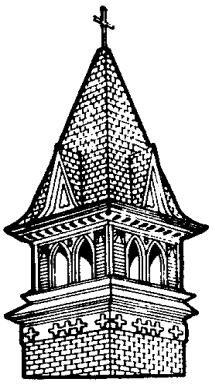

News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ◆ December 2016

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

Prayer List

Tom Brennan, Travis Konarzewski, Gar Nicholls, Bunny Lyon, Judy Kautz,

Debbie Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Erv Simi, Jeanette Grove, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore, Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Julie Troy, Jeff Lee, Conrad Addison, David Schaedig, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Brett & Katie Schoner, Eric Carlson, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkowicz, and Richard G.

We also remember the family of Dorris Doutt, who passed away November 26. Visitation at Bannan Funeral Home on December 5 from 5-7:00 p.m. Funeral service at Saron Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, December 2 at 11:30 a.m.

Baptism

We pray for God's blessings for Beckett Emerson Granata, who was baptized at our Sunday morning service on November 27. Beckett's parents are Eric and Tracie Granata and his sponsors are Brett Werblow and Lindsay Granata.

Candlelight Worship

December 24th
5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Communion offered at both services

Christmas Day Worship

December 25th
10:30 a.m.

Lessons & Carols

New Year's Eve & New Year's Day Worship

December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m.
January 1 ~ 10:30 a.m.
Lessons and Carols

Following Grace's pattern on the weekend after Christmas, we will have Lessons and Carols Services on Saturday, December 31, and Sunday, January 1. Join us as we hear the story and sing the songs of the season.

With our Semi-Annual Meeting for adoption of the budget and election of officers, we tend to come into the meeting focused on those things.

So when talking about the budget represented in the pie chart of the missional budget, Dorothy Hansen asked if the quilters work (all 275 quilts in the last 12 months) was included in pie chart. Cheryl Lang further asked if our budget aligned with greater emphasis on "mission work" at Grace. As we talked of what the budget represented, the idea of listing all mission work was mentioned by Melissa Timmreck.

So for a bigger picture of Grace beyond just the budget, some further info on all these.

The budget doesn't represent all the "mission work" that goes on at Grace. The pie chart represents the financial budget and the dollars going to the various areas of Worshiping God, Growing Our Faith, Caring for Each Other, Reaching Out to Our Community and Reaching Out to the World.

So the quilters work and their quilts are not included in the pie chart since there are no dollars from budget devoted to that. The overhead of heat and light for them to have a space to work in would be part of what goes to mission work out of the budget dollars.

Much mission work goes on at Grace that are not represented in budget dollars but we are doing as part of God's Kingdom.
Here is a beginning list:

Quilting
Homeless mats - crocheted from plarn of plastic grocery bags
Recycling of items for schools
God's Work Our Hands - at Luther Manor and Huron Humane Society
Monthly Food collection for the pantry at Trinity Episcopal
Underwear for foster children in Samaritas (LSSM's new name)
Support of the child thru World Vision
Bread Sunday with money for ELCA World Hunger Relief
Giving Tree at Christmas with clothing for families
thru ACC Wish List and Youth with Needs thru APS
School kits for Lutheran World Relief
Alpena Community Mission Trip thru National Relief Network
that many from Grace have participated in
Baby Supplies to Samaritas (LSSM's new name)
Walk Me Home fundraiser - supporting foster programing thru Child & Family Services
Noisy Offerings - supporting NWLMS Synod Assembly Special offering
& other projects
the things that Ruth Circle gives donations to
Salvation Army - Alpena, Sunrise Mission, Sunday Supper at Trinity Episcopal Church,Boys & Girls Club, Samaritas (LSSM) and Lutheran World Relief.

Our Budget and those dollars are one aspect of living out our mission activities. As you can see, it is not all of it. So we will work on keeping you better informed on all that is going on at Grace in Mission activities

Thank you all so much for the large turn out for the meeting and the questions you asked.

Pastor Tom

Decorating the Church

All are welcome to join us on **December 4th** following worship for a wonderful time of fellowship as we decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.

