



715 SIXTH AVENUE,
GRAFTON WI 53024

Staff Contacts:

Pastor

Paul Bulgerin
pastor@gracegrafton.com

Pastor

Heidi Borkenhagen
pastorheidi@gracegrafton.com

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Bernd
office@gracegrafton.com

Director of Involvement

Lisa Bernd
di@gracegrafton.com

Financial Administrator

Arcelia Magana
arcelia@gracegrafton.com

Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

Erica Dimmett
Erica@gracegrafton.com

Youth & Education Coordinator

Katie Eippert
Katie@gracegrafton.com

Organist

Eryn Durlam

Praise Team Director

Vince Olson

Bell Choir Director

Debbie Donovan

Jubilation Choir Director

Eryn Durlam

Church Council President

Mark Barber

Good News Editor

Lisa Bernd
di@gracegrafton.com

The Good News

February 2020

Grace's Nicaragua Mission Trip

On February 3, our group of volunteers is flying to Nicaragua to spend a week working with Missionary Meg Boren, the staff of the Circle of Empowerment (COE) and the people of Nicaragua. We are happy to be able to send another group to Nicaragua just two years after the last Grace mission trip.

Those who are going on the trip are Joan Tuttle, Judy Spencer, Janet Sladky, Susan Straus, Bob Crevensten, Karen Bulgerin, Samantha Bulgerin and Pastor Paul. Our group will stay at "Casa Margareta", do various projects and attend several activities. They hope to do some painting and work with school children.

Meg has also asked that they attend a training session where local residents will learn about the COE's new renal disease education program. Renal disease is a huge problem in Nicaragua, especially among young men who work cutting sugar cane.

Finally, we will attend a leadership seminar which the COE sponsors to help young people in the area learn solid leadership skills so that they can help the people of their towns and villages.

Our group will also be taking along extra bags and suitcases filled with vitamins, medicine and clothes which the COE will distribute. Thanks to all who donated items.



Circle of Empowerment

We Welcome Everyone to Join Us!

Contact Us At:

Phone:
262-377-4770

E-mail:
office@gracegrafton.com

Web Site:
www.gracegrafton.com

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00 am
Thursday Evening: 6:30 p.m.

Christian Education

All Ages at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays
From September—May
Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday Evenings all year

Ash Wednesday is February 26



Each year we observe Ash Wednesday as the beginning of Lent. This is a time to return our hearts to God, to put God again at the center of our lives, and to focus on God's word. We will worship on Ash Wednesday at 7pm. Our service includes special music, Holy Communion, and the Imposition of Ashes. This solemn service reminds us of our mortality at the same time as it lifts up God's love for us and the reconciliation we have through Jesus. Come and return your hearts to God as Lent begins.

Special Service on the Lord's Prayer



On Thursday, February 6 & Sunday, February 9 we will have a special service that revolves around the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is central to our worship and our faith, and was given to us by Jesus as the example of how to pray. In our service we will have special music and songs, prayers, and readings from Martin Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism of what the Lord's Prayer means.

The kindergartners will also lead us in the prayer. Join us for this special service!

Our 2020 Grace Budget



At the January 26 annual meeting the members of the congregation approved our \$660,000 budget for 2020. This budget includes a planned deficit of about \$30,000 which will be covered by funds set aside in our contingency fund back in 2018.

Our 2019 offerings came in about \$6,000 above what we expected to receive. This

is the first time in our congregation's history that our offerings topped the \$600,000 mark. Our anticipated giving for 2020 is about \$25,000 more than in 2019. This is all good news.

The people of Grace continue to be generous in supporting the work of the church as we strive to reach the point where

our offerings fully support our much larger \$125,000 annual mortgage and all of our other expenses.

Who Will You Invite to See “Joni: A Whale of a Tale”?

Our cast and crew (the largest in all the years we have been putting on plays) is hard at work preparing to present our annual play on Sunday, March 15.

“Joni: A Whale of a Tale” is a modern adaptation of the Old Testament Book of Jonah. In place of the Prophet Jonah, our play has a teenage girl named Joni, who has been called to bring God’s message to sinners. Instead of traveling to the ancient city of Nineveh, as in the biblical book, she is to deliver

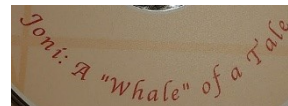
this message to the evil pirate queen Nina Vey. It’s a fun and silly play, with a few songs tossed in, but a play with a serious message.

