



# Grace Reformed Church

February 2010

# Words of Grace

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GR Grace Reformed Church *Youth*

## Valentine Banquet

7:00pm, Friday, February 12, 2010



**Tickets: \$40.00 per couple**

All profits to support the

# South Africa 2010

**Mission Trip**

See the back of the GRC Youth calendar for more details

No one won the movie theater gift certificate last month. We did not have at least 10 people respond to the hidden message. We will try again this month. If you would like to enter, locate the hidden message in this WOG and call or email the church office with the location of the hidden message.



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- Youth Calendar
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# News from Leadership

Dear Grace Family,

As we move into 2010 and seek to join God in His mission, we need to be reminded that our God has been on a mission since Adam and Eve sinned, to redeem a people to Himself--this is the story of the Bible. The story of redemption is through Jesus Christ alone. Jesus is supremely true and better than any other attempt to satisfy the longings of the human heart. An encounter with the Jesus of the Bible can transform the whole person. We believe this because Jesus and His gospel is the only hope for people, we long to continue to discover that transformation in ourselves and reveal that transformational experience to others that God brings across our daily path.

So our mission must include intentionally equipping God's people to live this transformational Jesus' life where they live their daily lives: in marriage, family, work, school, hobbies, use of money, in changing life situations, and in our relational church experience. Learning together what it means that Jesus lives in us and through us so that not only do we receive the blessings of God's grace, but others have the opportunity too, as well.

Therefore, let's commit ourselves this year to be more intentional individually, as a church family, and as the Church of Fond du Lac, to give every man, woman, and child in the Fond du Lac area repeated opportunities to see, hear, and understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 2010 and beyond. Will you commit to praying for this mission and joining God in His mission this year? I am praying for you and for me that we will...

Love,  
*Pastor Barry*

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## "Praying for the GRC Leadership Team"

- \* Pray that the Elders will have wisdom as they discern together how we need to join God in what He is doing.
- \* Pray for the Elders as they seek God's heart in shepherding the Grace family towards God's purposes.
- \* Pray that the Deacons will have wisdom as they minister to the hurting in our community.
- \* Pray that the Deacons will have discernment as they oversee God's money in our church's budget.
- \* Pray for the ministry leaders to have clarity on how the ministries they oversee can join God in what He is doing.

## Prayer Opportunities

- 8:15am Sundays- Prayer Room—praying for the first service.
- 10:05am Sundays- Prayer Room—praying for the second service and for those needing prayer.
- 6:30am- Wednesdays, Men's Prayer- Prayer Room
- 6:30am –Wednesdays-Women's Prayer- Sue Bishop's home
- 9:00am & 10:30am- Prayer Room—praying during the worship service.
- 6:00pm on Monday Nights Prayer Room—praying for the leadership teams while they meet.
- Prayer Walking—during the week
- Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary—one Saturday a month



# Youth Page

Dear Youth Families,

Well, once again we approach the time when our eyes scan the heavens for heart-shaped missiles launched by an undersized cherub held aloft by his undersized wings. Yes, it is indeed, time for Valentine's Day. As you will see, I have two articles in this month's WOG: One on dating\* for the youth and the other which contains 10 tips for a healthy marriage.

May our Father shed His love upon us as we consider these articles.

In His service



\*PS: I do not endorse dating among younger youth and advise caution to those older youth who may develop relationships with potential spouses. I have included this article as it has some beneficial perspectives from scripture on what to look for in a potential spouse. PG

## How Are Christians Supposed to Look at Dating?

There is all kinds of advice about dating today, but most of it is from a worldly perspective. Christians need to have a different attitude toward dating. The choice is ultimately up to you and your parents, but Christian teens should still know God's perspective.

When it comes to Christian dating, you live according to God's standard. Yet it's not just about following the rules. There are some solid reasons why God asks us to live a certain way, and dating is no different.

