

Grace Notes February 2019



# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

351 Greenwood St (across from the borough park) Hop  
Bottom, Pa. 18824-9728

☐ (570) 289-4468 (fax & phone) Preschool 4921

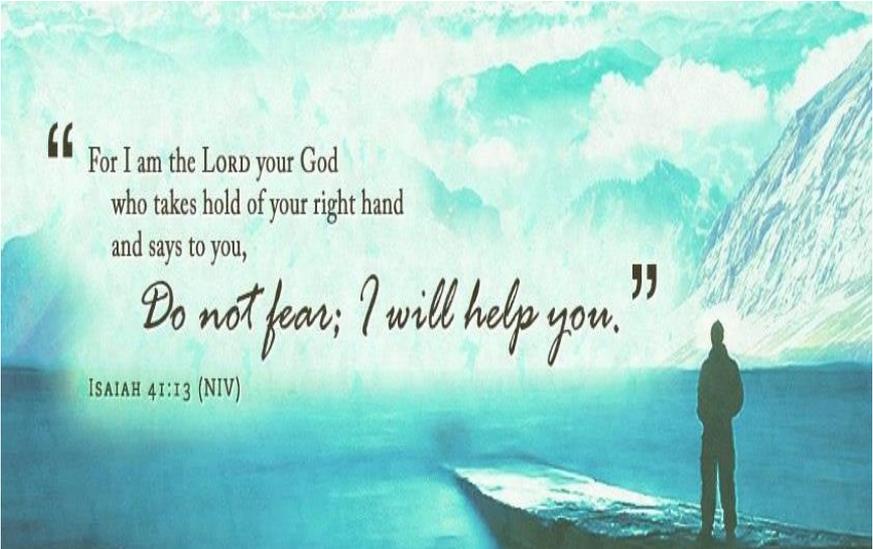
Rev. Kim E. Bode, Pastor Email address: [hbgrace@echoesnet](mailto:hbgrace@echoesnet)

Pastor's Home 289-4081 Cell: 561-6909

**Worship:** Sunday at 10:00 am

**Adult Bible Class:** 8:45 am. **Sunday School** 9:00

**Preschool:** Runs from September through May for the 3-year-old and pre-kindergarten children. Call for more details. 289-4921 Find us on Facebook or our website: [grace-lutheran-church.net](http://grace-lutheran-church.net)



“ For I am the LORD your God  
who takes hold of your right hand  
and says to you,

*Do not fear; I will help you.* ”

ISAIAH 41:13 (NIV)

## *NEWS AND NOTES*

Items of interest or news about members and friends in our community. If you have any news please get it to the church office so that it can be shared.

**Chloe Belotti** recently sang in the county chorus concert held at Elk Lake High School. Many of the songs were action packed, as well as Christian!

Paul Miller continues to gain strength against his back issues. He dearly misses being able to participate in the church he loves.

Beverly Walker, **Ann Belotti's** mom is still receiving cancer treatments.

**Al Fallon**, is still receiving cancer treatments and continues to witness to the power of her Lord in this battle.

**Reminder:** The 2018 statements are in the narthex

**Dawn Corbin's** daughter, Lisa Smith, lost her husband, George, due to heart complications. We pray for Lisa and her family.

**Lorraine Stanton** is now sporting a cast on her left arm due to an unfortunate fall. It will be hers for the next 4-6 weeks.

**Harold Tugend** was released from the hospital and is still laying low as he heals from his pneumonia.

Congratulations to Greg and **Ashley (Dixon) Monetta**. Aubrey Elizabeth, sister to Allyson, was born on December 28<sup>th</sup>. She will greet the saving waters of Baptism on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Norma Holzman** has moved in with her daughter, Maureen, at least for the winter. Their address: 3678 St. Rt 6 Tunkhannock, Pa. 18657.

The young daughter of Sara and **Justin Dixon**, Hailey, was hospitalized for a brief time for pneumonia but is now back to full speed.

**Deb Belch's** sister, Teresa, is currently battling cancer, but suddenly lost her husband, Albert "Michael" Vaitkus, Friday, Jan. 25. Our prayers goes out to this family,

The grand daughter of **Rich and Mary Niederberger**, Kylie, continues to collect trophies in her bike racing. In her last event, she won four first places!!