And there is another serious message attached to our play. That is, “Who might you invite to come and see it with you?” One of the big reasons why we go to all the work of preparing and putting on our plays is that this is an opportunity for Grace members to do a little personal evangelism by inviting someone

they know to come and see the play.

Our play Sunday has the largest attendance of any other Sunday during the year, with the exception of Easter Sunday. We need everyone to reach out with an invitation to someone they know. It is a great way to help someone get a good church experience.

So, think about who you might invite and then do it!



Thank You to the Out-Going Council Members

Our congregation is led by dedicated lay leaders who give their time, energy, faith and creativity to help us be a strong church. A big “Thank You” is owed to those who have completed their three years of service on the church council: Mike McGraw who served as council president and Kelly Klug who headed up our Outreach programs at church. We appreciate all these leaders have done for Grace! Please take the time to thank them.



Welcome to our New Council Leaders

We need to thank those who have joined our church council in 2020. These new leaders are James Newell, who is serving as president-elect and Rachel Langer, who will lead our Outreach Committee.

our Christian Care Committee. We so appreciate all that our new church leaders will do for Grace.

We also thank Lynda Lalley, who has agreed to serve another term as treasurer and Melissa Schmidt who will serve a second term as the chair of





RIC Welcome Statement

To become a Reconciling in Christ congregation, the only requirement is to adopt a welcome statement as a congregation that specifically mentions “sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression” which we would put on the church website. This past Sunday, during the Adult Forum, we presented the proposed welcome statement that the committee put together in November. The committee was Kathy Braun, Richard Breest, Lynda Lalley, and Pastor Heidi. We worked off of two of the example statements that we had from the Reconciling in Christ website.

Here is the proposed statement:

We welcome all who are seeking God’s love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. And we welcome all without regard to addictions, health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Come to hear God’s Word, share in the Sacraments and discover new ways to reach out with God’s peace and grace. Everyone is a child of God. Jesus accepts you, and we want you to be part of our faith family. Welcome to Grace!

At the forum, we discussed the statement, people gave suggestions for changes and

also shared feedback. As we go forward, we will consider the things that were shared and some adjustments may be made. Again, this is the proposed statement, nothing has been voted on yet. Any changes made will have the chance for feedback again.

Some of the questions we considered in the forum were:

- “What stands out to you when you read this statement?”
- What words or phrases have an impact on you?
- What kind of community does this bring to mind when you read it?
- How does this statement reflect your experience at Grace?
- How could we make this statement come to life if we adopted it?”

Pastor Heidi invited participants to write answers down to these questions and share them. Consider this your invitation to do the same.

Probably the most common thought that has come up in the discussions is that because we are a church, people should know that we are a welcoming place to be. We wish that was the case, but unfortunately in today’s world, and especially within the LGBTQ community, churches are often seen as being the opposite of welcoming. Being a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation is a way that we can let people outside our walls know that this is a safe place for all people to worship, serve and grow in Christ. We believe that is true for us here- but not everyone knows this.

We appreciate the thoughtful and respectful conversations that we have been having. We continue to encourage you to come to the pastors with any thoughts or questions.

As of now we don’t have a date set for a vote. Council will keep discussing this in the coming months and will set a date with plenty of notice going out ahead of time.

Keep this process in your prayers, and we will see you Sunday!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Heidi

Update on the Local Grafton Habitat for Humanity Build

Late in 2019, the Ozaukee County chapter of Habitat for Humanity began work on the second building behind Sendik's in Grafton. While things are on hold during the winter, we hope that once work begins again, when warmer weather arrives, we can put together teams from Grace to help with the construction and also to serve meals to the Habitat volunteers. We will share information with you once we receive specifics on dates for Grace members to get involved.



Revising Our Grace Constitution

You should have received some preliminary information about the process ahead of us as we work to make needed revisions to our church constitution. As a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we are required to make certain changes approved by national assemblies of our church. There are also some other constitutional items, such as defining a quorum for meetings and the length of congregational council terms, which we

can discuss and decide what we, as a congregation, want to do.

We will schedule a meeting later this winter, or in the early spring, to publicly discuss these changes and look at the timetable and process for approving them.



Help Plan a Circle of Empowerment Event

Circle of Empowerment is planning 5K run/walk late spring/early summer. We are looking for individuals to join our planning team. If you are interested please contact Pat Murack at patrick.murack@gmail.com





Some Personal Thoughts on Our Relationship with Meg Boren and the Circle of Empowerment

I am going to be part of our mission group going to Nicaragua in early February. This is my second trip there and I am happy that Karen and Samantha, along with the rest of group, will be sharing this experience with me.

