

# MAY 2014



Grace Lutheran Church  
Monroe, Wisconsin

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
1025—15th Avenue  
Monroe, WI 53566

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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MONROE, WI 53566  
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Return Service Requested

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
Phone: 608-325-9172 Fax: 608-325-9217  
E-mail: [gracelc@tds.net](mailto:gracelc@tds.net)  
**WEBSITE: [www.gracelmonroe.org](http://www.gracelmonroe.org)**

Worship Schedule  
Saturday, 5:00 PM  
Sunday, 9:00 AM  
Sunday School, 10:15 AM

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Pastor  
John J. Tabaka E-mail: [pastortabaka@tds.net](mailto:pastortabaka@tds.net)  
Visitation Pastor  
Richard Thickeny

Custodian  
Terry Kolanda

Director of Music/Church Musician  
Ann Herr

Secretarial Staff  
Beth Faith ([gracelc@tds.net](mailto:gracelc@tds.net))

**2014 Church Council Representatives**

Bruce Bahler  
([brucebahler@yahoo.com](mailto:brucebahler@yahoo.com))  
Darci Boll 325-9787 (**Secretary**)  
([darcid@charter.net](mailto:darcid@charter.net))

Katie Brugger 469-0450 (**President**)  
([katie.patterson14@yahoo.com](mailto:katie.patterson14@yahoo.com))  
Jennifer Chapman 558-8005 (**Vice-President**)  
([mjmbchapman@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmbchapman@hotmail.com))

Fritz Graber 325-6296 (HarleyFG1@yahoo.com)  
Jim Fillhauer 325-4242 ([jasu1@tds.net](mailto:jasu1@tds.net))

Ellen Mathiason 325-6766 ([sammh@charter.net](mailto:sammh@charter.net))  
Greta Rath 201-9309 ([gmrath@tds.net](mailto:gmrath@tds.net))  
Lance Sathoff 325-2709 (**Treasurer**)  
([lsathoff@wekz.net](mailto:lsathoff@wekz.net))

Ariel Thomas 328-1881 ([arielbobbie@charter.net](mailto:arielbobbie@charter.net))

## A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” These are some of Jesus’ last words from the cross. We heard those words during Holy Week. They were immediately aimed at the religious and civic leaders who put him on the cross. But the words and their intent traveled far beyond that location to the disciples who abandoned and Peter who denied him.

The ministry of Jesus was very concerned with forgiveness. Many times when he healed a person, Jesus would pronounce forgiveness. When asked how often a person should forgive another, Jesus said “not seven times but seventy times seven” - always.

Forgiveness is needed in community because community is people in relationship. No two people have the exact same outlook, history or hopes. This is true whether the community is a married couple or a city.

When we are in relationship with another person, sooner or later, we are going to feel put-upon, disregarded ignored sinned against or betrayed. People do this to each other intentionally or unintentionally. When it happens, it hurts. It may even change us and how we experience the world.

God gives us the gift of forgiveness so our lives are not controlled or warped by the slights and hurts that come our way. Forgiveness frees us from destructive times in our lives and opens a future to us that need not be bound by the chains of the past.

We are all in need of this forgiveness and encouraged to share it .

Pastor John

## APRIL PARISH ACTIONS

### DEATH

Peter Buol, husband of Mary Buol  
April 4, 2014

### FUNERAL

Betty Grinnell, April 4, 2014

### SYMPATHY

Jim & Mary Grinnell and family upon the death of Jim’s mother, Betty Grinnell



Arlene Huffman and family in the death of her nephew

Carl & Lisa Huber and family in the death of Carl’s brother-in-law

Verna Smith and family upon the death of her brother

Mary Buol and family in the death of her husband Peter

Mike & Kristine Leck and family in the death of Mike’s grandmother

### NEW

### MEMBERS

Michael, Jody & Ethan Christensen, from First Lutheran Church, Janesville WI

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**A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** has been called for Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> following worship (at approximately 10:15 AM.) Monies were budgeted and approved to purchase a new Sound System at our Annual Meeting in January. In our fundraising efforts we were able to secure enough funds to also purchase the “loop” which works in conjunction with hearing aids that contain a t-coil, greatly enhancing the sound quality for hearing impaired individuals. Purchase of this additional equipment needs to be approved by the congregation. Please come if you are able. We hope to see you on May 4<sup>th</sup>!