## ***FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS***



### ***BIRTHDAYS***

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Paul Miller              |                    |
| 5 Michael Stull            | 23 Naomi Kropa     |
| 5 Marlyn Ryder             | 23 Albert Zick     |
| 6 Ruth Littman             | 24 Sandy Harris    |
| 9 Christa Gianetti Merritt |                    |
| 10 Vanessa Olivia Littman  | 24 Maureen Holzman |
| 25 Anna Aten               |                    |
| 11 Megan Kinney            | 27 Angela McCready |



### ***Anniversaries***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Diane & Fran Martinez  
4<sup>th</sup> Lisa & Paul Sloyer



**Collection for Valentine's Day**  
**College boxes started on January**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Packing of the boxes will be**  
**on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Feb. at 10:00 AM.**

## **SUPER BOWL PARTY Patriots vs. Rams**



February 3, 2019

Mary & Rich's  
2361 Booth Road  
Hallstead Pa  
278-4740

Everyone welcome. See Rich for directions.

## **WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS & NOTES**

Back in September of 2003 (and hopefully I got my date right) our first women's bible study was held in the parsonage. I forgot who all was there as that was a whole 16 years ago. What I do remember is a dear lady by the name of Carol Miller asked why we did not have an active Women's Guild. And that was the beginning of the revival of this group. Carol served as the President, I was Vice-President, and Ella Raun was Treasurer. Since I can't remember who was Secretary (memory they say is the first thing to go) I hope whoever it was will step forward with the information.

That all seems so long ago and in these past 16 years we have lost Carol and Ella, our dear sisters in Christ. We, together, have accomplished so much in His name such as College boxes, Easter Egg Hunt, Harvest Dinners, Yard Sale Days, Pre-school Fun Day, etc.

Currently two offices are vacant in this group –

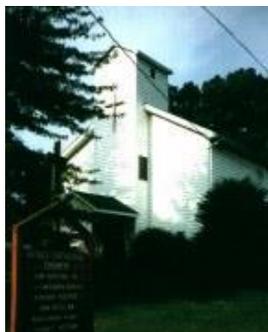
President and Vice-President. This group, we have been told, is the most active group in our Zone. We want to see it continue, and are asking for your help. Please pray about what you can do to help fill these positions and take an active role in keeping this wonderful group moving forward.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 10:15 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall in the Church.

**Submitted by Diane Nowalk**

## **A NUDGE FOR OUR NARTHEX.**

Let's play a quick game. Close your eyes and pretend you are a visitor to our church. You walk up to the wooden front doors, unsure of what you'll find on the other side. You walk into a small, cluttered space with dim lighting. There may be someone there to greet you with a bulletin. In front of you are 2 more wooden doors. Hmm... what's on the other side of these doors? Now, pretend you are entering our church from the parking lot entrance. You open the door and find a small landing with steps leading up to a closed door or down to an unknown destination. Okay, now open your eyes!



Two years ago, our congregation voted to accept plans for a new narthex. Plans were put out to bid. Not many bids were received, and those that were, were deemed out of our budget. The renovations committee has reopened the project for bids.

Grace is committed to attracting new members. A bright, open, inviting narthex can be appealing to visitors. It is often their first contact with our church.

The stewardship committee asks you all to prayerfully consider this project and how you might be led to support it financially. Once an appropriate bid is received and voted on, watch for the ways in which you can help. -submitted by Anne Bode



if they really are held on those days. Hopefully, February will be better weather.

**Submitted by Anna Aten**

Note: we will be celebrating our school in our Sunday worship on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Self Study



When people look at themselves in the mirror, most are not happy with what they see. We can be pretty critical. The flaws are easy to point out, and compliments of our better qualities often do not seem significant. On Saturday, January 26, we started looking into the mirror. We saw lots of good in the mirror. We saw a great community that cares and supports, enjoys sharing food and time, and loves the Lord and His Word. We did not really see any new flaws of which we are unaware. So, we say, “Mirror, mirror on the wall, show us fairest of them all.” When the unchurched, the youth, the preschool families, our friends, family members, and relatives, see us, are we reflecting the “Fairest of them All?” Are our community events, which we found were exhaustingly numerous, undeniably reflecting Jesus or are they just another community service event? If you agree that at this point they are primarily community services, how do we change that? How do we communicate that the good we do is coming from our relationship with God and love for His lost people? The answers are within us. As a community we must be prepared to give an account of the joy within us at all times. Can we openly express that joy to each other until it becomes natural for us to do in our daily encounters with others? Polish your mirror.

**Submitted by Art Gundell**

## **PRESIDENTS CORNER**

January was a busy month, meeting wise. The new church council met for the first time, the transition committee had the first self-study meeting, and the Renovation Committee began meeting again. In addition, the four Bible Study groups met as did the Joining Jesus groups.