### Why Should Christian Teens Date (Or Not Date)?

While most people have differing opinions about dating, it is one area of the Bible where there is not a lot of information. However, Christian teens can get some idea of God's expectations from certain scripture verses:

Genesis 2:24: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." (NIV)

Proverbs 4:23: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." (NIV)

1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it

keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (NIV)

These three scriptures give insight into the Christian life. We need to realize that God means for us to meet the ONE person that we are meant to marry. According to Genesis, a man will leave home to marry one woman to become one flesh. You do not need to date a lot of people – just the right one. Also, Christians need to guard their hearts. The word "love" is thrown around with little thought. Yet, we often live for love. We live for God's love first and foremost, but we also live for the love of others. While there are many definitions of love, 1 Corinthians tells us how God defines love. You should know the person you are dating and know their beliefs. You should check your potential boyfriend/girlfriend against the values listed in 1 Corinthians. Go through the characteristics to measure your relationship.

### Only Date Believers

God is pretty picky on this one, and the Bible makes this issue very clear.

Deuteronomy 7:3: "Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons" (NIV)

2 Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" (NIV)

The Bible seriously warns us about developing relationships with non-Christians. While you may not be looking at marrying anyone at the moment, it should always be in the back of your mind. Why get involved emotionally with someone that you should not marry? This does not mean you cannot be friends with that person, but you should not date them.

This also means that you should avoid "missionary dating," which is dating a non-believer in the hopes that you can convert him or her. Your intentions may be noble, but the relationships rarely work out. Some Christians have even gotten married to non-believers, hoping that they can convert their spouse, but often the relationships end up in disaster.

Be careful of recreational dating, where you date for the sake of dating. God calls us to love one another, but the scripture is clear that He asks us to be careful. While love is a beautiful thing, the breaking off of relationships is hard. There is a reason they call it a "broken heart." God understands the power in love and the damage a broken heart can do. This is why it is important for Christian teens to really pray, know their hearts, and listen to God and their parents when they decide to date.

\*Adapted from an article by Kelli Mahoney

## Thank You ~ Adopt A Soldier Project

On November 21 a crew of volunteers gathered together and helped package up boxes for our service men and women serving in Iraq and overseas. On November 30, thirty one (31) boxes were shipped out, along with our packages went (148) letters. A big thank you to our youth in grades 3-12. Also, a thank you to our school teachers Traci Soeller and Dianne Davenport who took the time to have their classes take this letter writing on as a project to our service men and women. And a big thanks to the Grace Family for purchasing items and writing letters. You all have brought a glimpse of love, support and hope for the men and women serving in the military. As these packages were received before Christmas may these military men and women feel the love of Jesus and to think that God used each and every one of you as His vessel to bring the spirit into the season. Praise God for His people. **11 Corinthians 9:7** says: for God loves a cheerful giver. We are continuing to collect items for our Adopt a Soldier Program. Check out the table in the narthex along with a list of items to purchase and what to say in a letter if you are interest in writing a letter. This project is an ongoing project.

If you feel like you are unable to shop but still would like to get involved we can have someone shop for you or we are collecting monetary donations for shipping. **The cost to ship one box is \$11.95**

Thanks again you have been a blessing to so many If you have any questions contact Bonnie Springborn (coordinator) 923-0500

Evangelism Committee

### His Footsteps

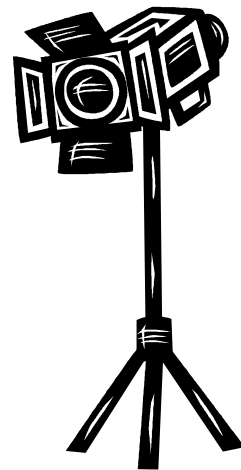
*When someone does a kindness,  
It always seems to me  
That's the way God up in heaven  
Would like us all to be.  
For when we bring some pleasure  
To another human heart,  
We have followed in His footsteps  
And we've had a little part  
And in serving God who loves us---  
For I'm very sure it's true  
That in serving those around us,  
We serve and please God, too.*

