

GRACE GAZETTE



Grace is a Christian family—Welcoming people to live God’s Word and strengthen their faith.



Grace’s Core Values – Creativity

—Whether it’s someone dancing down the aisle for the Children’s Message – or dancing as part of the Motion Choir, creativity is a hallmark of Grace’s life. You can see it in the new ministries which are happening every month. For example, in the last year, these new things have been done:

- Having a float in the Wisconsin Rapids parade
- Sharing with those in need by being part of the Caring Community
- Making significant moves towards a Mission Trip for the people of Grace
- Adding “Discover Your Place In Ministry” as a way to help new members get involved more quickly.
- Having new goals for the Youth Ministry
- Beginning Small Groups
- Having a CARnival
- Going through the NOOMA series
- Having Tiny Toes dancers
- Adding a part time secretary so we can eventually add an Associate Pastor
- Working with the Red Cross to provide one tracking unit for Project Lifesaver
- Having the first ever Grace cookbook
- Putting together a new (boy, did we need this one) directory

Oh, and spending the last year, since April of 2008, getting acclimated to our new worship space – which has led to many new ministries and approaches all in itself.

This is a partial list of the new ministries which have happened at Grace and a huge sign that we value creativity. Why?

Well, it is more interesting. And it does grab people’s attention. Plus, it gets us past the idea that we have to do things the way they’ve always been done. But, most of all, creativity allows us to engage the needs of the world around us in new ways on a consistent basis.

Just like we continue to welcome new people, we also continue to welcome new ministries - - - along with new ways to do old ministries which are still important.

So, as part of the Grace family, don’t be afraid to be creative. Come up with new ideas. And then, don’t just pass them on to someone else. Instead, use those new ideas as a way to gather people around you to accomplish that new thing – as a way of serving God and God’s creation. It’s the Grace way. ~*Pastor Kent*

Inside this issue:

<i>Holy Week Worship Schedule</i>	2
<i>Want To Join Grace?</i>	2
<i>Calling an Associate—Where Are We?</i>	2
<i>Special Guests</i>	2
<i>Welcome to. . .</i>	3
<i>Care for families with special needs</i>	3
<i>Spring Confirmation Classes</i>	3
<i>Education News</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Palm/Friendship Sunday—April 5th @ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Worship with 1st Communion—April 9th @ 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship—April 10th @ 1:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday—April 12th @ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Easter Breakfast—April 12th @ 9:00 a.m.
- Praise Band from Oconto Falls—Sunday, April 19th @ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Music Sunday—May 17th @ 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Summer Worship Begins—May 24th @ 9:00 a.m.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday – April 5th – worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 am. This is the time when Jesus enters Jerusalem. It is the last week of his life and it is filled with confrontation, healing and teaching. This is also Friendship Sunday, as we welcome others to share this celebration of God's love and grace.

Maundy Thursday – April 9th, we worship at 7:00 pm and focus on the gift of Holy Communion which Jesus shares for the first time on that night. We watch and wait in the Upper Room with the disciples. And some, at Grace, will be taking communion for the first time, themselves.

Good Friday – April 10th - worship at 1:00 pm as we follow Jesus to the cross. This is the dramatic story of the giving of His life for ours.

Easter Sunday – April 12th – worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 am Gather with the family of Grace to celebrate the new life which comes through the resurrection of Jesus. An Easter Breakfast will be served from 9:00 to 10:15 am.

Special Guests –



The S.O.S. band from Grace in Oconto Falls will be sharing their musical talents at the 10:30 service on April 19th. Invite friends and neighbors for this special event.



Want to Join Grace? Here's how it works...

First, come to **Newcomer's Orientation on Sunday, April 19th at 9:00 am.** This is a time when anyone who wants more information about life at Grace can ask every question they have. If after finding out more, you want to join, then come to **Discover Your Place In Ministry on Sunday, April 26th at 9:00 am.** During this hour, members of Grace will talk about the many opportunities they have experienced which have enriched their lives.

Now – if you are really ready to join – you are invited to **Discover Grace on Sunday, May 3rd at noon.** We'll feed you lunch – gather information – and let you choose the Sunday when you will be welcomed into the Grace family. Babysitting is provided for all three events.

Joining is that easy. Contact the Church office if you plan on coming to Newcomer's on the 19th – or if you have any questions. If you can't make all three of these events, talk to Pastor Kent.

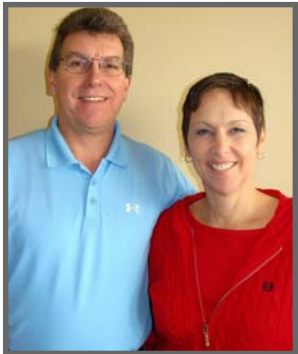
Calling an Associate – Where Are We?

