

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Phil. 1:2)

GRACE... to you

January
2015

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Another New Year

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 2 Stewardship Commission

A message from Pastor

Maybe by now, another new year, is getting old. Every year in late December and early January, there is a lot a talk about doing something new or having a new attitude, or forgetting what is behind while looking forward to the new future. Yet, every year it is always the same old things we talk about.

Perhaps, the hope is that we might actually use a calendar year change as an opportunity to actually attain to new things. However, then there are those that would say, what if the old is better and the new is bad.

As Christians, we get out of the philosophical argument of "is old or new better". We have an ancient faith that is living, new, vibrant. We have the best of ancient wisdom and the best of what is new at the same time. Read a few words from The Word.

Upcoming Events:

*1 John 2: 7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an **old** one, which you have had since the beginning. This **old** command is the message you have heard.*

*Ezekial 36:26 I will give you a **new** heart and put a **new** spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

*2 Corinthians 5: 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; the old has gone, the **new** has come!*

As John put it, God's Word is not refreshed, renewed, or changed. However, as Ezekiel and Paul put it, God's Word refreshes, renews, and changes us. Every year - - even every generation faces challenges. As this last year and this new year is leaving us and giving challenges, may we face them with the confidence of the ages, rooted in God's Holy Word that by faith we see God's hand bringing faith, hope, love in Christ to all generations and peoples. Hear God's certain promise in Psalm 22:

30 Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn-- for he has done it.

In Christ, Pastor Clow

Stewardship Commission

Submitted by Bobbi Eddinger

Stewardship Emphasis for our church family ran from Reformation Sunday, October 26 - November 23. A special Sermon Series on God's Gift of Family was presented by Pastor, and special Bible Studies and activities were held for the Church Family. Alice Reitz from Thrivent Financial presented on November 2 and Al Mackey, LCMS presented on November 9.

Stewardship organized a Ministry Fair, a way to showcase some of the ministries that are ongoing at our church. Posters were displayed at the Christmas Fair and presentations were held on Sunday, November 16. Thank you to all who participated.

Operation Christmas Child was held during Sunday School on November 23. One hundred and three boxes were filled and dropped off for delivery to children in need. Thanks to all who brought items to fill the boxes with, and to those who helped make, fill and wrap the boxes. It is wonderful for our children to see the adults participating with them in this outreach effort of our church. We donated \$382 toward postage for our boxes.

Special thanks to all the church family who supported the kids in their Stewardship Coin Collection. We are a generous church family!

October 12 and October 19 Amazing Grace collection purchased 408 cans of soup.
October 26 Ghana Ministry collection was \$1207
November 2 Let Me Learn About Jesus collection was \$294.33
November 9 India Mission collection was \$620
November 16 Orphan Grain Train collection \$185.28.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE January 19, Monday, from 1:30-6:30

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be hosted on Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King holiday from 1:30-6:30 at Grace. Donations of finger desserts, which can be brought to the church on Sunday the 18th, are needed to serve to the donors. Also, sandwiches (usually tuna, egg salad, and ham and pickle) have been made following Joyce Swolka's successful tradition. We usually have three volunteers to donate the sandwiches.

Please call Ginny Gumz at 860-349-8239 if you can either donate food items or are willing to work a few hours to serve the donors. Thank you for considering helping out at this Community event. Blood donor times are scheduled with the Red Cross.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Musicians	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	5	6 7 pm PreSchool Board	7	8 7pm Musicians	9	10
11 9:30 Sunday School Play 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	12 7pm Board of Directors	13	14	15 7pm Musicians	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	19	20	21 1:30pm Senior Communion Service	22 5pm Elders Mtg 7pm Musicians	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	26	27	28	29 7pm Musicians	30	31