## SMALL GROUP SPOTLIGHT

### Wiegert / Booher Small Group

We have been together for approximately 10 years. Our meetings are on every other Sunday evening at 5:30, and are held in our homes. We enjoy a treat, provided by someone other then the host home. If you would like to win the gift certificate please be the seventh person to contact the church office. The Group has been blessed with a number of new people over the years. It has been wonderful to see how everyone welcomes in new people and makes them feel at home. This I believe is the Spirit of the Lord working within us. We have a meaningful time in our studies, fellowship, prayer and lifting each other up when there is a need. The closeness and love that we share is very special. We really feel the Lord directing and guiding us, as we continue to meet. We are excited to see what He has in store for us in the coming days.

We would encourage everyone to be become connected at Grace, by getting involved in a Small Group. Please see sign up detail at the Information Center.



**GRC has a  
new website**

**Check us out  
online @**

**[www.grcfdl.org](http://www.grcfdl.org)**

# Family Corner

## Top 10 Tips to Sustain Your Marriage

- Show Love** - Never let love diminish from your lives. So what if you are busy with work and handling three jobs at a time? You are married to your beloved, not your work. Often people feel neglected as they feel their partner does not love them the way they used to. Even if it means saying a simple "I love you" with quick peck, make sure you do it everyday. It works wonders and keeps you together even through the toughest times. **"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34**
- Don't Nag** - You have to understand that every person has a limit of tolerance. Once you push the person beyond that level, trouble occurs. Don't keep nagging your partner to do things the way you like to. Just because you are married to them does not mean they can't think or do things their way. Just say what you have in mind and wait for your partner to respond. You will be surprised to see the results. **Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife. Prov. 25:24**
- Respect your Partner** – Show respect for your partner's feelings and experience many years of happiness in your marriage. **The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17**
- Resolve Fights** - Never leave fights or bitter arguments for the next time. Resolve your arguments and fights there and then. Do not be hesitant to ask forgiveness if it is your mistake. You will see how easy it is to resolve fights and forgive each other and truly forget it. Do not bring up old issues, as it will unnecessarily complicate an already delicate situation. **"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." Eph 4:26-27**
- Communicate** - Talk to each other as much as you can. It helps to bring two people closer and you get to understand each other better. **And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:17**
- Be Faithful** - In order to keep a relation alive you have to have faith and trust in your beloved. No one is perfect and you have to accept the other person just as he/she accepts you, with the positives and negatives. There is a very thin line of difference between trust and faith and it is very important trust your partner and have faith in yourself to make a relation work. **(Love) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Cor 13:7**
- Compromises** - Everyone is required to make compromises at some point in life. It is not possible to have everything that you desire for at the expense of someone else. You have to adjust to make yourself and your partner happy. Rest assured that when time comes, he/she would go out of way to make you comfortable. **(Love) is not self-seeking 1 Cor 13:5**
- Take a Break** - Allot some time every week that you will devote just for the two of you. It need not be anything extravagant or too mushy. Just be with him/her for that period of time, even if it means helping her with the dishes or watching a game with him. **Come away Song 8:14**
- Special Days** - Whatever you do, do not forget important dates. Remember birthdays and anniversaries. They are special days and every year they add another milestone to your relation. **I thank my God every time I remember you. Phil 1:3**
- Do Not Underestimate** - Whatever your partner does to make you happy should be valued. Never underestimate the value or effort of your partner. **You need to know, friends, that thanking God over and over for you is not only a pleasure; it's a must. We have to do it. Your faith is growing phenomenally; your love for each other is developing wonderfully. Why, it's only right that we give thanks. We're so proud of you; you're so steady and determined in your faith despite all the hard times that have come down on you. We tell everyone we meet in the churches all about you. 2 Thess 1:3-4 (Message)**

### Don't Just Tell Your Mate You Love Her

Tell her why you love her. She knows you love her; she craves to know why. Adding "because" at the end of "I love you" increases intimacy in your marriage. "I love you because you're so unselfish ..."