Stuffed Animals in Pews Youth Fundraiser

You have seen the stuffed animals in our pews over several weeks... Here is the story behind their presence. They are a YOUTH fundraiser... These animals have been loved - some may be lightly used and some may be brand new. They have: Sat among the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church during worship...Heard God's Word of Grace and prayers for comfort and healing...Experienced worship music and felt many praises raised!!! Loved and soaked in God's Love…Now - this animal comes to you to share these blessings!! Donations for any animal will benefit Youth Ministry Programs for those going to Living Water Ministry events like Summer Leadership Camps, Jr/Sr High/College Gatherings. THANK-YOU!!!

Besser Male Chorus Holiday Concerts

Sunday, December 11 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Ossineke United Methodist Church
13095 US 23 S., Ossineke

Wednesday, December 14 ~ 7:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
167 S. Ripley Blvd., Alpena

Free-will Donations appreciated

Julefest Bake Sale

December 3
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sale items may be brought in on Friday, December 2, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and continuing through the day. We appreciate any baked or homemade goods and canned items.

We would also appreciate any craft items you make and would like to donate. If possible, please package and price your items. (We will do that for you, if you prefer.)

Please invite your family and friends to this annual event sponsored by the women of Grace. Contact Darlene Freel at 354-8866 with any ideas, and if you can help on Friday or Saturday. Thanks!

**Air-tight tins are needed for packaging. Please leave any you would like to donate in the kitchen. Thanks!

Thank you for your continued thoughts, prayers and cards. They are very much appreciated. I am doing well. It was wonderful to see everyone on my visit to Alpena several weeks ago.

Debbie Anderson

~~~~~

We shared God's love with our church family, friends and relatives at a blessed Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you to all who attended (approximately 70), filling our dining room with Christ-like fellowship. Also a big thank you for all the wonderful food and help with the clean up.

Pat & Dale Schultz
Jeanne & Roger Pankey

SERRV Sale!

Saturday, December 3 ~ 10 am - 2 pm
First Congregational UCC, 201 S. 2nd Ave, Alpena

Jewelry, textiles baskets, ceramics, Fair Trade coffee, tea and food items! Crafts are handmade by artisans from around the world, including underprivileged parts of the U.S. Sales help to improve working conditions, health care and education for the artisan and their families by offering fair wages for their crafts. **New items! Christmas decorations! Mark downs!**
~~~~~

Outreach and Mission

Local

Discipleship

Items Needed:

* Tuna & Tuna Helper
* Peanut Butter & Jelly
* Pancake Mix & Syrup
  (Just add water kind)
* Elbow Macaroni

The collection basket is located outside the church office. All items collected will be donated to Trinity Episcopal's food pantry.

Keeping in Touch with Our Loving Care Members

Please remember our Loving Care Members with a card or call. The Discipleship Committee invites any of our members to help us as we again offer to help these folks put up their trees, decorations or write cards. We will be taking plates of cookies to them when we go caroling on Sunday, Dec. 11th.

31 ornaments were put on the tree from the ACC Wish List the weekend of Nov, 12-13th. Those gifts need to be wrapped with the name tag taped on and under our tree no later than Sunday, Dec. 4th. Those gifts have to be delivered to ACC on Tues. Dec 7th. We will be adding more names to the tree (the list comes from the school's homeless program). Those gifts will be due back, wrapped with name tag attached by Sunday, Dec. 11th. Thanks to all who take part in this project!

Global

Noisy Offering will be the 4th Sunday to support our World Vision child, Ishimwe. Our congregation sent her and her family $100 for Christmas through World Vision. See the progress report on Ishimwe on the bulletin board in the dining room.

Lutheran World Relief "Baby Kits" project will be ongoing through December. Items can be placed in the pack and play by the front door.

ELCA World Hunger Project. We will not have Bread Sunday until January. Our total contribution from Grace was $1600.00 from February 2016 through October 2016.