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Nancy Larson 5/1  
 Kelly Robertson 5/2  
 Kimberly Robertson  
 Barb Weldon  
 Jolene Goebel 5/4  
 John Monaghan  
 Becky Brown 5/5  
 Jocelyn Grendahl  
 Jaron Kuester  
 Kyler Smith 5/6  
 Anna Mae Gibbons 5/7  
 Karen Homerding  
 Logan Witt  
 Paul Leck 5/8  
 Bobbie Nejedlo  
 Reece Nelson  
 Kirsten Vetterli  
 Jordan Gilbertson 5/9  
 John Patterson  
 Russell Davidson 5/10  
 Ben Sigafus  
 Savannah Block 5/11  
 Kyle Ellefson-Jones  
 Pastor John Tabaka  
 Lisa Wunder  
 Joshua Goebel 5/12  
 Gale Gohlke  
 Trevor Jackson  
 Anne Carmody 5/13  
 Greg Bahler 5/14  
 Rob Camron  
 Amy Casselberry  
 Garrett Coplien  
 Lori Scherer  
 Ethan Witt



Curt Zentner 5/14  
 Rod Hesgard 5/15  
 Dan Borhart 5/17  
 Samantha Jorgenson  
 Joann Corbin 5/18  
 Bryan Wang  
 Judith Durgin 5/19  
 Taylor Bryant 5/20  
 Hunter Harris  
 Don Jacobson 5/21  
 Violet Jeglum  
 Brian Lancaster  
 Ruth Leistikow  
 Jim Grinnell 5/23  
 Michele Hesgard  
 Jan Kint  
 Conner Nelson  
 Crae Riese  
 Kaylee Craigo 5/24  
 Linda McCardle  
 Lisa Heins 5/26  
 Ashley Martin  
 Nathan Olson  
 Chuck Ekena 5/29  
 Lois Gordee  
 Maryskah Rath  
 Russ Severson  
 Haley Sinklair  
 Laura Becherer 5/30  
 Esther Tregloan  
 Brett DeNure 5/31  
 Wendy Drewes  
 Audrey Segner  
 Rylee Svendsen

*Serving in May*

**ACOLYTES**

Sat., May 3.....Quinn Schultz  
 Sun., May 4.....Caitlyn Jackson  
 Sat., May 10.....Emily Wardlow  
 Sun., May 11.....Aspen Bader  
 Sat., May 17.....Brooke Kamholz  
 Sun., May 18.....Drew Wyss  
 Sat., May 24.....pending  
 Sun., May 25.....Sydney Mathiason  
 Sat., May 31.....pending  
 Sun., June 1.....Aspen Bader

**LITURGISTS**

Sat., May 3.....Laurie Kruse  
 Sun., May 4.....Ann Hunter  
 Sat., May 10.....Alyssa Sinkule  
 Sun., May 11.....Ellen Mathiason  
 Sat., May 17.....Jim Munro  
 Sun., May 18.....Dennis Everson  
 Sat., May 24.....Alyssa Sinkule  
 Sun., May 25.....Louis Scherer  
 Sat., May 31.....Penny Jahnke  
 Sun., June 1.....Cindy McKeown

**ALTAR GUILD FOR MAY**

Linen Committee

**MISSIONARY SPONSORS**

May 3 & 4.....Open  
 May 10 & 11.....Open  
 May 17 & 18...Bob & Gaida Vickerman  
 May 24 & 25.....Open  
 May 31/June 1.....Open

**ORGANISTS**

Sat., May 3.....Carolyn Rohloff  
 Sat., May 10.....Penny Jahnke  
 Sat., May 17.....Carolyn Rohloff  
 Sat., May 24.....Carolyn Rohloff  
 Sat., May 31.....Carolyn Rohloff

