

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
LE MARS, IOWA

January 2012

**PASTOR
TIM GEITZ**

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Le Mars, Iowa 51031

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Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs
8:00-4:00

SUNDAYS

Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School & Adult
Bible Study 10:15 am

WORSHIP

BROADCAST CH 12
Wednesdays 6:30 pm

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Introducing Adopt-A-Seminary Student
Marcus Lane

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Blessing to you during this Advent season! I pray that God is continually blessing you as we once again wait in expectation to celebrate his greatest blessing to us; his son, Jesus Christ.

I just recently received the news that Grace Lutheran was supporting me through the Adopt-a-Student program at Concordia Seminary. I wanted to just briefly introduce myself and express my gratitude for your gift.

I am a twenty-two year old first year student at Concordia Seminary, and I just graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin last spring. I could not be more excited about where God has led me. In just three weeks of class, I can already see that this will be a wonderful place for me to be formed into a leader in the Church.

I am the third of four children in my family, and I grew up in Waconia, Minnesota, which is just west of Minneapolis. The love and support of my parents has played a large role in shaping my desire to serve the Church as a pastor. I am currently engaged and will be getting married to my beautiful fiancée, Vanessa, this coming June. It is a challenge being apart from her this year since she has one year left at Concordia Wisconsin, but she has been extremely supportive of my desire to serve God's people.

Winter quarter is off to an exciting start for me. I am taking a number of classes this quarter, which include studies in hermeneutics and worship. It is exciting to begin thinking about the work I will be able to do in preparing to lead Bible classes and worship for God's people.

As I think of the hope and joy of the Advent season, I am reminded of the many wonderful people God has used to bless me during my education and formation for pastoral ministry. I give thanks to him for the gifts that you and others have shared with me in order to make my preparation for leadership in the church possible. So, thank you for your prayers and support during my years at seminary! I pray that I may be able to express my gratitude through many years of faithful service to Christ and the church!

In Christ and his Peace,

Marcus Lane





CHRISTMAS OVER?

What do you mean, it's almost over? The season of Christmas, by the time this newsletter comes out, will have just started! But you're ready to put away all the decorations—the lights, the presents, the tree, and the fancy candles, right? Hopefully, NOT! While the rest of the world is about done with Christmas, the Church Calendar Year is just starting to celebrate the Christmas season. So, what's left for us to celebrate? How about the twelve days of Christmas? Much of the following is quoted from Dennis Bratcher, in his article entitled "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*".

The Twelve Days of Christmas is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to popular belief, these are not the twelve days before Christmas, but...are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th).

The origin and counting of the Twelve Days is complicated, and is related to differences in calendars, church traditions, and ways to observe this holy day in various cultures (see Christmas). In the Western church, Epiphany is usually celebrated as the time the Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). Traditionally there were three Magi, probably from the fact of three gifts, even though the biblical narrative never says how many Magi came. Even though December 25th is celebrated as Christmas in these cultures, January 6th is often the day for giving gifts. In some places it is traditional to give Christmas gifts for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Twelfth Night is January 5th, the last day of the Christmas Season before Epiphany (January 6th). Twelfth Night often included feasting along with the removal of Christmas decorations.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a nonsense song for children with secular origins. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. They contend that it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some

aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

However, many have questioned the historical accuracy of this origin of the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. While some have tried to debunk this as an "urban myth" out of personal agendas, others have tried to deal with this account of the song's origin in the name of historical accuracy (see snopes.com on The 12 Days of Christmas). There is little "hard" evidence available either way. Some church historians affirm this account as basically accurate, while others point out apparent historical and logical discrepancies.

So, for the sake of historical accuracy, we need to acknowledge the likelihood that the song had secular origins. However, on another level, this should not prevent us from using the song in celebration of Christmas. Many of the symbols of Christianity were not originally religious, including even the present date of Christmas, but were appropriated from contemporary culture by the Christian Faith as vehicles of worship and proclamation. Perhaps, when all is said and done, historical accuracy is not really the point. Perhaps more important is that Christians can celebrate their rich heritage, and God's grace, through one more avenue this Christmas. Now, when they hear what they once thought was only a secular "nonsense song," they will be reminded in one more way of the grace of God working in transforming ways in their lives and in our world. After all, isn't that the meaning of Christmas anyway?

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Geitz



Susan and I would like to thank all the members of Grace for the many cards, gifts of food and money, well-wishes, and other gifts that we have received over the last few weeks. They are greatly appreciated and remind us that the gift of giving is still alive and well. May God's blessings be poured out on you and your family during these joyous days of celebrating the arrival of our Lord.

