



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@echoes.net

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.net



Easter Sunrise: 5:45 Mt. View Track Bleachers. 10 at sanctuary

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.

Bill and Lila Loch would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and phone calls the time of Bill's brother's death. We really appreciate your kindness.

Lorraine Stanton sent a thank you: "I appreciate so very much all the cards, notes, calls, and prayers folks offered when I broke my wrist. I'm still mending, but am praying the worst is over. Thanks so much."

Fran Martinez had some successful surgery on his knee and is looking forward to getting back to work after full recovery.

Chloe Belotti is now living in Florida with her mother. She is making new friends in her new situation. Her address is 11193 NW 20th St. Ocala FL 34482.

Bill Zick has relocated to the United Methodist Homes, Tunkhannock campus. His address is 50 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

We rejoice at the birth of a healthy daughter born to Shane and **Ronalyn (Corbin) Lewis**. Stella Ann was born on February 25th.

Karen Erbe was given honorable mention for her submission to the Baum School of Art in Allentown. Congratulations

Harry Wheeland is undergoing tests and currently is unable to work. He asks for your prayers at this time.

Mark your calendar now: There will be a retirement dinner for Pastor Bode on Saturday, September 21st.

Many of our members are often found in bragging about their grandchildren:

- **Harold and Donna Tugend's**, grand-daughter Moriah Murray, freshman starter on the Dunmore High School basketball team is having an outstanding year. The Lady Bucks lost in the finals for the state championship!!
- **Art and Eileen's** grandson, Ryan Gundell was a part of winning a regional soccer tournament in the Niagara area.

One of our former members, **Harold Loch** underwent heart surgery this past month, and was unable to recover. He greeted His Lord and Savior on Tuesday March 12th a day before his 77th birthday. Harold was a strong yet simple man, who lived his life at a total of two addresses. He served his Lord as husband, father, and church member in a number of Lutheran congregations. Blessed be the saints at rest!

After a long struggle with health issues, **Paul Miller** joined his wife Carol in the Church Triumphant on Monday March 18th. Paul was a great leader at Grace Lutheran, Hop Bottom in the latter years of his life. As elder, youth Sunday School teacher, worship leader and in other ways he shared his wisdom and grasp of the scriptures. Worshipers would look forward to seeing him with a smile every Sunday. I have heard the stories of this leadership from many of the people of St. Paul Lutheran, Tunkhannock as well. In addition, in the years that he and Carol lived in Cincinnati, he engaged his talents to serve the Lord there. Paul lived as a fighting warrior of faith in Jesus Christ. More than a church man we rejoice that he had a very intense relationship with Jesus Christ. He knew it was by grace, so he confessed his sins, heard the promise, and ate and drank His Body and Blood with a thirst borne from a faith given him at his baptism.

Community egg hunt



Egg Hunt time is here!!! Join us in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, April 16 at 6 p.m. for pizza and the stuffing of eggs. This is always a fun time—the candy must be taste tested as we stuff! Then, join us on Saturday, April 20 as we hold our Community Egg Hunt. Set up for the hunt begins at 9 a.m. We begin in the church at 10 a.m. with a brief children's Easter service, and then proceed to the park for the Hunt. We are finished by 11-11:30. This is a great community outreach, which has been held for about 16 years now! Hope you can join us!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Church Council met on Friday March 15 at 11:00 AM. There were 11 council members in attendance. The next meeting will be April 7 as a Congregational meeting after the 10:00 AM service and be preceded by a potluck dinner. Loraine Stanton chaired the March meeting as Mary and I were away on vacation. The minutes of the meeting are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

A second meeting of the Renovation Committee was held on March 29 at 11:00 AM. Quotes on repairing or replacing the activities center roof were received. We are also getting quotes on 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 and for a complete narthex renovation per the architect's plans. This process has been like pulling teeth as the builders do not cooperate. Please give any input you may have to Stan Klees who is heading up this committee.

The congregation at a special meeting on February 24 appointed me as the Lay voter for the Synod Presidential election in June. Pastor Bode and I will cast votes for Grace Lutheran.

