how much they care about others when beautifully wrapped gifts were heaped up around the "Share Your Love Tree". Many thanks for your generous contributions to The Angel Tree Program, Green Lake and The Stars from Ripon's Santa Club and Bonnie View at Pickett. It has been gratefully received and am sure will bring lots of smiles.

The Cookie Walk for ELCA World Hunger was a huge success this year. \$350 was taken in and we will receive \$100 from Thrivent for a total of \$450 for The Hunger Fund. Our thanks to everyone for your participation.

## Grace Readers

The Grace Readers would love to have you join us on January 19th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Pie Room, for fellowship, laughter and lively discussion of *The Heart Mender: A Story of Second Chances* by Andy Andrews. Reading is a great way to keep our minds healthy. Call the church office or Melanie at 748-1407, if you have questions.



## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Fund Receipts & Expenditures

January 1, 2011 to November 30, 2011

Income	1/1/11-11/30/11	1/1/10-11/30/10
Building Use	1,864.00	895.00
Envelope Offerings	177,709.32	191,006.25
Fundraising-Bulletins	150.00	300.00
Fundraising-Gift Cards	2,136.13	742.30
Improvement Fund	2,026.55	2,606.00
Interest	3.93	37.21
Loose Offering	4,373.77	3,299.12
Special Offerings	4,554.00	1,803.01
Sunday School Offering	1,436.22	2,082.89
Thrivent Funds	2,347.00	350.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$196,600.92</b>	<b>\$203,121.78</b>

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (2011-2012)

Joan Wade, President (2012 term)  
1023 Thomas Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-420-8822  
jwade@cesa6.k12.wi.us  
joanw@charter.net

Chris Mokler, Vice President (2013 term)  
4921 Song Bird Court  
Omro, WI 54963  
920-279-6104  
cmokler@gmail.com

Leesa McShane, Secretary (2012 term)  
W827 North Court  
Green Lake, WI 54941  
920-294-3887  
leesann@charter.net

Mira Stepleton (2014 term)  
514 Howard Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-312-2314  
mirastepleton@gmail.com

Philip Karsnia (2014 term)  
662 South Grove Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-369-6270  
Philip.karsnia@countryfinancial.com

Rob Wittchow (2012 term)  
223 Union Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-979-2512

Herm Leitz (2013 term)  
W12717 Olden Road  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-748-9655 (home)  
920-748-5031 (work)  
hleitz@amfam.com

Jennifer Oppor (2014 term)  
830 Thomas Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-748-2828  
14opporj@ripon.k12.wi.us

Nathan Zimdars  
W13404 Carter Road  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-748-4860  
nzimdars@gmail.com



Conrad Langenhorst 01/01  
 Ryan Schatzke 01/01  
 Paul Witwer 01/01  
 Mira Stepleton 01/07  
 Kiara Sasada 01/08  
 Jamie Koentopp 01/09  
 Mary Alice Linde 01/09  
 Emma Reininger 01/10  
 Thomas Voight 01/10  
 Steven Zimdars 01/10  
 Lon Hetzel 01/12  
 Tellia Weishaar 01/12  
 Aaron Kelm 01/16  
 Nathaniel Langeberg 01/16  
 Janie Mattson 01/19  
 Gerald Zacharias 01/21  
 Matthew Johnston 01/22  
 Phyllis Lindeman 01/23  
 Josh Mills 01/23  
 Ethan Slate 01/24  
 Toni Hollenback 01/25

Spencer Stanbery 01/25  
 William Zacharias 01/25  
 Dawson Albright 01/27  
 Owen Mueller 01/28  
 Arden Weich 01/28  
 Jordan Jess 01/29  
 Ashley Ott 01/30



Jeff and Kris Miller 01/21

\*\*\* CONGRATULATIONS \*\*\*

The following Sunday School students have had 2 or less Absences the Fall 2011/2012 Semester of Sunday School

Abigail Slate	Drew Stepleton	Emma Draeger
Logan Slate	Katie Worthing	Payton Draeger
Isaac Mills	Seth Otto	Tyler Draeger
Erika Mills	Gabriel Karsnia	Ryan Forslund
Lauren Martinez	Cody Wiesmueller	Aaron Forslund
Dylan Martinez	Seth Zimdars	Jackson Gabrielski
Kira Schoff	Eden Mokler	Alexa Neuenfeldt
Micah Schoff	Grace Reininger	Mason Luker
Aubrey Schoff	Kerstyn Ziesmer	Rebecca Kelm

Evelyn Kohnke, Florian Laper



Prairie Place: Mary Alice Linde, Shirley Stewart, Naomi Kelm-Carley, Mel Sorensen, Marlene Gibbons