The Church Council has decided to meet in the daytime during the winter months as many of the “elderly” Council members do not like going out at night. The next meeting is on Friday February 15 at 11:00 AM. We had 14 council members attend the January meeting.



Anyone interested is invited to attend the Renovation Committee meetings. If you have some input on what you would like to see done to improve the church property, please attend these meetings, or contact Stan Klees with your ideas. The next meeting will be on March 29 at 11:00 AM. At the January 31 meeting it was decided to first get quotes on repairing or replacing the activities center roof, fixing the ceiling in the balcony, replacing the windows in the fellowship hall bathrooms, and replacing the narthex entry doors and the side entrance doors and the doors from the narthex into the church. The replacement doors would be the same doors used when the narthex renovation is completed. Quotes will also be received for paving the driveway between the church and the activities center and for the complete narthex renovation per the architect’s plans. The Stewardship Committee will be working on a fundraising program to fund the narthex renovation.

The Elders are looking for a leader as Art Gundell has moved over to lead the Evangelism Committee.

**Rich Niederberger, Council President**

## GRACE COUNCIL MEETING - January 22, 2019



**Total of 14 council members were present..**

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the December Congregational meeting were read.

Motion made and carried to accept

the minutes as amended.

There were no new members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stan distributed his report and some of the figures discussed. Stan noted that the pastor's salary and benefits figures were adjusted to reflect eight months since he will be retiring at the end of August, 2019. Motion was made and carried to accept the report. A of the treasurer's report is on file.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor distributed his report and asked for impacts. Some items on Pastor's report were highlighted and discussed, such as service attendance. A copy of Pastor's report is on file.

**Elders Report:** Marie reported for the elders. It was noted that there are some members in financial difficulties at present. It was requested that the trustees hang up the Ten Commandments tablets made by Norm Holzman Sr. in the conference room. It was suggested that Wayne Novitch be asked to become a research person for grants and other informational needs. The Elders requested the council meeting minutes be published in the newsletter. (This was later amended to include an abridged version of the council meeting minutes). Patti Barankovich will be the lay speaker on March 24<sup>th</sup> since Pastor will be on vacation.

**Worship Committee:** Anne Bode reported that there has not been a meeting. At present the committee is leaderless. The next meeting will be February 5 at 6:00 pm. Planning for

Lenten services and Easter will take place. Anne encouraged attendance.

**Trustees Report:** Lynn Adams reported for the trustees. He installed a paper towel holder in the handicapped restroom. Cintas will be coming on January 29 at 8:30 to fix a light and certify the fire extinguisher in the parsonage. Paulette Adams contacted Phil Hodges, a contractor, to come in the future to provide estimates on repairs that are required, such as the parsonage roof, ceiling tiles in the balcony and, perhaps, the entrance doors needed on the church building. The parking lot and front entrance doors need replacing. Ken Corbin was contacted by Lana Fluck for an emergency repair to the fellowship/preschool furnace. All the furnaces were serviced then. There are no low temperature alarms provided by the insurance company as was expected. WiFi is still not working in the parsonage. It was stated that if wireless service was available then alerts can be sent to phones via a device if the temperature drops in the parsonage. It was suggested that Adams Cable be contacted to see if a minimal charge could be available to obtain WiFi in the parsonage especially since the church access price was reduced by switching to Adams Cable. Lynn reviewed a list of all the maintenance/repairs needed in the parsonage and church building. It was suggested that the parsonage use be considered before extensive repairs are made. Also suggested was that the Susquehanna County Technology Center be contacted to see if students would be available to make some repairs to the parsonage. If that is possible, one of the expenses to be considered would be transportation costs for the students. Another suggestion was an 'Adopt a room' to allow volunteers to do some of the improvements. Another option would be to pay to have the parsonage torn down. One estimate for that was \$17,000. It was suggested that parsonage repairs/maintenance be placed under the renovation committee.

**Financial Secretary:** Ann Corbin reported that she met with Lorraine Stanton. Lorraine uses an excel spreadsheet to report member contributions. Ann reported that she would use ledger sheets.

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Meg Klees was not able to attend the meeting but sent the following report. 'We have had Sunday School once since the new year. Class was cancelled twice because of sickness & bad weather. I am still brainstorming about which VBS to choose. I want one that will draw in kids and keep them entertained while having good stories and messages.' No date has been selected for VBS as yet.