I hope we, at Grace, realize how fortunate, even blessed, we are to have a member of our congregation serving as a medical missionary there. Not many churches can say that. I have said on several occasions that Meg Boren is the most impressive person I have known in my life.

She has lived out what it means to be a servant of Jesus Christ who takes personal risks for the sake of the gospel and helping others in Christ's name. When she sold her house years ago, moved to Nicaragua, spent the better part of a year living in a tent on the beach while her place was being built, she took an enormous "leap of faith".

Meg moved to Nicaragua not speaking Spanish, or at least much Spanish, and began this work which has blossomed into the Circle of Empowerment. When I was with her in 2018, I was so struck how almost everyone we met greeted her with a smile and a loud, "Margareta!!"

I've had the privilege of watching Meg in her natural environment, working with and caring for the people of Nicaragua. I sat with Meg in her clinic as she talked with the mother of a sick small child, diagnosing the child's condition and telling the mother what to do to care for her sick little one. Meg did this with such tenderness and care.

I've also seen the work done by the staff of the Circle of Empowerment who serve with Meg. She has a top-notch staff helping to run the medical and dental clinic, overseeing the work of the COE and reaching out to the villages in the area. Meg has taught them well and entrusts so much of the work to them. It is a trust well-earned.

The people with whom Meg works know that she is a tough lady. She expects a lot from them as she works with them to help them improve their lives. She repeatedly says that the COE is not there to give handouts, but to help people with a hand up, so they can work to improve their lives. When you see the expressions on the faces of the children, whose lives are touched by the work of the COE, you know that great things are being done.

We, here at Grace, get to share this work. Most of it is done at a distance and the vast majority of Grace members know of it by Meg's sermons, talks and pictures shared when she is back in the States. Seeing it in person is so much better. It is a real blessing.

Again, I am honored to be able to get back down to Nicaragua again. I hope, and pray, that more Grace members will make this journey in the future. Through Meg, the COE, here and in Nicaragua, and the people of Grace and other caring individuals, God's love is being shared in a land far away.

Pastor Paul



Circle of Empowerment



Caring for Creation



**Remember,
email your
observations of,
and/or
questions
about, the
wonders of
creation to
mrmrsprg8@
wi.rr.com**

What wonders of creation did you enjoy this week? It seems more like winter now, doesn't it? Snow, cold, more birds at the feeders. This email came from a member on Monday: "The backyard birds have come out in full force with the snow, wind, and rain..." Included were images of cardinals, finches, woodpeckers, etc. sitting in the trees/bushes and feeding on the seeds/suet. (That is the good side of the weather.)

A pair of Red foxes (photo) were seen by another member, in the field across from our church. That pair will be mating soon, or perhaps they already have and were out looking for a den from which they will both take on the job of raising the kits (until the kits are big enough to be on their own). If they have not yet mated, they are getting to know each other better before they do. God created the Red fox just a tad different from their cousin, the Grey fox. Among other things, particularly this time of the year, He gave them more and heavier fur. Rarely will a Red fox sleep in a den when the weather gets bad – unless they are old or hurt. Whenever that bad weather comes, they will just curl up into a ball, wrap their tail around themselves, cover their nose, which is bare and has no hair on it, and go to sleep in the woods (they are woods critters even if they are mostly seen in the open fields). They are only occasionally seen during the daylight hours, because they are primarily nocturnal. A few years back, a pair was seen crossing a field in broad day-

light within the city limits of Newburg. They ignored me and my truck, so I took a few photos. They too were out looking and enjoying the day (or, maybe, they were hunting).

This was posted on a website last week: "Red-throated Loons were in Port Washington a few days ago. I went to look for them and saw one in the marina and it eventually moved in the direction of the harbor. When I went to Coal Dock Park I saw two, but probably one of them was the one that was in the marina." A trip to the harbor the next day resulted in seeing two loons but not sure if they were Red-throated or Arctic loons. They appeared to be Arctics. Two were seen again on Friday, before the storm hit, and they also looked like Arctics (the same ones?). They had too much white showing to be Red-throateds, even in their winter plumage (or so it showed in the reference books). Don't know for sure. The person who saw them is very knowledgeable. Maybe both species were there. Friday was not a calm day and not all of the harbor could be seen.