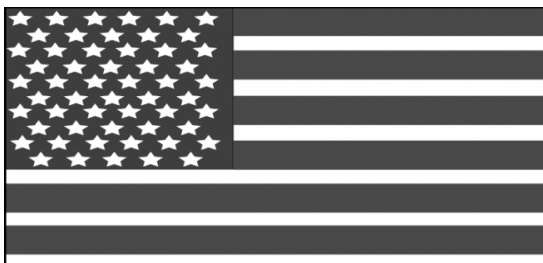
All Sundays in May.....Ann Uresk

**USHERS**

Saturdays in May....Larry & June Rood  
 Sundays in May.....Russ & Donna  
 Johnson, John Pfingsten, Lois Aebly

**MEET & GREET** The candidate for the new ministry position here at Grace will be joining us for worship on **Sunday, June 1st**. Following worship there will be a "Meet & Greet" in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, and an event for the youth later in the day. Please join us on June 1st to introduce yourself and meet this candidate. Call the office with questions. Thanks! Hope to see you there!

## MEMORIAL DAY



**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN**  
*and those who continue to give*

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the men and women who have selflessly served our country, and those who are currently in service. May God bless and keep them.

**Happy Mother's Day** to all grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, nieces, and daughters, and to all who show us the love of a mother! Enjoy your day!



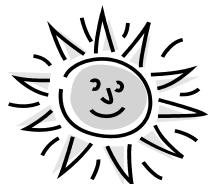
## LOAVES & FISHES FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Loaves & Fishes, a non-profit group utilizing volunteers from local churches and local community members, provides a free meal to anyone in the community on the 4th Sunday of each month from 4:00—6:00 PM. Please join us on **Sunday, May 25, 2014 at 4:00 PM** for a wonderful meal served in our Fellowship Hall downstairs. Volunteers are needed each month to help cook, serve, welcome, and clean up. If you would like to help, please contact Donna Phillips at 325-3738.



Loaves & Fishes

**SARAH CIRCLE** will meet on **Tuesday, May 6th at 9:00 am in the lobby of St. Clare Friedensheim** to have circle with Gert Waelti. Same time & day as usual, but please note the meeting place is different for May.



## MAY BAPTISMS

Craig Anderson  
Sara Casselberry  
Hillary Hunt  
Deb Weis  
Dee Larson  
Matt Rupnow  
Kayla Petersen  
Hannah Vetterli  
Wendy Huber  
Laura Hibbard  
Adrienne Bahler  
Christine Buxton  
Becky Kamholz  
Valerie Torkelson  
Dusty Weis  
Rhonda Olson  
Harley Flannery

Taylor Brown  
Alex Dammen  
Dan LaVoie  
Jill Zimmerman-Stiner  
Chuck Zeitler  
Danielle Linboom  
Melissa Teasdale  
Paul Aylesworth  
Eveline Phillips  
Kaden Kuester  
Audrey Segner  
Jennifer Chapman  
Mary Flisram  
Bobbie Nejedlo  
Mary Jo Hasler  
Kristen Larson  
Jim Jahnke

Beth Casselberry  
Azaria Hartwig  
Tina Wahler  
Eleanor Klemm  
Joan Chapin  
Errin Olson  
Krisann Holthaus  
Logan Huber  
Chelsey Carmody  
Len Potts  
Jesse Scheider  
Dee Signer  
Xander Wiegel  
Coltin Craigo  
Wanda Myers  
Katie Weis  
Traci Schultz

**We are sorry if we missed your May baptism. Please call the office to let us know of your baptism date so that we may include your name next year!**

## MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Darryl & Carol Leistiko  
Don & Becky Brown  
Thor & Konnie Thompson  
Jim & Jean Sinkule  
Justin & Amanda Gerber  
Steve & Cindy Rupnow



Ariel & Bobbie Thomas  
Jim & Penny Jahnke  
Larry & Wanda Grossen  
Gordie & Rose Wahler  
Jerry & Rosemary Hoover  
Pastor John & Christine Tabaka

**We are sorry if we missed your May anniversary. Please call the office to let us know of your anniversary date so that we may include your name next year!**



**THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be held on **Sunday, May 18th**. Dottie the Clown will be here to present a special black light program during the Sunday School hour. Treats will be shared, fun will be had, and the entire family is invited to attend! Don't miss it!