Markesan Residence Center: Orin & Arla Galow  
Russell Manor: Gail Albright, Marion Boire, Ruth Gransee  
Fountain View Care Center: Florence Sasada, Kelly Kutzleb  
Maple Crest: Joan Kedrowski, Alton Meyer, Dolores Hunger, Vi Fude  
Barrett House: Duane Wittchow, Eugene Wittchow,  
Michalene's: Phyllis Suksi, Elmer Kuhs  
Willowbrook: Irmgard Timm

**Altar Flowers for 2012**

The 2011 Altar Flowers sign-up calendar is posted on the wall next to the church office door in the entryway. You may designate Altar Flowers in honor or memory of loved ones or a special occasion. This information will be printed in the bulletin for that Sunday. Sign up in advance by writing your name on the chart or by calling the office. The cost for Altar Flowers is \$15.00. After the last service for that Sunday, you may pick up your flowers. If you need to take the vase liners home, please return them by the following Tuesday. If you do not want to take your flowers home, please notify the church office. If no one signs up for flowers for a given Sunday, there will be no flowers on the altar that day. For more information, contact the church office.

**Worship Assistants**

The sign-up board will be left open until our newsletter, Grace Notes, will be published (about the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month). At that time, the Worship Committee will assign the open slots with the names of those who indicated on their Time and Talent Sheets that they'd like to participate. Please do not change the board without notifying the office. Thank you for your help with our worship services.

**IF YOU CANNOT HELP on the date(s) assigned, please find someone to take your place. Please notify the office of the change.**

# Worship Assistants for January

Date	Greeters	Lectors	Communion
January 1—9:00 am	Joanna, Peg & Jensine Salmela	Lisa Schwertfeger	N/A
January 8—8:00 am	Marion Wittchow, Donna Broder	Luther Olsen	Julie & Brett Lind
January 8—10:30 am	Joel & Janie Brockman	Melanie Oppor	Joel & Janie Brockman
January 15—8:00 am	Morgan Pinnow, Sabra L	Karen Kelm	N/A
January 15—10:30 am	Bill & Faye Zacharias	Jennifer Oppor	N/A
January 22—8:00 am	Wayne & Patti Albright	Joan Wade	N/A
January 22—10:30 am	Jean Zeto, Joslyn Anderson	Shirley Volbrecht	N/A
January 29—8:00 am	Lee & Katie Baird	Joanna Salmela	Joanna & Peg Salmela
January 29—10:30 am	Dan & Jolene Meyer	Renee Schoff	Lynn & Terry Mathias

Usher Teams				
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
January 1—9:00 January 22 8:00	January 8—8:00 January 22—10:30	January 8—10:30 January 29—8:00	January 15—8:00 January 29—10:30	January 15—10:30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>9:00 AM Worship</b> 10:00 Coffee Hour	OFFICE CLOSED			<h1>January 2012</h1>		
<b>8:00 AM Worship with Communion</b> 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Sunday School/Confirmation Breakout 9:15 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 10:30 AM Praise Worship with Communion	<b>9:00 AM LWR Quilting</b> 7:00 PM Eve Circle	<b>10:00 AM Rebecca Circle</b> 6:30 PM Property Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Evangelism Committee Meeting	<b>11:00 AM Dorcas Circle</b> 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop			
<b>15:00 AM Worship</b> 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Sunday School/Confirmation Breakout 9:15 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Annual Meeting	<b>16:00 PM B.L.T.</b> 6:30 PM Council Meeting		<b>18:00 PM Handbells</b> 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop	<b>19:00 PM Grace</b> Preschool Board Mtg. 6:30 PM Book Club		
<b>22:00 AM Worship</b> 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Sunday School/Confirmation Breakout 9:15 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship	<b>23:00 PM Grace Notes Deadline</b> 1:00 PM LWR Quilting		<b>25:00 PM Handbells</b> 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop			
<b>29:00 AM Personal Care Kit Day</b> 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Sunday School/Confirmation Breakout 9:15 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	<b>30:00 PM RIES Driving School</b>	<b>31:00 PM RIES Driving School</b>	<h1>P a s t o r C l a y N a t i o n a l G u a r d</h1>			
<h1>P a s t o r C l a y N a t i o n a l G u a r d</h1>						



## Grace Lutheran Church

430 W. Griswold Street

Ripon, WI 54971



### Inside This Issue:

Pastor Clay's Potter's Wheel	1
Annual Meeting, Financial Peace University, Grace Preschool, Stock the Pantries	2
Lutheran World Relief, The New Face of Grace, Social Concerns	3
Grace Readers, Highlights, Council Members	4
January Birthdays & Anniversaries, Sunday School Recognition, Homebound Members, Altar Flowers	5
Worship Assistants for January	6
January Calendar of Events	7

### COMING EVENTS!

- January 1 9:00 AM Worship
- January 2 Office Closed
- January 8 SCRIP Deadline
- January 15 Annual Meeting
- January 29 Personal Care Kit Day