Christmas Caroling to Our Loving Care Members Sunday, December 11th

Christmas Caroling will be Sunday. Dec 11th at noon following a breakfast potluck. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. We will car pool from the church and sing a few songs at each stop. We would also like to take a plate of cookies to our loving care members—they loved them last year! If you are willing to donate a batch of homemade cookies, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and indicate what kind of cookies you will bring. Please bring them the morning of Sun Dec 11th. There is a sign-up sheet also if you plan to attend the breakfast; please indicate what you will be bringing. Any questions, call Joelyn 340-0592.

Frosty's Festival of Gifts

New Life Lutheran Church
Annual Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 3
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Baked Goods, Pantry Items, Hand Crafted Items, Handmade Note Cards, Wooden Craft Items, Fresh Green Floral Arrangements, Sauerkraut and much more!!

Luncheon Served 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Meatballs in Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables, Homemade Pie and Beverage!!!

New Life Lutheran Church - 25 Kirche in the Woods - located just south of White Pines National Golf Course off Hubbard Lake Rd. For

No Quilting Until January 2017

The quilting group will NOT meet in December, but will resume in January. Mark your calendar for every Tuesday for the Quilting/Sewing Group in the Fellowship Hall from 9-11:30 a.m. and remember that you can drop in whenever you have an hour to spare. Some members also sew at home. Thanks for all of your donations of materials!

COMMUNITY BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 11 ~ 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 727 S. 2nd Ave.

Many people struggle with feelings of depression, loss, and sadness during the Christmas season because of the death of a loved one, a divorce, the loss of a job, a broken relationship, illness, a recent or upcoming move, or some other emotional trauma. The Blue Christmas service recognizes the burdens that people carry and reaches out to them with Scripture readings, music, prayers, and a message of hope that focuses on the comfort that God offers during the dark times of our lives by shining Christ's light into the broken places deep within us. This service offers a sacred place for those who are grieving losses or struggling with difficulties. Participants will be invited to light a candle in memory of someone or to mark a significant loss in their lives as well as write names or situations on pieces of paper that will be placed into a basket, prayed for, and then placed on the altar. Come experience the healing presence of God's love. Everyone is invited. For information call 356-1658.

Recycling Update

Terracycle has eliminated some of the items we have been recycling.

Here is an updated list:
-CEREAL BAGS (wax liners)
-GRANOLA/ENERGY BAR WRAPPERS
-PLASTIC DRINKING CUPS
-SNACK BAGS (chips/crackers)
-TOOTHBRUSH/TOOTHPASTE
-PERSONAL CARE (plastic soap bottles, shampoo, deodorant, gel, lotion)

Any household plastic can be recycled at GREENWAY RECYCLING on US 23 North

Pied Piper receives two cents for every item. Two cents seem like a little amount but as we all know, a lot of littles can add up to A LOT OF BIGS!!

Thank you for your support and please continue to recycle.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day announces Its Youth Essay Contest

Essay entries will be divided into two groups, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

The essay prizes will be $100 for first place and $75 for second place for each group.

The winners will be asked to read their essays on Monday, January 16, 2017 as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day event at 6:30 p.m. at the ACC Granum Theatre. The community will be invited to share in this event.

Guidelines

- Essays for grades 6-8 must be from 300-500 words.
- Essays for grades 9-12 must be from 500-800 words.

- The essay question to be addressed is "***How might you create A Beloved Community?"***
  In 1956, Martin Luther King, Jr. said that conflict is an unavoidable part of human experience. His vision to address that conflict was called a Beloved Community where people in conflict might resolve their differences. According to King, a Beloved Community is one where spirit, love and shared purpose could transform those who oppose each other into friends and co-workers.

  Consider the conflicts in your own community: in schools, neighborhoods, churches and other organizations. How might you create a Beloved Community?

- All essays must be an original work.

- All essays must be formatted as a WORD document attached to an email message. Send essays to mlkjralpena@gmail.com

- Entries must be clearly labeled with the

  author's full name, age, grade in school, name of school
  mailing address, phone number, and
  word count.

- All essays must be submitted by **Monday, December 19, 2016.**

- Winners will be contacted by Monday, January 9, 2017.