### COMMUNITY GARDENS

Once again we will host the Community Gardens at the former Resurrection Church property. The plots are 20 x 30 and the cost is \$15. Water is not available, and therefore needs to be hauled in by each gardener. Our thanks to Eric & Katie Brugger for taking on this project again this year. If you are interested in a garden plot, please contact the Brugger's at 608-469-0450. Happy gardening!



### HONORING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

On **Sunday, May 25th at 8:00 AM** we will host a breakfast for our High School graduates and their families. The congregation is also invited! You need not bring anything but your appetite! During worship that morning the graduates will be honored with a special presentation and blessing. This year's graduates are:

Jamie Balsiger

Kade Ellefson-Jones

Michael Graham

Forrest Klug-Hanson

Kyle Olson

Kirsten Vetterli



**NEEDED: SOMEONE TO OPEN CHURCH DOORS ON SATURDAY MORNINGS** We are looking for a volunteer to stop by church on Saturday mornings and unlock the doors. It is most helpful to have the church unlocked by about 7:30 AM. If you would be able to help out, please call the church office and let us know. Thanks much!

**GLUTEN FREE WAFERS** If you have problems or allergies with gluten in food items, please let Pastor John or the office know. We do have gluten-free communion wafers available! Just let us know! Thank you.

**QUILTERS ARE IN NEED** of fabric, sheets, and mattress pads that can be used for quilts and linings. NO clothing, please. Many thanks for your help!

**CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS & THOSE IN MILITARY** Please contact the church office if you have a son or daughter in college or in the military so that we can send them a care package from time to time. Please include their full name, address, food allergies & likes/dislikes to help us put together a package and let them know we are thinking of them, and praying for them. (Also let us know if they are no longer in college or on active duty in the military. Thank you!)

**GRACE SOFTBALL TEAM** We are looking for interested family/individuals that would like to put a team together. Anyone 14 years or older and with any ability can play. :) Please contact Greta Rath if interested. 608-201-9309 or [gnrath@tds.net](mailto:gnrath@tds.net).

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Keith Schuttler for his help with the Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 13th, and to Bahler Produce for donating all of the eggs needed for that day! Thanks also to everyone who donated items for the breakfast, and to the confirmation students and their parents for helping at the breakfast! A wonderful meal and time was had by all who attended! Thanks!

**80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY** The congregation is invited to help celebrate Lois Gordee's 80th birthday on **Sunday, June 1st from 1:00—5:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. NO gifts please, but donations to the Green County Food Pantry, Inc. are welcome! Thank you!



## EASTER LILIES

*Thank you to the following people for providing Easter Lilies to adorn our altar area on Easter Saturday and Sunday!*

Jan & Jackie Erlandson in memory of their parents

In loving memory of Walter & Ruth Bahler from their family

In loving memory of daughter Lynn Bowers & granddaughter Robyn Bowers  
from Beverly Hudson

Regina, Duane, Trent & Shannon Weber in memory of  
mother/grandmother, Jan Weber

Jim & Judy Munro

Ken & Thora Zeitler in loving memory of their son, Bud and of  
Ken's brother, Harvey

Pastor Richard & Ruth Thickpenny in loving memory of their son Christopher

Linda Budsberg in loving memory of her parents and siblings

Marilyn Bahe in memory of loved ones

Gale & Carol Gohlke in celebration of their 53rd  
Wedding Anniversary on April 15th

In loving memory of Gordon Mohns, Myra Rear and  
Robert & Mildred Mohns from Carol Mohns

In honor of family from Martha Scherer

In honor of Wanda Myers from Archie



**WE WELCOME PASTOR RICHARD THICKPENNY** as our new Visitation Pastor. Pastor Thickpenny has helped us out many times when supply pastors have been needed. He began serving as our Visitation Pastor in April. We are very happy to have him on board! Please help us to show him a warm Grace Lutheran welcome!