Don't miss out on the many opportunities to participate in Bible Study and the Joining Jesus in his Mission meetings. New faces are always welcome. Also mark your calendar for the next Friendship Sunday to be held on Sunday June 30.
Rich Niederberger, Council President



Trustee's Report

Two bids for former parsonage roof replacement have been received a third bid should be in soon. Five contractors contacted, three responded. Will replace missing attic window this Thursday in parsonage also. Also will r&r door knob on Sunday school room. Any repairs needed or building concerns, please contact trustees. Thank you Lynn H Adams



PRESCHOOL NEWS:

The preschool hoagie sale will be April 10th. Orders should be in by April 1st. There is a sign-up sheet available in the church. The school year is extended through the first week of June, due to sessions being missed because of bad weather. The Spring field trip is to Claws and Paws. Parent teacher conferences were last week. Registrations for fall are going well. There are now ten 4-year-olds and six 3-year-olds already. Steve Schulze put the link to the registration form on the preschool page. The LCMS link is on the webpage. Mrs. Fluck requested that we do not invite alumni or have an acknowledgement of her twenty years of service at the end of year picnic, since she prefers to focus on the children at that time. The congregation has donated \$2095 since an appeal was made at the beginning of the school year. **Submitted by Anna Aten**

SUMMER LUNCH BOX



MAJOR FUND RAISER FOR THIS PROGRAM.

The Summer Lunch Box group will kick off their season with a major fund-raiser on Saturday, June 1st. With the aid of the Lenox V.F.W., we are sponsoring our annual chicken barbecue dinner. Our menu, as well as \$10.00 cost, remains unchanged: 1/2 chicken, roll & butter, baked beans, macaroni salad. Desserts will be available for separate purchase from our tables of bountiful baked goods. There will also be 50/50 raffles, basket raffles, and equipment for the hunting/shooting enthusiasts. Tickets for the dinner, as well as the gun raffle, will be available soon from any Summer Lunch Box volunteer.

Our SLB program is comprised solely of volunteers and is often in need of extra hands. If you can assist us on June 1st or at any time, please contact our president, Paula Smith at 570-289-4102. We would appreciate any donations of gift baskets. The container can have any theme, but please note that under PA Law, alcoholic items are banned. Baked goods are welcome, too. It is helpful if baked goods are pre-packaged for immediate sale. As we draw closer to the June 1st date, more details will be available.

Thank you. Submitted by Lorraine Stanton



An opportunity to serve

Every 4th Thursday of the month folks from St. Paul's serve at the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen in Tunkhannock. Several of our members have joined them on occasion and found the experience to be rewarding. This is just a reminder that they will be going on **April 27** and would appreciate our involvement. We are given food to prepare as we wish and we serve around 50-70 folks each time. We start prep work at 3 p.m. Check the church calendar for future dates. **Submitted by Anne Bode**

These are just a few things. Then there are visits to our shut-ins, taking food to someone who is not able to cook or driving someone to an appointment. Can you play the piano and help out with playing for a Sunday morning service?

It is not only giving of time and talent but also financial resources. As we know all too well, cost of living has been increasing and it is the same for the church. We still need to meet our financial goals and obligations. Seek God's wisdom in what you can give to Grace Lutheran to continue its' mission.

It is not that we should not ask God to help us as that is what He wants us to do, but we should also ask what we can do here on Earth to spread the good news of His love and His lasting salvation.

Submitted by: Diane Nowalk



-submitted by Diane Martinez

GRACE COUNCIL MEETING – March 15, 2019

Present: Pastor and Anne Bode, Anna Aten, Lynn and Paulette Adams, Lorraine Stanton, Nancy Shoemaker, Marie Doty, Ann Corbin, Stan and Dorothy Klees.

Lorraine Stanton called the meeting to order. Council sang “When Morning Guilds the Skies”, verses 1, 4 and 5. Pastor led council in prayer. May Jesus Christ be praised.

The minutes of the February council meeting were read, as well as, those from the brief congregational meeting after service on February 24th. Motion made to accept the minutes as read was made and seconded and motion carried.

New member is Aubrey Monetta, baptized on February 17, 2019.

Pastor called Rich Niederberger so council could sing happy birthday to him since he and Mary are traveling.