Essays will be judged by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Committee for the Alpena Area.

Serving Our Country

Wesley Garant
AB Garant, Wesley R.
331 TRS/SLT 733 (Dorm 3A2
1320 Truemper St. UNIT 369550
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6408

Ruth Circle
December Meeting

The Ruth Circle Women of Grace will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, at the home of Polly Cook.

"First Church will do anything to steal our Christmas pageant surprises!"

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers

CHURCH OFFICE		354-2640
Rev. Tom Orth	Home	356-8729
	Cell	916-8759
Office Manager	Peggy Tomaszewski	255-8850
Music Director	Berniece Lyon	464-7064

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President	Tom Lappan	356-3718
Vice-President		
Exec. Secretary	Sandy Malaski	356-6248
Treasurer	Dennis Werblow	354-5560

WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education		
Worship	Sharon Engstrom	354-5133
Discipleship	Joelyn Rich	340-0592
Property	Jeff & Sandy Welch	595-2195
Fellowship	Jeanne Pankey	354-2416
	Pat Schultz	356-2781
Finance	Rick Engstrom	916-5963

OTHER V.I.P.s

Stewardship…	Wayne Christopherson	356-0430
Youth Director	Vicki Denstaedt	916-9258
WELCA	Darleen Freel	354-8866
	Dorothy Hansen	354-3563
Samaritas	Kay Grove	727-2054
Quilters	Caroline Weise	354-8060
	Dorothy Hansen	354-3563
LARCC	Eleanor Coddington	354-8766
	Kay Grove	727-2054

NOVEMBER 2016

Finances

GENERAL FUND	$ 12,127.00
BUILDING FUND	1,066.33
CHRISTIAN GROWTH	7.00
OTHER	4,091.42
TOTAL	$ 17,291.75

Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4)	128
SUNDAY WORSHIP (4)	301
TOTAL	429

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD
DECEMBER 2016

ACOLYTES
04
11
18
24

25

HOSPITAL
JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS

04		MELISSA TIMMRECK
11		BOB GREENE
18		VICKI DENSTAEDT
24	Early	VERNA FURZE
	Late	DAWN ANDERSON
25		JOE GENTRY

USHERS
WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON
JOEL & CORINNE FRALEY
CORKY GATES
PHRAN LUDINGTON
NIC TIMMRECK

GREETERS

04		RICH & SHERIE MCTAGGART
11		POLLY COOK, TAMMY FURZE
18		WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON
24	Early	CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS
	Late	VICKI, TREVOR & ISABELLE DENSTAEDT
25		ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

COUNTERS
CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON
PHRAN LUDINGTON

ALTAR GUILD
GENTRY FAMILY
DENSTAEDT FAMILY

FLOWERS

04	
11	GOHLKE
18	TUCKER
25	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

COFFEE HOUR

04	BARB WERLE, ANGIE CRITTENDEN, ELLIE WALKER
11	RUBY & OLIVIA HASKE
18	JOE & DAWN GENTRY
25	ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD
JANUARY 2017

ACOLYTES
01
08
15
22
29

HOSPITAL
JANET CHRONINGER

LECTORS
01 SERVICE OF LESSONS/CAROLS
08 DONNA CZARNECKI
15 MIKE URLAUB
22 CHERYL WERBLOW
29 CORINNE FRALEY

USHERS
DALE SCHULTZ
CHARLES SNYDER
STEVE GARANT
VICKI, TREVOR, ISABELLE &
MIRIAM DENSTAEDT

GREETERS
01 JOEL & CORINNE FRALEY
08 DON & VERNA FURZE
15 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM
22 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL
29 JOE & DAWN GENTRY

COUNTERS
CHRIST CHRISTOPHERSON
MARGE WEBER

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
JOE GENTRY
WAYNE LEWIS

ALTAR GUILD
KAY ZINSLI
ELSA PHILLIPS

FLOWERS
01
08
15
22
29

COFFEE HOUR
01 DON & VERNA FURZE, TAMMY FURZE
08 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ
15 VICKI, ISABELLE & MIRIAM DENSTAEDT
22 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL,
PHRAN LUDINGTON
29 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM