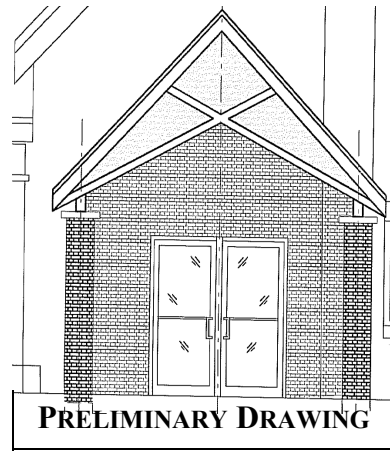
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## **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN JUNE 1, 2014**

Monday — Friday, 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM

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### **BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**



With Spring and warmer weather on the way, the Building Committee is planning to meet with our architect, Dave Haroldson to get some final plans drawn up for a canopy over the north doorway. We are planning a design that a car will not be able to drive under because that type would extend out into the parking lot too far. Instead, we are planning one that will be supported by two columns near where the concrete walls are in front of the doorway. We will extend the roof of the canopy out as far as possible to give passengers some protection from the elements as they are dropped off or picked up. We will do as much as possible to have the roof and columns match the Church building. We will be meeting in the next couple of weeks.

We also need to mount the outside button for the automatic door, move the lighted sign to the planter on the northeast corner of the building and do some landscaping on the north and south sides of the parking lot. Once all these things are done, the project will be complete. The elevator, new doorway and parking lot combined make the building completely accessible for everyone.

Paul Moser  
Building Committee Chair

## FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Total March Undesignated Contributions.....	\$23,860
Total March Expenses .....	\$24,930
Estimated Contributions Needed Monthly to meet budget.....	\$34,772
Current April Undesignated Contributions to date.....	\$20,049
Current April Expenses (Paid & Pending) .....	\$21,060
Current Mortgage Balance.....	\$53,108
Current Bank Balance.....	\$3,879

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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMING TO GRACE!

#### Mark Your Calendars Now!

**Theme:** Wilderness Escape ~ "Where God Guides & Provides"

**When:** July 27th - July 30th (*Sunday - Wednesday*)

**Where:** Grace Lutheran Church



**The first and major area of help is: Volunteers that would like to teach, help decorate, or even be an assistant for one of the VBS stations.** People are our biggest need and we are hoping we have volunteers jump at this great opportunity to show what God is all about!

The second major area is: funding and/or donating of supplies for our snacks, art projects, and decorating for VBS week. If you would like to donate money towards VBS, please put "VBS" in the memo line of your check during offering or bring cash donations to the church office directing it for VBS. More information will be shared in coming months!

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**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE** During the month of March 462 individuals were served by the Green County Food Pantry, Inc. During that month Grace Lutheran donated 47# of food. Thank you to everyone who supports the Food Pantry! Items most needed right now are coffee, flour, sugar and pork & beans. The need continues; please give as you are able. Your donations of time, money, food and personal care items are so very appreciated. Thanks!



## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 24, 2014

**Members Present:** Katie Brugger, Bruce Bahler, Darci Boll, Ariel Thomas, Lance Sathoff, Ellen Mathiason, Greta Rath, Jim Fillhouer, and Pastor John Tabaka.

**Member(s) Absent:** Fritz Graber and Jennifer Chapman

**Secretary's Report** – Motion by Greta Rath and seconded by Lance Sathoff to approve the February 24, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Current offering is up 13.4% and undesignated funds are up 6.3%. An amount of \$7,392.00 has been contributed to the sound system so far this year. The current balance for the sound fund is \$15,790.84. There are no bills outstanding past 30 days.

Dennis Everson and Bob Leistikow conducted the audit. They recommend putting Phase 2 and Resurrection Sale Money into a regular bank account.

Motion by Bruce Bahler and seconded by Greta Rath to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Women of Grace** – The Ice Cream Social will take place on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be information in the next newsletter asking for donations of hamburger for BBQ and for desserts other than pies. Preparing care packages for college students was also discussed.

