

February 2012

Pastor Clay's Potter's Wheel

Now after John [the Baptizer] was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him." Mark 1:14-20.

Here the Apostle Mark gives us the core of Jesus' ministry and the core of Jesus' message: In Jesus the prophesies of the earlier prophets were fulfilled; in Jesus the kingdom of God had come among the people; turn toward God and believe the good news (Gospel) of Jesus' message which was (and is) to love God and to love your neighbors (yes, all of them!)

To more fully understand Jesus' call to believe his good news and to more fully understand his and later disciples' call to believe in him, we must examine the word "believe." Today we understand the definition of "believe" as seeing something to be true, e.g. Madison is the capitol of Wisconsin, or expecting some future event will come to pass, e.g. I believe the San Francisco 49ers will win the Super Bowl. But "believe" had an additional meaning to the people of Jesus' day and that was, to believe in something or someone also meant to "belove" them. The old root word for "believe" has more to do with our act of loving/loving than considering something to be factual. So when the writers of the four Gospels and the other books of the New Testament call on us to "believe" in Jesus, what they are really saying is not only to recognize Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world, but also to love/belove Jesus and the message he proclaimed: follow me (Jesus), love God, and love your neighbors by displaying an active, empathetic compassion toward them.

We see an example of this in the above passage from Mark, an account of Jesus calling four disciples, Simon, Andrew, James, and John. A study of the histories, personalities, and idiosyncrasies of the disciples is fascinating, and in today's passage two things jump out to me. First, these four were just ordinary men. They were all fishermen. Jesus didn't call the elite from his society (although Luke the physician may be an exception) or religious scholars/rabbis to be his disciples. He called ordinary people to accomplish great things. Secondly, these four men left their established lives *immediately* to follow Jesus. Most of us have a hard enough time leaving our comfort zones after much study, thought, consideration, and prayer, but to do so *immediately* is a real statement of faith and love.

Fortunately, we don't have to leave our homes, families, or jobs to believe/belove Jesus and to follow him. Jesus, through the movement of the Holy Spirit, found and called each of us in and through our baptisms and continues to call us today to belove and follow him. Like Jesus' disciples of old, we respond to this call whenever we become involved in the ministries of the church or in other service organization or by helping others through individual acts of kindness and charity. Knowing and celebrating that we are already Jesus' disciples, I pray God the Holy Spirit guides you to belove God, belove Jesus, belove yourself, and belove others.

In Christ,

Pastor Clay

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

December 19, 2011

Present: Rob Wittchow, Joan Wade, Katie Baird, Mira Stepelton, Jennifer Oppor, Phillip Karsnia, Leesa McShane, Chris Mokler, Nate Zimdars, Pastor Clay, Herm Leitz

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by President Joan Wade
2. Herm Leitz led devotion
3. M/S/A Herm and Rob to approve agenda with the addition of discussion re: visitors to church (Nate)
4. M/S/A Leesa and Nate to approve November minutes
5. M/S/A Herm and Rob to accept treasurer's report presented by Katie Baird.
 - A. Silent Auction netted \$500.00. Council discussed options for these funds. M/S/A Herm and Rob to forward these funds to the sound committee for completion of the sound booth.
6. Meal Ministry discussion. Leesa updated council. Committee is moving forward. Will meet in early January. Request for presentation at annual meeting submitted to council. M/S/A Chris and Phil to fund \$500.00 toward this ministry project. Phil Karsnia has agreed to fund postage costs.
7. 2012 Budget discussion. Chris presented the proposed budget. Some discussion ensued re: salary for office manager and hours for janitorial staff. M/S/A Chris and Phil to approve budget as presented. Forum hour presentation of budget will be held on January 8, 2012.
8. Annual meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2012.
9. Ries driving school has requested use of the church facilities for several weeks in January/February and April/May. M/S/A Chris and Phil to honor request. Ries driving school pays \$250.00 per session for facility use..
10. Office manager position has been filled. Several excellent candidates. Norine Zimdars has accepted the position. She is already in training with Jessica. Norine will now be added to the account at US Bank as an official signature holder for church accounts. The other official signature holders are: Joan Wade, Chris Mokler and Katie Baird.
11. Pastor Clay introduced the "mission of the month" concept. Each month a special offering will be designated to go towards a worthy cause. Pastor will announce these causes each month. Council discussed and suggested mission projects. January through July have been selected.
12. Visitors to Grace. Pastor Clay has indicated that among other things, he would like to focus on new visitors, new members and growth in the coming year. He intends to coordinate with the Evangelism committee. Pastor Clay indicated that the newly designed "Pew Pad" information gathering system will start in the new year as well.
13. Pastor's Report was received and filed. In addition, council discussed:
 - A. Estate funds from Freda Falk
 - B. Baptism of non-members
 - C. Pastor Clay's pending National Guard deployment from January 22 thru February 4, 2012 at Ft. McCoy.
14. M/S/A Chris and Phil to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is January 16, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Leesa McShane