The staffing plan at Grace is to call an Associate Pastor as quickly as possible. In order to lay the groundwork for that, Pastor Joy, from our Synod Office, spoke to the Council about the process and how we get ourselves ready. In short, she told us we are ready because we want a second Pastor to make new ministries possible. She encouraged us to “move forward without fear” – while using common sense to do our budgeting. So, the Church Council will continue to lay the groundwork for this – and will keep you informed along the way. (Be sure that no decision can be made without approval of the Congregation at a Congregational meeting. What the Council will do is all prep work.)

Randy and Jeanette Oleson first visited Grace because their daughter, Amanda invited them. Amanda is a UW Madison college student studying psychology and English. They also have a son, Dustin who works for the Cranberry Creek Marsh and the family business doing sprinkler systems. Randy and Dustin provide the labor for the sprinkling business and Jeanette does the office work from home. Randy's day job for the past 25 years has been with the Water & Light company. As a family they enjoy sitting down to meals together and getting away up North for a week during the summer.



WELCOME



Mike and Ann Warning moved to Rapids from Oshkosh where they lived for 23 years, with a brief move to Greenville in between. They said their Oshkosh church provided a good church home while their children were growing up. Both Ann and Mike were involved, Mike with the church finances and Ann playing guitar for the Sunday school music and a special needs music group. Now that she teaches special needs students at Grove school, she finds music to be a good way to reach her students. Mike is the manager of the Lowe's store in Plover. One thing he has grown to enjoy, is making maple syrup with some of Ann's family. They cook around 700 quarts a season. Did we mention that Ann has 15 brothers and sisters? That's some family! Mike and Ann have two sons and a daughter who is married. They like biking and walking their dog around Lake Wazeecha.

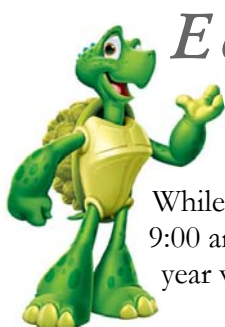
Spring Confirmation

Classes— Students will have three regular class times on Wednesdays, April 29, May 6 and May 11 – from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. Each student will receive a book called “The Giving Book” – as the focus of the classes will be on how to share with others. (This is very much related to the theme on our wrist bands – Gratitude, Grace and Giving.)

Parents are asked to attend the last 15 minutes of Confirmation class on April 29th – as we will describe the opportunities you will have to work with your child as they go through this book.

Care for Families With Special Needs

- Grace has purchased a GPS system as part of Project Lifesaver through the Red Cross. This system is for people with autism or Alzheimer's disease - who might wander off or get lost. The GPS allows families to locate their loved ones. Now, we need to pay the \$25 monthly maintenance fee for the unit. If you want to sponsor a month, make your donation to the American Red Cross and drop it off in the Church office - or give it to Jen Adams or Jean Sorenson. Thank you for caring about families with special needs.



Education News - April 5th, Palm Sunday, will be an opportunity for the Sunday School children to celebrate with an Easter Egg hunt and much more! Make sure your child is part of this special day.

While there will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday, the next Rotation begins on April 19th at 9:00 am - when the children learn about Zacheaus and the way Jesus changed his life. The Sunday School year will end on May 17th - with the children sharing their music at the 10:30 service.

There is always a need for juice and snacks for Sunday School. Drop off your donations at any time. And don't forget to plan Vacation Bible School into your summer. It's set for August 11th, 12th and 13th. Kids in grades K-5 are invited to participate, while teens and adults volunteer to make it happen. Volunteer now by talking to Christie Witt or Lilli Storandt, the VBS Directors.

Grace Lutheran Church

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www.glcwr.org

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 TOPS 6:00 Board of Evangelism 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship 7:45 Choir	2 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS	3	4
5 Palm/Friendship Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 Worship 6:30 Luther League	6 12:00 Coffee House 6:30 Support Group	7 6:00 Quilting	8 9:00 TOPS 6:30 Choir	9 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	10 1:00 Good Friday Worship	11
12 Easter Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:00 Easter Breakfast 10:30 Worship	13 12:00 Coffee House 6:30 Support Group 5:30 Board of Evangelism	14 6:30 Church Council	15 9:00 TOPS 6:30 Choir	16 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS	17	18 10:30 Fellowship Hall Reserved
19 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 Newcomer's Orientation 10:30 Worship 6:30 Luther League	20 12:00 Coffee House 6:30 Support Group	21	22 9:00 TOPS 6:30 Choir	23 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS	24 6:30 St. Jude's Activity 5/6th Grade	25
26 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 Discover Your Place 10:30 Worship 6:30 Luther League	27 12:00 Coffee House 6:30 Support Group	28	29 9:00 TOPS 6:30 Adventures In Confirmation 6:30 Choir	30 6:30 Men's Breakfast at Four Star 4:45 TOPS		