**Property Committee** – The leaks on the boiler have been stopped and all the pipes have been insulated. A new actuator has been installed on the air duct going outside to help it breathe properly. The door was always left open before. A controlled actuator has been installed on each boiler unit, so when the boiler kicks in the door would close. The office area is colder because there is no insulation in the ceiling. The south doors and windows were discussed. The whole project does not need to be done at once. The elevator door operation is tested each month for fire safety. The pressure relief valve is also checked when the elevator is inspected. The eaves will need to be looked at before next winter. A bid from Monroe Glass for locks for the east doors came in at \$637.75 for each door.

**Memorial Committee** – The current balance is \$8,468.95. Marilyn Hauser will need to be contacted regarding memorials for Eileen Weiler and Jack Hauser. If any money is to go towards the sound system, it would need to be transferred out by the end of March. The following will need to be transferred out of Memorial Savings into the General Fund by the end of March: \$663.50 for Robes and \$70.00 for the Sound System.

Patti Casselberry has updated the Memorial Book for 2013.

**Staff Support** – Pastor John reported that two candidates became available last week for the lay position. Staff Support has not met with the candidates yet. They are both from the Madison area currently and are both strong candidates. They both have had seminary trained theological training and are experienced. They both could be rostered if we want them to be. More information will be available at the next Council meeting.

Staff Support is recommending we move forward in bringing Pastor Richard Thickpenny in as Visitation Pastor. He will meet with Pastor Tabaka on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. This position is part-time with an annual salary of \$4400 per year along with mileage. He would be available 5 to 6 hours a week.

Motion by Bruce Bahler and seconded by Jim Fillhouer to hire Pastor Richard Thickpenny as Visitation Pastor. Motion carried.

**Worship & Music** – A Celtic Worship service took place on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Three children will be receiving their First Communion on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will take place at 6:30 p.m. Usher duties are being reviewed. The High School Graduation Breakfast will take place on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

**Building Committee** – Did not meet.

**Mutual Ministry** – Did not meet.

**Parish Education Committee** – Sparks will be used for the Sunday School Curriculum. Class numbers will need to be looked at. We are also looking into teaching the Church seasons and memorizing Bible verses. Tickets can be earned each Sunday and the tickets can be used at a Sunday School store once a month. The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and possibly the Creed will also be touched upon. The last day of Sunday School will take place on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Jane Swiggum will do a black light show in the basement following church. The children will sing at church that day as well.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled to take place July 27 – July 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The theme chosen is Wilderness Escape “God guides & provides.” Confirmation youth will be asked to help and Pastor Tabaka will also be asked if he would like to help with opening and closing statements of each evening session. There should be \$400-\$500 set aside in the budget for Vacation Bible School for this year.

#### **Other Items Discussed:**

Katie Brugger, Jennifer Chapman, Darci Boll, Ariel Thomas, & Gloria Scherer attended the LEAD conference in Mount Horeb on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Technology was mentioned frequently at the conference.

Usher instructions are being updated.

Pastor Tabaka will be attending the Synod Assembly on May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Wisconsin Dells.

Sound System funds were discussed at this time. We have enough funds for the sound system at this time, but not enough for the loop.

**Pastor's Thoughts** – John Patterson is now licensed for the kitchen. A license allows between 4 and 12 meals to be held in a year. Without a license you can only have up to 3 meals. The State Inspector came in on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We now have a sneeze guard and the dishwasher seems to be working well.

First Communion is approaching.

Have not heard anything regarding the Slovak Seminary Intern yet.

**New Business** – The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was discussed at the Council retreat. Katie will type up and e-mail what was discussed to Council members.

The next Council meeting will take place on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Greta Rath and seconded by Ariel Thomas.

Respectfully Submitted,



# **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**

## **JULY 15-19, 2015**

### **DETROIT, MI**

The ELCA Youth Gathering for high school-age youth takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play.

It is an opportunity for youth to engage in worship and fellowship with peers from across the United States and the world who share a common commitment and faith in Christ. The next Youth Gathering will be held July 15-19, 2015, in Detroit, Mich.

Many ELCA congregations see their participation in the ministry of the ELCA Youth Gathering as one aspect of their work to fulfill the promise they made around the baptismal font to raise faithful young people who:

Live among God's faithful people,

- Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through their words and actions,
- Serve and love our neighbors, following the example of Jesus, and
- Pursue justice and peace in the world.



**More to come in future months!**