# Mission Corner

## February Mission's Report

This would be a good time to help you get to know a little more about the Missions Channel here at Grace Church. Members of the Mission Channel include: Jay Bishop, Jack Hamilton, Dan Holdridge, Russ Remus, Carolyn Schorse, Jamie Swanson, Don Van Beek, and Helen Vande berg. Our over-all goal is to encourage members of the congregation to:

- Become more mission minded.
- Become personally involved in supporting and praying for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.
- Volunteer for mission outreach in Fond du Lac, America and the world.

The Mission Channel at Grace Church is overseen by the consistory and works closely with the Evangelism Channel, because the goals of the two channels are very closely related. We oversee the support of several different missionaries, ranging from local and regional efforts to world-wide efforts. This support includes prayer, personal contact and the dispersal of Grace Church support funds.

I hope you noticed that the objectives listed above are focused on participation by members of the congregation. You may ask, "What can I do?"

We would be glad to help you find answers for that question. Contact any channel member and ask them to help you to find a way to serve the Lord through missions.

Some of the activities we promote are:

**Prayer Support** Follow the missionary information provided at the information center and raise that person and his/her family up in prayer.

**"Adopt a Missionary"** This involves making contact with a selected missionary by mail or email and providing a contact with their homeland for them. You can offer prayer support, care packages, and encouragements such as birthday and anniversary wishes.

**Financial Support** Remember that even though many churches provide funds to support missionaries, the biggest struggle for many is having enough resources to be able to concentrate on their missionary work. If you have the resources to do so, search out a missionary that is working in an area that is close to your heart and provide financial or material support for them.

**Short Term Missions** Take part in one or more of the short-term mission trips that are publicized throughout the year in our church communications. Many times financial or material support is also needed for the short-term trips.

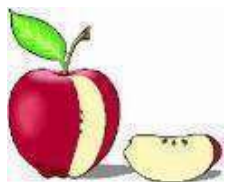
A great example of this need is described below. Please consider helping out.

### Haiti Short Term Mission Trip

Fifteen people from this area will be traveling to Haiti for a short-term mission trip March 3-11th. They will be staying and working at an orphanage. Grace Church members who are participating are Dorothy Cameron, Betty Vandeslunt, Ben Huizenga and LueAnne Bestul. Part of this trip involves taking large (check-in size) suitcases that are filled with supplies that are left for the residents of the orphanage and the nearby village. Our missionaries need donations of big suitcases that will not be returned, and items to fill the suitcases. Suggested items include: antibiotic creams, pain relievers, band-aids, decongestants, deodorant, shampoo, soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste, sanitizer, sore throat lozenges, candles, flashlights, batteries, hair accessories, stickers, crayons, pencils, pens, paper, coloring books, flip flops, deflated sports balls, craft items, shorts or tops for small children. If you want to provide some of these materials, contact LueAnne Bestul 920 418-4147 for information.

God Bless each of you!!

*Jack Hamilton* Mission Team Chairman



*Core - Prayer*

*Seeds - Studying the Word of God*

*Leaf - Growing Relationships*

*Fruit - Blessing to the church, community and world*

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### Grace Women's Outreach

Grace Women's Ministry has a mission to reach out to our community, and one way we can do that is by supporting Christian organizations in Fond du Lac. We can support them through prayer, donations, and our service. Bethany Christian Services, an organization that facilitates adoption and provides counsel for birth moms, sent the following ideas in a newsletter:

Assist birth moms with some of their basic needs. Fill a laundry basket with cleaning supplies, dish soap, etc. Purchase two new 5-point infant car seats for two Bethany offices. Purchase items for family welcome home gift bags. Create gift bags for birth moms making an adoption plan.

Have a Diaper & Baby Wipes Drive -sized newborn through size 5. Give gift cards for Bethany to take birth moms shopping-cards for Wal-Mart, groceries, gas, etc.