Also seen, last week, along Highway 29, in Nebraska, were many groups of Bald eagles – three to six in each group - riding the air currents and/or sitting in trees and fields. There were large groups of swans too. God always provides something to see when driving a long distance (instead of just cars and trucks), doesn't He? This too was picked off the web recently: Several years ago I sighted the first Tufted tit-

mouse around our home." (We saw several when Christmasing in Missouri.) "The next winter I had two individuals visiting my feeders and eventually had a pair nest here. They again raised a brood the following year and now" (in 2019) "have disappeared altogether. Perhaps these birds or another pair has nested somewhere else in the neighborhood . . ." (And meanwhile) "at Horicon Marsh, Black-necked stilts showed up," (in spring) "eventually nested, and have established themselves with a growing population in the area." (Also) "Buffleheads nested in a wood duck box, raised a brood and returned to the marsh only to disappear entirely." This individual was just reporting on a few of the more unusual birds he has seen during 2019. "Pretty neat," I'd say.

Remember, email your observations of, and/or questions about, the wonders of creation to mrmrsprg8@wi.rr.com. Keep a good thought!

Our Grace Family

The People of Grace that we prayed for this month:

Our Shut Ins: Ron & Delores Gramolls, Liz Lueck, Sally Musbach, Arlette Leischow, Karen Leischow, Sue Bremer & Harley Whitemarsh

Our Members: Bob Grade, Janell Hagerman & Nora Koenig

Our Members & Family Friends in the Military: Corporal Brendan Fugate, Staff Sgt. Nathan Talbert (grandson of Elaine Hennings), Lt. Colonel Steve Harms (son of Charlie & Donna), 1st Lieutenant Erich McGuffey (cousin of Kate Peterman), Master Sgt. Matthew Wilkerson (son-in-law of Cindy Silverbrandt) & Chief Jennifer Kurneta (daughter of Richard & Charlene Breest)



Baptism:

On Sunday, January 12 we welcomed Raelyn Ruth Buechler to the font

Our Sympathy To:

Jeanne & Bob Dries on the death of her mother, Joan
Barb & Dan Wrolstad on the death of her sister in law, Betty



**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

715 6th Avenue
Grafton, WI 53024

Phone: 262-377-4770

Email: office@gracegrafton.com



Pastor Paul
Bulgerin

Pastor Heidi
Borkenhagen



www.gracegrafton.com



Facebook.com/gracegrafton

Mission Statement

***"We welcome all people, proclaim God's saving
grace, and equip believers to be servants of Jesus
Christ"***

Responsibility List for February 2020

Date	Asst. Min.	Reader	Acolyte	Ushers	Greeters	Multimedia Room	Communion Assistant	Eucharist Set Up Clean Up	Coffee Hour
February 2 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service/Euch.	Dave Polka	Linda Scott	Pyper Flaig Del Schuler	Jerry Plyer's Team	G & M Northup Joby Whitemarsh	John Bernd	Mark Koehler	Linda Scott	Deb Donovan
10:30 a.m. Celebration Service/Euch.	---	Terry Mullens	Macy Makenzie	Steinhoff Family Team	VOLUNTEER	James Newell	Dana Moran VOLUNTEER	Dana Moran	---
February 9 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service	---	Christy Loeffler	Emily Freyenth	Dan Ernst's Team	Scott Nielsen J & K Kehoe	VOLUNTEER	---	---	Kelly Klug
10:30 a.m. Celebration Service	---	Julia Wolff	Hannah Feutz	VOLUNTEER Team	Julia Wolff VOLUNTEER	Steven Beloin	---	---	---
February 16 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service/ Euch.	VOLUNTEER	John Bernd	Colby Gannaway	Linda Scott's Team	Jane Johnson E & S Schlicht	Scott Steffen	Scott Nielsen	Pam Jeletz	Dan & Jan Ernst
10:30 a.m. Celebration Service/ Euch.		Karen Johnson	Abby Peterman	Mel Trapp's Team	The Langer Family	VOLUNTEER	Darlyne Holle VOLUNTEER	Darlyne Holle	---
February 23 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service	Dave Polka	Judy Hahn	Gavin Lempke	Mark Koehler's Team	Carol & Justin Newby	VOLUNTEER	---	---	Barb Eckert
10:30 a.m. Celebration Service	---	Katy Koppa	Joshua Stauske	Jason Traxel's Team	VOLUNTEER	Darlyne Holle	---	---	---
February 26 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday/ Euch.	Marcia Vrankin	VOLUNTEER	Pyper Flaig	Dan Ernst's Team	Donna & John Pospichal	---	Linda Scott VOLUNTEER	Dan & Jan Ernst	---