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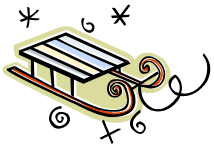


December

Anniversaries of Baptism

December 1
Andrea Matzke

December 4
Kevin Graham

December 6
Monica Jahnke
Levi Konarzewski

December 7
Gary Grove

December 8
Jewel Lancaster
Ryan Werblow

December 9
Cindy Suszek

December 11
David Dekett

December 13
Sean Caparo
Clarence Cross

December 14
Cheryl Lang

December 16
Polly Cook

December 17
Joel Gillard
Colt Gray

December 21
Gracie Gillard

December 23
Melissa Chabot
Lynn Kieliszewski

December 24
Riley Garant
Edward Jahnke
Kristina Wilson

December 26
Erin Graham

December 28
Jessica Konarzewski
Sherie McTaggart

December 30
Ethan McIntosh
Caldan Schaefer

December 31
Brent Barrow

Birthdays

December 1
Denise Timrick

December 2
Laurie Slater
Ashley Timmreck

December 3
Ricky Slater
Laura Thompson

December 5
Cody Suszek
Amy Townsend

December 6
Patti MacNeill

December 7
Riley Garant
Sophia Kamyszek

December 8
Hannah Kamyszek

December 9
Paul Denstaedt

December 15
Rebecca Petrilli

December 16
Stephanie Adamski
Jerry Mudge

Decemer 18
Jack Tucker

December 19
Donna Czarnecki

December 20
Gracelyn Gohlke
Reed Lappan

December 21
Charlotte Werth

December 22
Shane Jaroch

December 24
Patricia Schultz
Mick Zinsli

December 25
Matthew Freel

December 26
Taylor Agius
Andrea Rich

December 27
Jessica Timm

December 29
Verna Furze
Kenda Yochum

December 30
Tom Lappan

Decenber 31
Lee Szczesniak

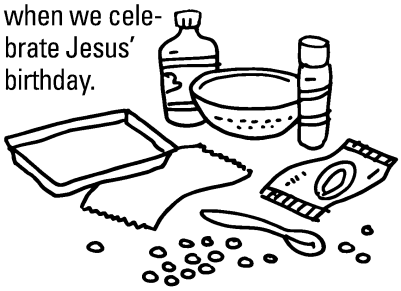
Wedding Anniversaries

2nd	Joseph & Dawn Gentry	21st	Matt & Jessica Gillard
	Dick & Barb Werle	23rd	Tom & Joan Brennan
3rd	Mick & Kay Zinsli	24th	Larry & Sandy Garant
4th	Mike & Tracey Urlaub	30th	Justin & Janelle Gluesing
7th	Mike & Kim McCourt		Tom & Mary Lappan