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

GRANT APPLICATION

The Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Committee is accepting applications for grants to be awarded in March 2012. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Endowment Fund, grants are to provide support for **missions, outreach, education, and youth**. Endowment Fund monies will not be disbursed for the church's general budget items.

If you or your church committee/group could benefit from and further the purposes of the Fund, the Endowment Committee encourages you to apply for a grant. The Fund has \$4,000 available for grants in 2012.

Grant application guidelines:

Written requests for grants up to \$4,000 must be received by the end of February.

Application Process:

Provide the applicant information below.

Submit a one-page, typed proposal to

- a. Identify how the grant will be used to support missions, outreach, education, and/or youth
- b. List the proposed budget detailing how the monies will be used

Describe the intended outcome of the event or action

Submit this application form and proposal to the church office or Charlotte Sherman

Application:

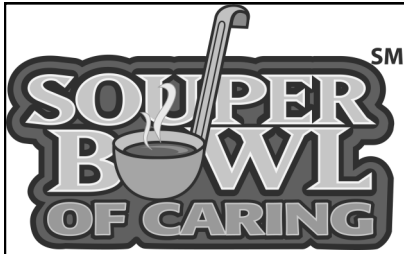
Applicant:	Organization:
Address	Phone Number:
City, State, Zip	E-Mail Address:

Application materials must be postmarked or emailed by February 29, 2012, to

Attn: Charlotte Sherman, Chairperson
Endowment Fund Committee
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
430 Griswold Street
Ripon, WI 54971

or

shermancw@centurylink.net



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

Our 3rd – 6th graders will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5, 2012. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2011, Grace Church collected 281 food items & \$152. All of the money & food items collected at Grace Church are donated to local food pantries. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$81 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollars in the soup pot & food items in the grocery cart on February 5th.

SUPPORT RIPON CUB SCOUT PACK 3735

Ripon Cub Scout Pack 3735 will be holding its annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 5th at Our Saviors Church, 343 Scott Street, from 7:30 am—12:30 pm. Seniors (55+) \$4.00, Adults (12+) \$5.00, and Children (3-11) \$3.00.



Bringing people together in Christ so that lives are changed and communities enhanced.

CROSSWAYS PARTNERS WITH CONGREGATIONS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST SO THAT INDIVIDUAL LIVES MAY BE POSITIVELY IMPACTED, GROW IN FAITH AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE, AND SO THAT COMMUNITIES OF FAITH MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED FOR SERVICE WHEREVER GOD HAS PLACED THEM.

The Crossways Camp Summer Brochures are here!! Summer Camp is a wonderful blend of fun activities and positive relationships experienced in a Christian environment. Whether you are looking for a “traditional” overnight youth camp, an outdoor summer camp adventure, a quality summer day camp, or a one-of-a-kind family summer camp, you’ll find something at Crossways that will far surpass your expectations. CHECK IT OUT!

The Christian Education Team also offers camp scholarships to assist in offsetting the expense of camp registration fees. Please fill out a Crossways Camp Scholarship Form (located in the church office) and turn it in to Mary Karsnia by February 29th. Scholarship amounts will be determined by number requests.