Treasurer’s Report: Stan distributed his report and noted that fuel expenses will be up in March since both tanks were filled after they were both empty. He noted that Ace Robbins had one tank as will call. He requested that both be on a regular schedule. The Cintas bill will also be in next month’s expenses. Stan thanked Pastor for moving the internet service to Adam’s Cable since it results in a good savings and better service. Bible study materials expense was discussed, particularly for the women’s bible study, and will be brought up for discussion again when next year’s budget is created. Motion was made to accept the report, seconded and motion carried. A complete copy of the treasurer’s report is on file.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor distributed his report and asked for impacts. Some were shared. Various items on Pastor’s report were highlighted and discussed. Pastor noted that St. Paul’s in Tunkhannock will get a lay delegate vote for the synodical election. The midweek Lenten services are well attended. A complete copy of his report is on file.

Elders Report: Marie reported for the elders. They discussed ular needs of various members. She requested research be done in the minutes to determine what amount the elders are able to disperse from the emergency fund without the council's approval. Marie is scheduled to be lay speaker at service on April 28th.

Worship Committee: Anne Bode reported that the friendly visit on March 10 was most appreciated. The 'Convicted' series for Lenten services was reviewed to see if additional witness parts should be added. The midweek soup and sandwich gathering prior to Lenten service sign-up sheet is available. Egg stuffing will be on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00. The Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, April 20.

Trustees Report: Lynn Adams reported that he received a call from our preschool teacher stating that the classroom was getting cold. Ace Robbins sent a repairman who replaced a filter and indicated that the fuel tanks were empty. The following morning both tanks were filled. Both are now on scheduled delivery. Adams Cable indicated that there would be \$25 installation fee and \$35 per month for the internet connection in the parsonage. Lynn contacted Perini construction regarding repairs and they did not respond. Sonny Boy run by John Price said he would not provide a warranty and no written estimates. He estimated \$11,150 for a roof over on the parsonage and \$14,300 for tear off and replacement standard shingles. AJG run by Andrew Glover will call within a week with an estimate. He will not do a layover on the parsonage roof. He guessed at \$17,000 for the parsonage roof. He guessed at \$45,000 for the parsonage bathrooms and the kitchen. These items will be discussed at the next renovation committee meeting to be held on Friday, March 29 at 11:00. The committee will be present the recommendations at the congregational meeting on April 7. Lynn went over some items repaired in the church building such as a doorknob installed to the Sunday school rooms and the 10 Commandment plaques hung in the meeting room. There are other repairs needed such as fixing the communion rail latch and an attic window in the parsonage. Stan Klees said he will set up a work day to smooth out the parking lot after the bad weather breaks.

Financial Secretary: Ann Corbin had nothing new to report. She clarified that Christian day school envelopes are for our preschool.

Sunday School Superintendent: Meg Klees was not able to attend the meeting but sent the following report. 'I set up an account under my name and had the church billed for the VBS kit today. I looked up information on group rates at Animal Adventure. Non-school group rate requirements: a minimum of 20 paid visitors, \$10 each for ages 3 and up, \$2 for souvenir feed cup, must give 4 day notice with the number of attendees. No outside food or drink in the park but there is a picnic area outside the park which is first come first serve. There are keeper talks on the hour from 11 am to 3 pm. I was thinking that on Friday, July 26th, we should meet earlier and possibly stay longer depending on how long it takes us to go through the park. I emailed Phyllis Sanauskaus about Gary driving bus. She said he has a 77 passenger bus but that is 3 to a seat and that he charges by the mile. I plan on doing some fundraising to help pay for the trip. Let me know of any questions you have.' As a side note she mentioned that the LWML Mites for February and March were \$147.50.

Stewardship Committee: No report.

Evangelism Committee: No report.

Women's Guild: Anne Bode reported for the Women's Guild.

The boxes are out for the Easter egg hunt and eggs are ready to be 'de-taped'. The next meeting will be March 16, which Lorraine Stanton will chair.

Youth Report: No report

Christian Education Report: Eileen Gundell is unwell and unable to attend the meeting today but sent the following report. Wednesday, March 20th at 9:30 will be the next board of education meeting to finalize plans to portray a video or pics of our preschoolers to celebrate them at church on April 7. Also, the Retirement Committee is composed of Patti, Ann Corbin, Lorraine and myself. **The party for Pastor will be held on Sept. 21 at Heart Lake Lodge, from 5:00-8:00.** It will be a buffet dinner. More info will be coming on that, but everyone should save the date!