Thanks Again,
Pastor, Susan, and Family

The GRACE Bulletin Board

Human Care-LWML

There will be a box available starting in January for new underwear and socks, as well as new and gently used blankets. There is a need for all sizes. We will be collecting these items for the Orphan Grain Train. Thank you for your support.

Grace Lutheran,

Thank you so much for allowing our troop to meet here. Please accept these paper products (plates, cups, napkins) as a token of our appreciation.

Julie Hurt, Joyce Feuerhelm
And the girls of troop 151

Thank You

Christmas Present for Your Marriage:

Sioux City Date Night, sponsored by Calvary & St. Paul's Lutheran Churches, Ablaze, & LFS, is offering another Date Night February 24 & 25, 2012. This year's speaker is Dr. Thad Warren from Concordia, Seward. He will be talking about "Intimacy in Marriage." It will take place at the Stoney Creed Inn of Sioux City. We have allotted extra time to enjoy the facilities and a Hospitality room with Thrivent. Enjoy this year's romantic evening meal of ribs, chicken, and beef and all the fixins. There will be a magic show and giveaways.

Register by going to www.siouxcitydatenight.com or by calling 712/239-1575. Cost of all events per couple as \$125. Treat your spouse or give this as a gift for Christmas! We only have room 150 couples so register quickly!



Sioux City Date Night

Le Mars Community Blood Drive



Thursday, January 5, 2012
9:00am—3:00pm

Floyd Valley Hospital
Lower Level Conference Room
Floyd Valley Hospital

To make an appointment, contact LifeServe Blood Center at 800.287.4903 or visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org

Sacristy Facelift

The sacristy has recently had a facelift. It has been painted and remodeled. The extra workspace is very much appreciated by the Altar Guild ladies! Special thanks to the Heimgartner and Needs families, Gayle Conger and Leann Cooper for your monetary /or time contributions.



MINISTRY

Grace's Worship Broadcast Weekly
Local Cable Channel 12
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Tell your friends & family!

The GRACE Bulletin Board

Sunday School Bowling

There will be a bowling party for the Sunday School children on Sunday, January 8th, at Sweet Sixteen Lanes from 1-2:30 pm.

Children 2nd grade and under must be accompanied by their parent. Cost is \$2 each (Board of Ed will pay the rest). Meet at the bowling alley at 1 pm. Confirmation students will receive points for attending. Please sign up on bulletin board.



LYF News

The LYF will be going to the Gospel Mission in Sioux City on January 8, to feed the hungry. We will also stop to see the life size last supper carving at the Queen of Peace. We will conclude with dinner.



We will start selling Super Bowl subs the beginning of the year.



“Ecce Agnus Dei”

Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



2012 Officers & Boards

President: Ted Witter

VP: Larry Hamer

Secretary: Richard Wilkins

Elders:

Richard Wilkins

Dick Milne

Tony Heisterkamp

Al King*

Bryan Heeren

Josh Petersen

Larry Conger

Henry Bader

Mark Heimgartner

Jason Rohlf

Drew Von Seggern

Trustees:

Troy Clouse

Tim Hardy

Roger Thornley

Jim Baack

Don Bruscher

Darwin Needs

Kenny Urban

Jay Dunn*

Steve Breuer

Kevin Breuer

Bob Coover

Darrel Kleinhauer

Treasurer:

Norm Rossow

Brad Coulter

Steve Breuer

Board of Education:

Jean King

Tammy Hatting

Belinda Eppling

Linda Urban

Lynn Buss

Melinda Schwartz*

Jeanette Coover

Denee Hardy

Lori Needs

Evangelism:

Ted Witter*

Jean Witter*

Stewardship Board:

John Boyd

Dean Schwartz

Karla Schwartz

Chad Peters

Shelli Peters

Finance Secretary:

Larry Hamer

Linda Hamer

Finance Board:

Bryan Heeren

Suzanne Heeren

Jim Lehrman

Linda Lehrman

Gerrit Marra

Charlotte Marra

Verle Matzdorff

Vicky Matzdorff

Memorial Board:

Rosie Petersen*

Youth Board:

Jay Dunn*

Vickie Dunn*

Ken Urban

Linda Urban

Roger Thornley

Laurie Thornley

Music Committee:

Jennifer Heisterkamp*

Josh & Aleisha Wissink

Lola Fitch

Social Ministry &

Fellowship

Jeff & Janette Reuter

Josh & Aleisha Wissink

Roger & Laurie Thornley

Emily Heisterkamp

Doug & Karen Carlsen

Chad & Shelli Peters

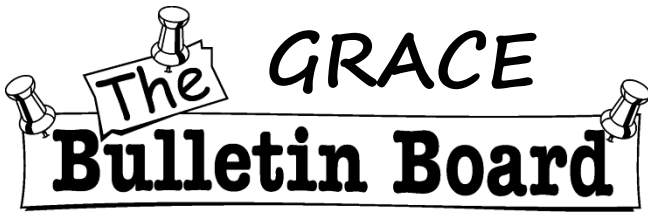
Joanne Glamm

Tony Heisterkamp

Linda Coulter

Lola Fitch

*Committee Chairs



The GRACE Bulletin Board

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
 UNIVERSITY

What will you learn in Financial Peace University?