Make snacks for trainings, workshops, and information meetings. Commit your church or group to providing snacks for a one-month schedule. Sponsor a child living overseas. Create hand-made thank you and encouragement cards used by all Bethany staff. Purchase book sets and animals from Kohl's for kids. Start a Baby Bottle Ministry specifying the proceeds to a Bethany project.

Please contact Bethany Christian Services for detailed information at **262.547.6557** or **1.800.551.0505**.

**We hope to do an event this spring to support Bethany or another women's organization. If you would like to help with the planning, call Mary Beth Beekman 924-4552 or Laurie Milczski 933-2249.**

Bagels and Books~ Our next gathering will be February 22nd, at Nancy's house, 6:30P.M. The book for this month is entitled, A WOMAN'S PLACE written by LYNN AUSTIN. This is a novel about the woman's role in the 1940's, about their struggles toward a new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly means.

We have chosen to read THREE CUPS OF TEA written by GREG MORTENSON for the month of March. Enjoy the winter months with a good book.

The 2nd Wind Retreat at Community Church has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 20. Lisa Kinakin will be the guest speaker. The cost will be under \$16. Watch the bulletin and March Words of Grace for more details. Contact Laurie Milczski.

### Women's Ministry Leaders

As the Grace Women's Ministry Coordinator, I'm blessed to work with a team of very talented women who desire to glorify God with their service to others. Please pray for these women who have made a long-term commitment to this ministry:

Bonnie Springborn, Prayer Whisperers  
Diane Nick, Outreach  
Robyn Williams, Outreach  
Diane Simon, Publicity  
Mary Beth Beekman, Event Coordinator  
Eunie Jurgens, Mentoring  
Mary Senn, Mentoring  
Inez Koechel, Bible Study  
Cherie Vande Zande, Bible Study  
Sandee Luteyn, In-Reach and funeral service meals  
Bonnie Ramaker, In-Reach

Estelle Kelly has contributed to our outreach by leading a Recovery Bible Study and mentoring women from ARC. Susan Bishop leads a women's prayer group. Brenda Schaefer coordinates the meals ministry. Sue Skogen provides administrative support for our team. Nancy DeMaster leads our book club, "Bagels and Books." Annette Erickson makes arrangements for the flowers given for baptisms. And there are countless others who have contributed to this ministry at various times.

If you would like to use your gifts to serve women in our church and our community, there are many opportunities, both short-term and long-term. We would love to help you find the one that's right for you. You can contact me or any of the women on this list. Laurie Milczski 933-2249

### **EVENING BIBLE STUDY – ARE YOU LOVING WELL?**

*Please come and join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in February and March at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room at Grace. We will do a four-session video-based study with Beth Moore on a journey toward Loving Well. Some people are a joy to love, some are difficult to love, and we all have to deal with some people who are humanly impossible to love. In all those relationships, one truth endures: We will never be able to love others well until we have been loved well. And only God can ultimately give us the complete love we so desperately need. Look forward to seeing you!! Contact Cherie 872-2071.*

# News & Notes...

**For the month of February Grace Reformed Church will be conducting a food drive to benefit the Fond du Lac Food Pantry.** The items you wish to donate can be brought to church on any of the Sundays in February. We will have a table in the narthex where you can drop your items off.

As an added feature, we would like you to print on the item(s) you donate a reference to your favorite Bible verse to offer encouragement to the people receiving the food. For instance, John 3:16, Psalm 27:14, II Cor 4:17-18, etc..

If you don't have a favorite verse that's okay, we will still take your donation and write one on the item for you. Please do not write over the expiration date information on the item. Food Pantry recommendations:

*Macaroni and Cheese, Boxed Pasta or potato meals, pasta, rice sides, scalloped potatoes, etc.) , Chicken Helper with a can of chicken or Tuna Helper with a can of tuna, Instant Mashed Potatoes , Rice , Pasta , Canned vegetables , Canned fruit , Peanut butter , Canned meat meals (beef stew, canned ravioli, spaghetti with meatballs, etc.) , Tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, paste, dice tomatoes, any tomato product. , Juice (family-size container) , Pancake mix , Syrup , Cereal , Oatmeal*

Church members can also donate baked goods. Please do not donate these until the last Sunday in February, which will be February 28. If you have any questions about this please contact Keith Bestul at (920) 898-4155.