Administrator of Day School: Anna Aten reported that the preschool hoagie sale will be April 10th. Orders should be in by April 1st and there will be a sign-up sheet available Sunday morning. The school year will be extended through the first week of June due to sessions being missed because of bad weather. The preschool

outing will be to Paws and Claws. Parent teacher conferences will be next week. Registration for fall are going well there are 7 4-year olds and 6 3-year olds already. Steve Schulze put the link to the registration form on the preschool page. The LCMS link is on the webpage. Mrs. Fluck requested that we do not invite alumni or have an acknowledgement of her twenty years of service at the end of year picnic since she'd prefer to focus on the children at that time. It was suggested that we make it part of the Friendship Sunday activities. Paulette Adams reported that the preschool has a balance of \$9441 on hand. The congregation has donated \$2095 since the appeal was made at the beginning of the school year. Paulette stated that since the minimum wage is probably going to be increasing we should consider the impact to our helper's wages. We may need to increase tuition from the current \$84 for 4 year olds and \$56 for 3 year olds per month. Tuition at other preschools was discussed. Paulette said we should encourage all families to pursue scholarships from the Community Foundation. It is an annual scholarship of \$500 and the money comes directly to the preschool. Volunteer background checks are free on-line. VBS volunteers should apply. Epatch.state.pa.us/load RC Details.do in clearances folder is the location.

Unfinished Business: Art Gundell reported for the transitional committee. The financial group will be finalizing notes from the meeting last night with the next meeting on April 11th at 5:30. The first facilities meeting will be Saturday, March 16th at 3:00 in the parsonage. The Part A meeting will be at the Niederbergers on March 30 at 11:00.

New Business: There was considerable discussion about Pastor's email to council regarding a request by a long-term disaster recovery committee for housing relief workers in the parsonage. This request would be for us to be back-up through the summer for the Methodist church in Montrose who provides housing. There was concern regarding the state of the facilities that we would be able to provide, particularly bathrooms and kitchen. There was also concern about insurance, water and heating costs. Stan Klees made a motion to provide housing for the relief workers, Anne Bode seconded it. The motion failed to pass.

The next meeting will be a **congregational meeting** with potluck on **Sunday, April 7** after service. Prayer was offered for Fran Martinez who will be having surgery on Monday.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded and motion carried,. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted. Dorothy Klees, Secretary with Mary Niederberger

The Last Word...



I have resurrected this picture to make a point of what is going on in my head. This is a picture of our men's retreat from about 2011. Today there would be only

two people at that table, and one of them is going into a personal care home. With the recent glorification of Harold Loch and Paul Miller, I am tired and really sad at the men exiting from my life.

It affects all at Grace I believe. I do believe that men in our congregation play a key role in our mission. Women are fundamental, but there is a uniqueness about the male human.

However, the Apostle Paul gently scolds me when he is talking about his personal growth in the faith and he writes in Philippians 3:12-14


12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is all based on resurrection. To be sure, the resurrection of Harold, Paul, Orville, , Charlie, Ron and.... . But it involves the power of His resurrection that, as Paul says, “strains us forward”. I really believe that with the exit of these saints a *vacuum* has been created that will draw more men to our congregation, and to our leadership. Only God knows where they are now, and how they will arrive into our midst, but our God is making all things new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

On April 21st I look forward to shouting with you:

HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

Whether at 5:45 on a track bleacher, or 10 am in a sanctuary we celebrate the vacuum of the power of Jesus’ resurrection in our midst.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Pastor Ki E. Bode" in a cursive script.

Those serving for the month:

Counters

- April 7 Anna Aten & Diane Nowalk
14 Stan & Dorothy Klees
21 Carolyn Loch & Betty Santamour
28 Rich & Mary Niederberger

Greeters

- April 7 Marie Doty
14 Jennie Stuble
21 Betty Santamour
28 Anne Bode & Diane Nowalk

Bulletin Run-Off

- April 7 Harold & Debbie Wheeland
14 Steve Schulze
21 Art & Eileen Gundell
28 Steve Schulze

Acolytes

- April 7 Madison Belotti
14 Delaney Hollenbeck
21 TBA
28 TBA

Bell Ringer Vy Doty

Organists

- April 3 Anne Bode
7 Anne Bode
10 Patti Barankovich
14 Anne Bode
18 Eileen Gundell
19 Patti Barankovich
21 Patti Barankovich
28 Eileen Gundell

Altar

Anne Bode (Help!!)