

## A Message from Our Pastor



### Devotion – Colossians 3:12-17

*12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

It's become a tradition in our family to visit a local orchard every fall. As the summer draws to a close, we look forward to hayrides, picking apples, running through the corn maze, finding the perfect pumpkin, and convincing the kids that, no, the farm cats can't come home with us.

This year my daughter and I were wandering through the pumpkin patch. There was a fair amount of growth, so I was pushing my way through and clearing a path for her to follow me. I kept hearing frustrated grunts. I turned, a little frustrated myself, trying to see what was bothering her. She was trying to follow me while shielding herself with her

hands. As I had been pushing the plants away from me, they had been whipping back and hitting her—and they were just the right height to smack her in the face. I was trying to make it easier for her to get through the patch. I wasn't paying attention to what she really needed. Instead, I was only making things harder for her.

We start with good intentions. God wants us to show love by helping others, and by God, we want to do it. But so often our good intentions end in bad results or hurt feelings because we don't take the time to find out what someone really needed.

That's why Paul's encouragement from the Colossians is so helpful in those cases when we've hurt others—or been hurt—unintentionally. *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* Do I have some grievance against someone? The Lord leads me to forgive that trespass as he's forgiven me in Jesus—especially if that person's good intentions just went awry. Does someone have a grievance against me? The Lord leads me to repent and seek their forgiveness as we seek it—and find it!—from the Lord.

As we do all this, we clothe ourselves in the love of Christ. His love binds us together in perfect unity. We'll have ample opportunity to recall this and put it into practice as we look forward once more to the story of our heavenly Father's eternal, boundless love and the Son he sent.

God's richest blessings on your holiday season.

~ Pastor Ben Kempfert

## **Announcements**

### **Weekly Worship—**

You're invited to join us every Sunday morning. Sunday School and Fellowship Hour begin at 8:45 AM. Worship starts at 10:00 AM. Bible Class follows at 11:00 and runs until noon.

### **Thanksgiving Eve Worship—**

Christians have a great deal to be thankful for! Our special Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 PM.

### **Twelve Soups of Christmas—**

Our annual *Twelve Soups of Christmas* event is back this year on Sunday, December 13! Following worship, our friend and Nashville Christian recording artist **Mark Smeby** will give a Christmas concert at 11:15 AM. He will have albums and other merchandise available for purchase. Afterwards, join us downstairs for a special soup luncheon. Beverages will be provided, but bring your favorite Christmas goodies to share!

### **Christmas Worship—**

Our yearly celebration of our Savior's birth is coming soon. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held on Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 PM. A service of favorite Christmas lessons and carols will follow the next morning on Friday, December 25 at 9:00 AM. Rejoice with us once more over the miracle of the Christ-child!

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—**

In 2016, Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1941. Many hands are needed to make this exciting celebration a success! If you'd like to be involved in any aspect of the planning and preparation, please sign up on the sheet in the church entryway.

### **Daylight Saving Time—**

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1! Remember to mark your calendars and turn your clocks one hour back!

### **LWMS Rally—**

The Fall Rally of the LWMS Hiawatha Valley Circuit was held on Thursday, October 22. At that meeting it was decided to hold the 2016 Spring Rally of the circuit at Grace on Saturday, April 16. More details will follow; in the meantime, let's work together to make this hosting opportunity a memorable one.

### **Charles Bonow Easter Organist Concert—**

Renowned WELS organist Charles Bonow will be returning to Grace Lutheran Church! On Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 AM, Rev. Bonow will present his "He Lives!" Easter concert.

### **Pastor Kempfert's Office Hours—**

Pastor Kempfert can be found in the church office Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-11:00 AM. Stop in for pastoral care, concerns, or a friendly visit.

### **Grace Lutheran Homebound Members—**

Our homebound members include Barbara Smallbrock at Pine Haven Care Center, Lois Haglund in Pine Island, Jean Koenig at St. Isidore Health Center in Plainview, Gerald Tiedeman at Madonna Meadows in Rochester, and Shirley Casey at River Bend Assisted Living in Rochester. Please keep them in your prayers.



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"The Pastor keeps referring to  
'this morning's text' ... but which one?"



## GRACE NOTES

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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45 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE  
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### Address Service Requested

### On the Calendar



Nov 1      Reformation Sunday  
             Communion Sunday  
             Daylight Saving Time Ends  
Nov 5      Ladies' Aid 7:00 PM  
Nov 7      Men of His Word Conference  
Nov 11     Veterans' Day  
Nov 12     Pastors' Circuit Meeting  
Nov 17     Sunny & Share 7:00 PM  
Nov 22     Communion Sunday  
Nov 25     Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:00  
PM  
Nov 26     Thanksgiving Day  
Nov 29     Advent Begins

Dec 6      Communion Sunday  
Dec 10     Pastors' Circuit Meeting  
Dec 13     Twelve Soups of Christmas  
             Mark Smeby Concert 11:15 AM  
Dec 20     Council Meeting 7:00 PM  
Dec 24     Christmas Eve  
             Worship 7:00 PM  
Dec 25     Christmas Day  
             Worship 9:00 AM  
Dec 27     Communion Sunday  
Dec 31     New Year's Eve

*1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month are Communion  
Sundays.*

Mondays are listed as "Pastor's Family Day."