In 13 action-packed lessons, you'll learn how to beat debt, build wealth, find bargains, invest for the future, give like never before, and much more! This information will change your life.

For more information, check our website at:
www.gracelemars.org

Class begins, Sunday, Jan. 8, at 3:00pm at Grace
Questions or to register, please call Pastor Geitz at 541-2266.



Christian Needs

MTW 9-noon; 1-3 pm
 546-9428

Christian Needs Wish List

- ◆ Canned Corn
- ◆ Canned Beans
- ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Canned Meat
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Rice/Boxed Potatoes
- ◆ Spaghetti Sauce
- ◆ Jello/Pudding/Cake Mix



Thank you to Pastor Geitz for all your visits and prayers. Also thank you all for the cards, food, calls we have received. It will be six months, Dec. 23, since Ed was diagnosed with cancer. We couldn't have made it without God's family.

God bless each one of you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ed & Darlene
 Julie and family
 Jennie and family

Visitation Pastor To Join Grace, Le Mars Staff



Scheduled to begin in January, 2012, Reverend Gus A George III, Pastor Emeritus of the LC-MS, will be joining the staff of Grace, Le Mars as Visitation Pastor, assisting Pastor Geitz in visiting the shut-ins of the congregation. Pastor George comes to Grace after 30 years of active ministry in the LC-MS and taking full retirement in October 2008.

He was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, served in the U.S. Navy 1968-72, attended Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA, 1972-75, served his vicarage at St. John's, New Orleans 1975-76 and attended Concordia Seminary-St. Louis under the colloquy program 1976-77. He was ordained March 8, 1978, at his first congregation St. John's, Brunswick, MO, and served there 1978 to 1983. Pastor George also served the following congregations in his ministry: a dual parish Salem/Farrar and Zion/Crosstown, Missouri 1983-91; Lutheran Church of Our Saviour/Monticello, Ind. 1991-1997; and St. Paul's/Council Bluffs, Iowa 1997-2008.

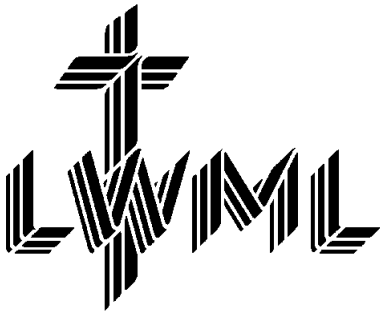
Pastor George married his wife Sharon (Curnutte) on August 3, 1975. She is a former special education teacher for the state of Missouri, Indiana and Iowa, and has a music degree. They have two adult children: Colene Jahn married to Andy living in McNally, Iowa, with two grandsons, Evan and Nathan; and Anna Britton married to Jason living in St. Louis. Pastor and Sharon live in Ireton, Iowa.

NEW MERCIES

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.



LWML is always open to new members.

Join Us!

Please check us out! Ladies of all ages are welcome to get involved.

You will be glad you did. We are always looking for younger ladies to represent us as youth leaders at different conventions and activities, so if anyone is interested, please let us know.

 **FOR SALE**
Church Cookbooks \$10
Perfect for Bridal Showers & Weddings



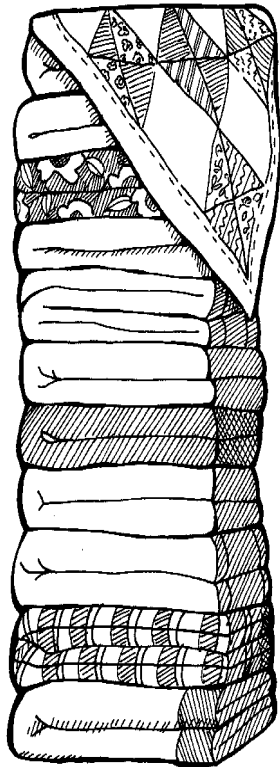
epiphany

**LWML General Meeting –
January 14, 2012 at 9:00am**

Enjoy brunch and program by Sheriff Michael VanOtterloo, who will be speaking on “Emergency Preparedness.”