**Stewardship Committee:** Anne Bode reported that she and Diane Nowalk are writing newsletter articles. Diane will write the article this month. One of the topics has been focusing on getting people to volunteer for various duties, such as, alter guild (particularly cleaning the linens), greeters, counters, bulletin run-off, organists. Pastor expressed interest in a tech projectionist to assist at service. Anyone interested should let Anne know.

**Evangelism Committee:** Art Gundell reported that there has been no meeting since two of the members of the committee are in Florida.

**Women's Guild:** Anne Bode reported for the Women's Guild. The last meeting was January 5. There were 22 present at the Christmas Luncheon and it was enjoyed by all. It was suggested that if toys are given for the Adopt-a-Family Christmas gifts that the bar codes are blacked out.. It was reported that some toys were being returned for the money. The Harvest dinner earned approximately \$1500. There will be 11 boxes packed for the college students, our seminarian and our military member. These will be packed on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. The Women's Guild voted for and purchased a blue Advent banner for \$48. The next meeting will be Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15.

**Youth Report:** No report

**Christian Education Report:** Eileen Gundell reported that the first meeting for the board of education is scheduled for January 30<sup>h</sup> at 9:30 am. Those that normally would attend are Eileen, Meg Klees, Ann Belotti, Paulette Adams/Anna Aten and Pastor. The group needs the head elder to attend.

**Administrator of Day School:** Paulette Adams reported that church members donated \$1535 since the request was made. The current balance of the preschool account is approximately \$15,220. Paulette projected that there may be a balance of \$4000 at the end of the year. There are 22 four-year olds and 9 three-year olds. It was noted that Lutheran school week begins January 27 and it was requested to be remembered in prayers during service. The service on April 7 will be our observation of the preschool.

**Unfinished Business:** Nothing reported.

**New Business:** Council received a letter from Pastor Bode stating his retirement date of August 31, 2019. Motion was made to accept his retirement with grateful hearts. Art Gundell reported that the meeting of the transition committee is on Saturday, January 26, from 10:00 to 2:00 with lunch provided. Seventeen of 52 questionnaires were returned. He will compile the results for the meeting. Eileen Gundell reported that she will submit an article for the Montrose Independent on the Grace Lutheran Preschool for Lutheran School week. Mention was made of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Facebook page. Stan Klees reported that after service on January 13 a meeting of the renovation committee is scheduled for January 31 at 11:00.

The next meeting of Council will be Friday, February 15 at 11:00.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer..

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dorothy Klees, Secretary with Mary Niederberger**

## The Last Word...

This past week saw a proclamation from our Synodical President declaring it to be National Lutheran Schools week. In honor of that, our Board of Education Chairman, Eileen Gundell, submitted a great article on our school to the Montrose Independent, which was published on the back page of their January 30<sup>th</sup> issue. It might be available online in the weeks ahead. (<http://www.susqcoindy.com> ).

For the same reason I had the joy of conducting devotions at the Lutheran Academy run by Peace Lutheran, Scranton. This small school of twenty students and four staff boasts a classical curriculum and does a lot of work with music.

In my devotions I asked the children to assess the difference between real and fake. Some stories in the scripture seem pretty “out there” but I was pleased to see how the students knew the truth of God’s word. They gave a “thumbs down” to the imagined theory of evolution, and a big thumbs up to a six day creation by God.



Back row: Carsten Bjornstad, music director, Mrs. McGingley teacher  
Front rows: children of the Academy Grades 1-3 (who played the Apostles Creed on their recorders!)

(And they want to come and sing at our church !!)

We celebrate the realness of God’s love for us in a wooden cross and a rock tomb. We celebrate the realness of God in the hundreds of thousands of children who sit in the chairs of Lutheran school classrooms.

*Posta Ki E. Bode*

## **Those serving for the month:**

### **Counters**

February 3 Mary & Rich Niederberger  
10 Anna Aten & Diane Nowalk  
17 Stan & Dorothy Klees  
24 Carolyn Loch & Betty Santamour

### **Greeters**

February 3 Marie Doty  
10 Diane Nowalk  
17 Jennie Stuble  
24 Anne Bode

### **Bulletin Run-Off**

February 3 Art & Eileen Gundell  
10 Harold & Debbie Wheeland  
17 Art & Eileen Gundell  
24

### **Acolytes**

February 3 Madison Belotti  
14 Chloe Belotti  
21 Madison Belotti  
28 Chloe Belotti  
Bell Ringer Vy Doty

### **Organists/Pianists**

February 3 Anne Bode  
10 Patti Barankovich  
17 E: Anne Bode L: Eileen Gundell  
24 Patti Barankovich

### **Altar**

Glenda Klim and Ken and Dawn Corbin