## **Singing Valentines to benefit Youth for Christ**

Looking for a special gift for that special person? Several local barbershop quartets will deliver Singing Valentines on Friday, February 12, in the Fond du Lac or Waupun areas.

Recipients will be serenaded with two songs, and will be given a rose and small box of chocolates. Quartets will arrive unannounced and search for the person at his or her office, home, classroom, restaurant or any place in the Fond du Lac or Waupun area. Both a women's and a men's quartet are available this year.

All proceeds will benefit Youth for Christ / Campus Life. The cost of a Singing Valentine is \$40. To reserve your Valentine Greeting, call the YFC office by Wednesday, February 10, at 923-1416 or visit their website at [www.fdlyfc.org](http://www.fdlyfc.org) .

Please consider donating to the missions group going to Haiti. We are in need of large soft sided suitcases (will not be returned) and miscellaneous items to take for the Orphanage. Cash donations will be used toward filling the suitcases. See the display in the Narthex. Deadline for items February 20. Thank You!

## **Newcomers Class!**

Are you interested in finding out more about Grace Reformed Church? Stop by the Information Center to sign up for our Newcomer's Class on February 28 or contact Pastor Barry at 948-925

"Seek God for the City" 40 day Prayer Guide that runs February 17 - March 28, 2010 –sign up at the Info Center to purchase a copy. Cost \$2.00

Please set aside April 9-11, 2010...  
*Friday night, Saturday, Sunday morning and evening* –for a Daniel Henderson event happening at GRC. More details coming soon!

He who pursues  
righteousness and love  
finds life, prosperity and  
honor. ~ *Proverbs 21:21*

*Our relationships with one another are not administrated by God. If another person is going to be forgiven for overlooking something that inconvenienced me, God is not going to do it. I have to do it.*

*What will motivate me to do that, especially if I don't like (1) what happened, (2) how I was accused, (3) the argument that was thrown at me or (4) the inconvenience of injustice I suffered?*

*I will only forgive when I remember how vastly greater than my frustration or pain are the dimensions of God's forgiveness toward me. That's the key.*



# Local Evangelism

**What is Bible Study?** First, let's examine the question "What is BIBLE study?" Paul wrote to Timothy "All Scripture is God breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." The study of Scripture therefore is the study of God's word, composed of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. Asking the same question again, we change the emphasis and ask "What is Bible STUDY?" The word 'study' is used in a number of ways, two of which are important for our consideration. On one hand it describes the detailed examination of a subject with the intent to learn. When Paul preached to the Bereans, it is stated that they searched the scriptures daily to see if what he said was true. (Act 17:11) Such examination can involve analysis of the text and comparison of it with like texts. The two disciples walking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus learned much when He expounded from the scriptures all the things concerning Him. (Luke 24:27) Bible study thus serves to enlighten us in our pursuit of God. Consider also that 'study' can refer to meditation on the scriptures. The intent is to ponder and contemplate the meaning of the text so as to understand and commit it to heart. The Psalmist wrote "I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You." (Psalm 119:11) The Lord instructed Joshua "This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it..." (Jos 1:8) If we understand what Bible study is, we will grasp the time and attention that it deserves in our lives. It is more than an optional pastime in which we engage, but a vital facet of our lives as children of God.