Linens

February – Diane Kiesow

March – Linda Borkenhagen

Thursday Greeters

Feb. 6 – A & S Nelson

Feb. 13 – Ann Turney

Feb. 20 – J & S Carlson

Feb. 27 – Sue Geier

Welcome Desk – Ten Minutes before & after the 8:00, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. services

Feb. 2 - 8:00 am: Diane Kiesow 10:30 am: Volunteer

Feb. 9 - 8:00 am: Judy Steffen 10:30 am: Katy Koppa

Feb. 16 - 8:00 am: Jim & Kathy Kehoe 10:30 am: Brooke Napiwocki

Feb. 23 – 8:00 am: Judy Steffen 10:30 am: Laurie Gosselin

If you cannot fulfill the ministry you are assigned, please switch with someone. Notify the office when the switch has been made so that the proper names can be put in the bulletin.

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Family Promise 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Celebration Service 11:30 AM Chili Lunch 12:30 PM Annual Meeting	27 Family Promise 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 8484 6:00 PM Yoga 6:15 PM Hymndinger Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Dartball	28 Family Promise 6:00 PM Destination Imagination Practice 6:30 PM FLL jr. 7:15 PM Praise Team Practice	29 Family Promise 6:00 PM 7th Gr. Confirmation 6:30 PM Spelling Bee Meeting 7:30 PM 8th Gr. Confirmation	30 Family Promise 6:15 AM Morning Men's Discussion Group 6:30 PM Worship/Eucharist 7:30 PM Bible Study	31 Family Promise 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	1 Family Promise 10:00 AM 9th Grade Mini Retreat
2 Family Promise 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Eucharist 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Celebration Service/Eucharist/Hagermann Baptism	3 7:00 AM Nicaragua Mission Trip Leaves 6:00 PM Yoga 6:15 PM Hymndinger Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Dartball	4 12:00 PM Quilting 6:00 PM Destination Imagination Practice 6:30 PM FLL jr. 7:15 PM Praise Team Practice	5 6:00 PM 7th Gr. Confirmation 7:30 PM 8th Gr. Confirmation	6 6:15 AM Morning Men's Discussion Group 6:30 PM Lord's Prayer Special Service/Eucharist	7 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	8 1:00 PM Murack Private Part
9 Kindergartners Lead The Lord's Prayer 8:00 AM Lord's Prayer Special Service 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Lord's Prayer Special Service 4:00 PM Woodview Girl Scouts	10 6:00 PM Yoga 6:15 PM Hymndinger Handbell Practice	11 10:00 AM Clean Up Day! 6:00 PM Destination Imagination Practice 6:30 PM FLL jr. 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 8251 7:15 PM Praise Team Practice	12 Nicaragua Mission Trip Returns 11:30 AM RNT Event 6:00 PM 7th Gr. Confirmation 7:30 PM 8th Gr. Confirmation	13 6:15 AM Morning Men's Discussion Group 9:30 AM Women's Brunch Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship/Eucharist 7:30 PM Bible Study	14 5:00 PM Cub Scout Troop Pine Wood Derby 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	15 8:00 AM Cub Scout Troop Pine Wood Derby 9:00 AM Synod Together in Mission Workshop Waukesha
16 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Eucharist 9:15 AM All Family Faith Milestone Event 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Celebration Service/Eucharist 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	17 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 8484 6:00 PM Yoga 6:15 PM Hymndinger Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Dartball	18 6:00 AM Voting 7:15 PM Praise Team Practice	19 6:00 PM 7th Gr. Confirmation 7:30 PM 8th Gr. Confirmation	20 6:15 AM Morning Men's Discussion Group 6:30 PM Worship/Eucharist 7:30 PM Bible Study	21 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	22 9:00 AM ALC Tutor Training
23 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Celebration Service	24 6:00 PM Yoga 6:15 PM Hymndinger Handbell Practice 7:30 PM Dartball	25 6:00 PM Destination Imagination Practice 6:30 PM FLL jr. 7:00 PM Lydia Circle 7:15 PM Praise Team Practice	26 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship/Eucharist	27 6:15 AM Morning Men's Discussion Group 9:30 AM Women's Brunch Bible Study 6:00 PM ALC Board Meeting 6:30 PM Worship/Eucharist 7:20 PM Church Council Meeting	28 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	29