We hope to see you then!

Reminder - no circle meetings in January



Orphan Grain Train needs quilts!

Blankets/Quilts Desperately Needed

LWML will be collecting blankets/quilts in January and February. Any size blanket or quilt, new or clean/gently used, handmade or purchased, beautiful or ugly - all will be appreciated! These blankets/quilts will be sent to Orphan Grain Train. Please leave your donation in the box in the fellowship hall. Let's fill the box for the ones who so desperately need a cover to keep them warm. The Orphan Grain Train ships quilts year round and are in need of quilts.

Recycle

Ink Cartridges, Cell Phones & Chargers. LWML is still collecting these in the Fellowship Hall.



Lutheran Women's Mission League



We list member's birthdays and anniversaries in the newsletter each month. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the church office at 712-546-5516.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Don Holck	2 John & Roma Boyd Sr. Charlotte Marra	3 Nathan Boehmer Val Hartman	4 Bertie Briley	5	6 Chester Mesner	7 Lynn Buss Ronnie Hargens
8 Todd Wendt	9 Milly Chapman Betty Hesse Noelle Petersen Terri Meyer	10 Dorothy DeYoung Vickie Dunn Gerald Hartman	11 Joshua Fiedler Cynthia Hochwender	12 Tanya Jackson Al King	13	14 Gerrit Marra Amber Pedersen
15 Marie Hurt Makenzie Lang	16 Kris DeRocher Connie Lalk Zachariah Stephenson Tacy Nelson	17 Megan Dunn Christopher Hatting Jan Kircher Amanda Peters	18 John Milne	19 Katelyn Berkenpas Melvin Fritz Jessica Hatting David King Ashlei Tilley	20	21
22	23 Emma Breugem Ethan Durr Mason Peters	24 Brandon Coover Larry Francksen	25 Nicole Liebau Randy Meister	26	27 Coleton Brown Karen Carlsen	28
29 Mark Holck Danielle Toel Allyssa Wildeboer	30 Rod & Rhonda Tammen Susan Geitz Joshua Jurgens Cindy Traver	31 Steve Breuer Kenneth Hettwer John Ribando Jr.				



Membership Updates

Baptisms: none

Burials: none

Profession of Faith: none

Transfers: Mr. & Mrs. Robin Kolpin, Jorden, Kye, Quinn to Immanuel, Spirit Lake, IA

Opportunities for Service ~ January 2012

Ushers Richard Wilkins
Elders: Al K, Josh P, Mark H
Reader: Tony H
Altar Guild Linda Siple & Betty Kommes
Counters Gerrit & Charlotte Marra
Trustees 1/1 Jim Baack
 1/8 Kevin Breuer
 1/15 Steve Breuer
 1/22 Don Bruscher
 1/29 Troy Clouse

**2012 Board/
Committee Chairs**

- ◆ Congregational President: Ted Witter
- ◆ Congregational Vice President: Larry Hamer
- ◆ Recording Secretary: Richard Wilkins
- ◆ Elders: Al King
- ◆ Trustees: Jay Dunn
- ◆ Board of Education: Melinda Schwartz
- ◆ Sunday School Supt: LeAnn Cooper
- ◆ Memorials: Rosie Petersen
- ◆ Youth Board: Jay & Vickie Dunn
- ◆ Stewardship: John Boyd
- ◆ Evangelism: Ted & Jean Witter
- ◆ Music: Jennifer Heisterkamp
- ◆ Social Ministry & Fellowship: TBA
- ◆ LWML: Lynn Breuer
- ◆ Altar Guild: Lola Fitch

Date	At-tendance	Special Offerings	Missions	Bldg Fund	Budget Giving
12/4	166	Adopt-a Seminary Student \$158.00, Birthday \$73.00, Lutheran Witness \$15.00, Bethesda \$15.00	\$0.00	\$330.00	\$3,345.00
12/7 Advent II	119	Elders' Advent Dinner \$251.20	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$584.00
12/11	227	Poinsettias \$480.00, Financial Peace U \$387.50	\$0.00	\$1,385.00	\$10,372.83
12/14 Advent III	115		\$20.00	\$0.00	\$561.50
12/18	270	Financial Peace U \$77.50	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$3,186.25
Dec Giving thru 12/18			\$20.00	\$1,848.00	\$18,049.58



Finance Update
 We need \$22,677.61 each month in 2012 to make our annual budget. The newsletter numbers reflect final adjustments and additions throughout the week.