Bible Study: The Heart of Man Searching for the Heart of God Bible study that leads to a better understanding of the will of God is not merely an academic exercise. This Bible study continues in our lives, even after we have closed the book and continued with our day, because we have "hidden His word in (our) heart." We take the teaching of the Word of God and apply it to our lives. Jesus commands us to love our enemies and to forgive our brother. If we read these words and say, "In a perfect world, that would be great", but don't practice it in our daily life, then we have closed our hearts to the life changing power of the Word of God. Bible study is not a matter of theoretical academia, but rather a delving into the Word of God to let it change

and renew our hearts to make us into new creatures through the power of the One who spoke the living word.

We cannot mature in our faith unless we abide in the Word and choose to respond to it. We must be doers and hearers of God's Word. This means reading, listening and responding. Therefore, let us not give up spending ample time in the Word of God. Let us not be discouraged because the Bible refuses to be microwaved.

**Bible Study points us to Christ.** Let us prepare a feast for our souls as we approach His Word with patience and reverence, and may God bless us as we heed the words of Christ: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4b ESV). In Bible study we find not only knowledge about God, but God Himself. Just as God spoke all of creation into existence, so through meditating on His Word, we find God speaks into our very souls.

Bible study helps relationships Bible study is not the object (source) of our faith, but it is our primary access to God. Bible study becomes our means to spiritual growth, as Jesus, the Logos, the Living Word, incarnates into our very breath of life. It reveals a synthesis and vision of connecting our heart with our mind. Bible study needs to be seen as "a constant dialogue between the unchanging Word and changing situations of disciples." (Leonard Doohan in Spirituality Today, p. 69)

***Bible study brings our hearts closer to the heart of God, thus prompting the student to reach out to a dying world. In this world there is no greater thing to aim for, as we wait for the day that we will meet face to face with God and will be able to worship Him for all eternity.***

Grace Reformed Church offers several ways to become involved in a Bible Study. On Sunday mornings, classes are offered to children and adults. There are ongoing Bible Studies in Small Groups during the week. The women's ministry offers a weekly study. There is a non-denominational women's study taking place at the Youth for Christ facility. Next month we will take a closer look at the various Bible Studies offered.



**Praise The Lord!**

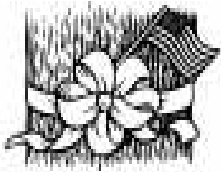
- Praise **God** for who He is!

**Pray For Those**

**With Immediate Needs:**

- Dyann Fairbanks
- Victoria Vegter
- Aaron Vande Berg
- Alex Skogen
- Gary Vande Slunt
- Nancy Hoffman
- Jamie Trewin
- 

**Pray for those in the Military:**



**Remember  
Our  
Members  
in the  
Military**

- Steven Wilcox
- John Tynan
- Zack Heeringa
- Read DelPonte
- Robert Henry
- Joshua Bledsoe
- Ryan Merrill
- Justin Nelson
- Brian Beuten

**Pray for those in Nursing Homes:**

- Hazel Bell (FdL Lutheran Home)
- Ed & Joyce Wuest (Grancare)
- Jim & Dorothy VandeBerg (Walnut Grove)
- Lavern Riel (Prairie Ridge)
- Susan Merkt (American House)
- Margaret Pennings (FdL Lutheran Home)

**Pray For Those With Long Term Needs:**

- Susan Moore
- Owen Ahern
- Judy Brechlin
- Marlene Ellefson
- Linda Tessmer
- Pat McLean
- Steve Bolda
- Nancy Hoffman
- Corinne Skogen
- Janet Rubritus

*Thank You...*

Pastor Howie & Ginny Vande Guchte wish to express a thank you to Grace Church for the gift of appreciation given to them for their current part-time ministry.

Grace Church,

I wanted to extend my gratitude to you for thinking of me in my time of need. My wife and I are not even members and you extended your hand to me by sending packages during a time when a soldier needs them most- Christmas. I am nearing the end of my deployment and am very excited to come back home to my wife. Even though an event like this can be trying, the Lord has brought us through without a scratch. I have found a new faith here that I can not wait to share with my family and friends. Thank you very much for the package and God Bless. ~ Justin Nelson

Thank you to all who gave of their time and energy to present the Cantata and Christmas Eve service. The efforts were well received, enjoyed and gave a message of God's goodness. Thank you ~ Bill Hageman

*Thank you for the gifts and cards of appreciation I received at Christmas time. Your kindness is a blessing to me. ~ Sue Skogen*

"The Vegter family would like to thank the GRC family and the GRC Consistory Leadership Team for the gift of appreciation we received during Christmas. We have experienced and continue to experience the love of Christ through all of you!"