Kid's Page

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

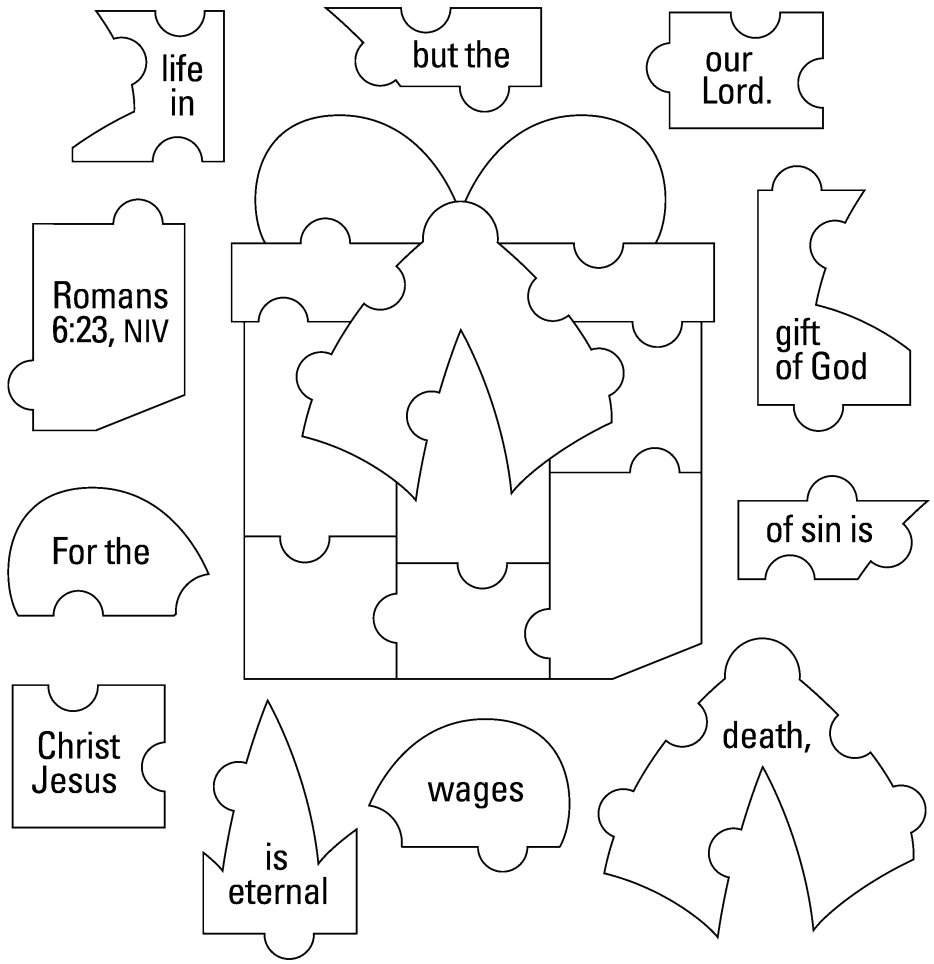
1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.

PUZZLE

The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

Directions: *Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.*

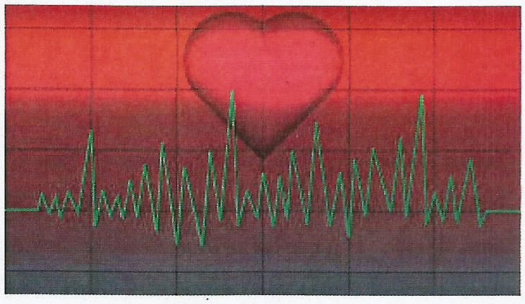


Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

ON-Going Spiritual Formation Program:

A Four-Part series offered for the Sunrise Ecumenical Community
Spring Program January -April 2017 – sponsored by Living Fire Ministries of the ELCA

A Spirituality of Slowing Down: From the Microwave to the Slow Cooker



Alpha brainwaves: the heartbeat of God

Speed is a characteristic of our times. What is missed if we hurry, keep busy, multi-task and try to get one more thing done? What happens to our body, heart & soul when we silence the noise? What do we experience when we allow our interior self to rest in the silence? What does it mean to "tend the holy" and receive the blessing of NOW? These and other questions will be part of our experiential learning and wondering as we practice the art and skill of slowing down in order to dive deep.

Facilitator, Nancy Brousseau, OP will guide reflective study, deep listening & dialogue, and sacred companion conversations. These practices open us to greater capacity to listen for God's heartbeat and a deeper contemplative presence that comes only with slowing down. Please join us. All are welcome.

- Day/time: SATURDAYs -- 10:30am-3:30pm
- Dates: January 28, February 25, March 18, April 8
- Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Cost: $75
- Please come prepared with materials for journaling and your lunch/beverage(s)
- Coffee/hot water provided

Please mail this bottom portion with your check

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE_____

EMAIL _____

Amount Enclosed: $_____

- **To register**: Make check Payable to: **North/West Lower Michigan Synod**
- Mail **check & form** to: North/West Lower Michigan Synod, 2900 N Waverly, Lansing, MI 48906

(Please write "Alpena program" on memo line of check. Thank you)

Information: Nancy Brousseau, OP, D Min. nancybrousseau@mittensynod.org **616-560-4580**
www.livingfire.info of the ELCA