The First Place 4 Health women’s Bible study group, will start a new session the week of Feb 20th, called **Motivated to Wellness-** *Good health doesn’t start with healthy eating and regular exercise. The balanced life so many people long for—which includes good nutrition and physical fitness —begins with a change of heart and a transformed mind. Motivated to Wellness, an all-new Bible study from First Place 4 Health, invites members and participants to discover hope and motivation that will sustain them through a lifetime of fitness and good health*“(Motivated to Wellness, First Place 4 Health, 2012).

Classes will meet on Mondays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Grace Library for 12 weeks. We’d love to have you join us! Call Melanie at 748-1407 or the church office to order your book by Feb 8^h.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 26th

The Women of Grace will be collecting items for the LWR school kits on Sunday, February 26th. There will be boxes in the narthex for these donations. Again, we are asking all families of Grace to donate one item to this cause.

Education is important for any community, but especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning despite the hardships they face. Learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Below is a list of needed supplies:

70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper

30-centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

Pencil sharpener

Blunt scissor

#2 pencils unsharpened with erasers

Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

16 or 26 count boxes or crayons

We thank you in advance for your support of this cause.



Grace is on Facebook! Join other congregation members and check schedules and watch for updates pertinent to our ministry.

Grace Readers

Grace Readers will meet on Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Pie room to discuss *The Sunflower* by Richard Paul Evans. We will continue to meet the third Thursday of each month. Future books include: *Three Cups of Tea*, *The Hiding Place*, *5 Lessons a Millionaire Taught Me: For Women*, and *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. If you like to read, join us for a lively discussion, fellowship and fun! Call the church office or Melanie at 748-1407, if you have questions.



Scrip is fundraising while you shop!

Raise money by shopping with gift cards for everyday purchases like food, clothing, gas and entertainment. Each scrip gift card you buy earns a rebate for Grace Lutheran Church.

Scrip is the powerful "no-selling" fundraiser!

SCRIP deadline is February 5th. Stop by the table outside the church office and place your order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS (2011-2012)

Joan Wade, President (2012 term)
1023 Thomas Street
Ripon, WI 54971
920-420-8822
jwade@cesa.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



Christine Hillier	02/01	Zach Kouba	02/15
Kelsey Ryerson	02/01	Arla Galow	02/16
Kennedy Gabrielski	02/02	Tyler Draeger	02/17
Robert Schwister	02/03	Chad Schatzke	02/17
Daniel Kutschenreuter	02/04	Logan Slate	02/17
Claire Washkoviak	02/04	Nicole Trochinski	02/17
David Schanke	02/06	Linda Preissner	02/18
Ruth Cornwell	02/08	James Beier	02/20
Abigail Rosenau	02/08	Herman Leitz	02/20
Reid Stollfuss	02/08	William Slager	02/21
Joshua Koentopp	02/09	Marvin Vollbrecht	02/21
Mykayla Spillner	02/09	Jacqueline Steifner	02/22
Shirley Stewart	02/09	Mary Karsnia	02/23
Jennelyn Warren	02/09	Nola Rasske	02/23
Earl Floyd	02/10	Ryan Sasada	02/24
Grace Reininger	02/10	Nancy Kohnke	02/25
Harry Walkowiak	02/10	Luther Olsen	02/26
Kaitlyn Worthing	02/11	Aaron Otto	02/26
Laura Albright	02/12	Scott Rogalsky	02/26
Barbara Mlodzik	02/12	Peggy Salmela	02/27
Howard Hempte	02/15	Aaron Zimdars	02/27
Ally Hopp	02/15	Nathan Zimdars	02/27
		Howard Stibb	02/29



Paul & JoAnn Wittwer 02/03
Tom & Debbie Davis 02/06

SPONSOR A BULLETIN

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday worship bulletin, please indicate on the calendar the Sunday you wish to sponsor and the event it commemorates (if there is one). The calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway. The cost of a weekly sponsorship is \$25 and can be paid to Norine in the church office. Thank you for your continued support of our church's ministry!