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you all for the gift certificate I received for Christmas and all the wonderful cards with kind words of encouragement. It is a blessing to be part of the Lord's family, serving you all. Thanks again,

~Jodi

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you so much to each and every one of you who made our Christmas season so bright and cheery, and for all the thoughtful and generous gifts we received. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you all abundantly as we venture forth into this New Year!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Grant, Rebekah, Seth, Micah, Titus, Eliana,  
Josiah, Hosannah & Aria Baumgart

# GRC Ministry Schedules

Ministry	Date	1st Service	2nd Service
Greeters	2/7	Joe & Dorothy Cameron	Ron & Lois Kautzer
	2/14	Mary Kay Brockman / Tony	Del & Hope DelPonte
	2/21	Bill & Kathy Veenendaal	Joe & Carol Bauer
	2/28	Jack & Jan Witte	Stan & Bonnie Ramaker
Prayer Partners	2/7	Greg & Robin Fuhrman	Chuck & Toni Stanley
	2/14	John Luteyn/Bonnie Springborn	Vern & Eunie Jurgens
	2/21	Diane Nick, Linda Drendel	Jack & Jan Witte
	2/28	Tony & Ginny Ferdinand	Bill Hageman, Judy Albert
Computer	2/7	Darrell Gundelach	Josh Schaalma
	2/14	Keith Bestul	Emily Skogen
	2/21	Laura Streeter	Brady Beekman
	2/28	Emily Skogen	Josh Schaalma
Sound & Light	2/7	Sergio Hernandez	
	2/14	Terry Streeter	
	2/21	Alex Kolb	
	2/28	Sergio Hernandez	
Close the Building	2/7	Dan Roberts	
	2/14	Dennis Sabel	
	2/21	Joe Baltz	
	2/28	Al Stormo	
			camera
Video Ministry:	2/7	Dan Milczski	Tony Brockman
	2/14	Noel Skogen	Chris Skogen
	2/21	Jenny Petrie	Bryce Vegter
	2/28	Grant Baumgart	Seth Baumgart
FIRST IMPRESSIONS	2/7	Yellow Team	
	2/14	Orange Team	
	2/21	Blue Team	
	2/28	Green Team	
Ushers		Joe Cameron	Doug Weckwerth
		Todd Schaefer	Ed Wiegert

**Grace Church Staff:**  
 Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd *Jesus Christ*

Teaching Pastor

Rev. Barry Vegter cell phone 948.5702  
 Email: vegter@grcfdl.org

Youth & Family Pastor

Rev. Grant Baumgart cell phone 948.6373  
 Email: baumgart@grcfdl.org

Care Ministry Elder

Dave Davenport cell phone: 960.1431  
 Email: ddacdd@att.net

Seniors Ministry Pastor

Rev. Howie Vande Guchte phone 922.1100

Elder on Call 948.9262

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Administrative Assistant

Sue Skogen Office: 922.7211

Custodian

Jodi Bolda

Office Assistant

Joan Schouten

***Offering & Attendance***

12/20	\$7,119.26	198/420
12/27	\$21,828.97	204/132
1/03	\$8,523.29	203/204
1/10	\$9,080.30	212/110
1/17	\$10,503.50	317/107
1/ 24	\$8,835.00	270/109

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please submit information for the *March Words of Grace* to the church office by **February 10th**. You can contact the office at 922.7211 or [office@grcfdl.org](mailto:office@grcfdl.org)

**Office Hours are:**

- **Monday -Friday: 7:30-11:30am & 12:30-4:30pm**