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 2012 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 22nd 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 February

Date	Greeters	Lectors	Communion
February 5—8:00 am	Jordyn Ziesmer, Morgan Pinnow	Sophie Walheim	N/A
February 5—10:30 am	Arlene Lind, Ruby Vollbrecht	Leesa McShane	N/A
February 12—8:00 am	Myron & Ruth Gross	Abby Rosenau	Aubrey Schoff, Joanna Salmela
February 12—10:30 am	Joanna Salmela, Bree Murphy	Peg Salmela	Bill & Faye Zacharias, Jennifer Oppor, Lisa Schwertfeger
February 19—8:00 am	Arnie & Betty Malzhan	Penny Gillespie	N/A
February 19—10:30 am	Norm & Nola Rasseke	Franklin McShane	N/A
Ash Wednesday February 22—12 noon	Aubrey Schoff	Shirley Vollbrecht	Keith & Ann Schultz
Ash Wednesday February 22—6:30 pm	Conrad & Ruth Langenhorst	Curt Belau	Luther Olson , Joan Wade
February 26—8:00 am	Brett Lind	Aubrey Schoff	Herm Leitz, Scott Baldwin
February 26—10:30 am	Marge Guldán, Jean Kafer	Nathan Zimdars	Lynn & Terry Mathias

Usher Teams				
Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
February 5—10:30 February 22—6:30 pm	February 12—8:00 February 26—8:00	February 12—10:30 February 26—10:30	February 19—8:00	February 5—8:00 February 19—10:30

February 2012

Pastor Clay National Guard

<p>5 SCRIP Deadline 8:00 AM Worship 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</p>	<p>6 12:00 PM BLT 7:00 PM Eve Circle 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>7 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Dorcas Circle 5:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving</p>	<p>9 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School 6:30 Chris Ed. Mtg.</p>	<p>1 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>2 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>3 10 11</p>	<p>4 8:00-9:00 AM Hall Use</p>
<p>12 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 Praise Worship with Communion</p>	<p>13 1:00 PM LWR Quilting 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>14 1:30 PM Rebekah Circle 6:30 PM Property Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Evangelism Committee Meeting 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>15 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM Social Concerns Meeting 6:00 PM Grace Preschool Board Mtg. 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School 6:30 PM Book Club</p>	<p>15 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation Workshop 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM Social Concerns Meeting 6:00 PM Grace Preschool Board Mtg. 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School 6:30 PM Book Club</p>	<p>17 18</p>	<p>18 19</p>
<p>19 8:00 AM Worship 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</p>	<p>20 12:00 PM Grace Notes Deadline 12:00 PM BLT 5:30-7:00 PM First Place for Health 6:30 PM Council Meeting 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>21 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>22 12:00 Ash Wednesday Svc 5:30 PM Handbells 5:45 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Svc 7:15 PM Confirmation Workshop 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving</p>	<p>23 24 25</p>	<p>21 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>22 12:00 Ash Wednesday Svc 5:30 PM Handbells 5:45 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Svc 7:15 PM Confirmation Workshop 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving</p>	<p>23 24 25</p>	<p>24 25</p>
<p>26 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</p>	<p>27 1:00 PM LWR Quilting 5:30-7:00 PM First Place for Health 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>28 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>29 5:30 PM Handbells 5:45 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Confirmation Workshop</p>	<p>29 5:30 PM Handbells 5:45 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Confirmation Workshop</p>	<p>28 7:00—9:00 PM Ries Driving School</p>	<p>29 5:30 PM Handbells 5:45 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM Adult Choir 6:30 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Confirmation Workshop</p>	<p>30 1 2 3 4</p>	<p>31 1 2 3 4</p>



Grace Lutheran Church

430 W. Griswold Street

Ripon, WI 54971



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COMING EVENTS!

- February 5 SCRIP Deadline
- February 5 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
- February 16 Book Club
- February 22 Ash Wednesday Services
12:00 Noon and 6:30 pm
- February 26 LWR Sunday