



# WORDS OF GRACE

*Monthly Newsletter*

## *Inside the Issue*

### THIS MONTH'S PASTOR PAGE...

Elder Keith Bestul shares the next installment of his series on the six attitudes of a church member - this month focusing on Unity in the Body. *Thanks Keith!*

### CAN YOU HELP US WITH THIS NEED?

The Deacons are always hard at work assessing the current building needs & projects! The latest endeavor is a big one but TOGETHER we can accomplish it. Read more on pg. 2.

### JOIN US MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Plan to join us Memorial Day Weekend for a special outdoor worship service here on the Grace Church lawn on Sunday, May 26th. See pg. 2 for more information!

## MAY HIGHLIGHTS...

- May 2 **Nat'l Day of Prayer Service at Veteran's Park, 6:00pm**
- May 4 "While We're Waiting" Meeting, 1:00pm at parsonage
- May 5 Worship Service with **Communion**
- May 6 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- May 12 **Mother's Day, Budget Vote following service**
- May 14 Deacon's Meeting, 6:30pm
- May 16 Worship & Tech Team Meeting, 6:00pm  
Missions Team Meeting, 6:30pm
- May 18 Women's We Pray Meeting, 9:00am
- May 19 Last day of AWANA for School Year, 5:00pm
- May 20 Elders Fellowship, 6:00pm
- May 24 **Church Office closed for holiday weekend**
- May 26 **Outdoor Service and Family Picnic @ Grace**
- May 27 **Memorial Day, Church Office closed**

PLEASE NOTE: WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS ARE USUALLY MONDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM

*"The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances."*

- Elisabeth Elliot





# Just A Thought...

FROM ONE OF OUR ELDERS

The second attitude (chapter 2) of a church member in the book entitled, "I am a Church Member" by Thom S Rainier discusses **Unity in the Body of Christ**. John 13:35 says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We want to say, "Hey God, that's not easy. You want me to love that person that sits on the other side of church who I just cannot imagine ever being associated with?"

**The answer is "Yes". Period. Easy or not.**

Let me refer to Eph 1:15-16, where Paul says to the church of Ephesus, "This is why since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus **and your love for all the saints**, I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." Paul also urged the church members later, "to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us." (Eph 4:1-3) Wow, that sounds like we **need the Holy Spirit** (Gal 5:22-23) to lead our lives and enable us to be a unified church.

**Each of us** has the responsibility to be a source of unity, and to love all our fellow church members unconditionally. It doesn't mean you have to agree with everyone all the time, but it does mean that at times you are willing to sacrifice your own preferences to keep unity in our church. That's a tall order.

So, what can we do to prevent disunity in our church? In Romans 1:29-31 we find a list of unrighteous acts: greed, wickedness, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, arrogance, pride, boastfulness, evil, and much more! We all have been guilty of something on that list at some time in our lives.

In the middle of that list of sins is **GOSSIP**; '**casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true**'. Gossip can easily destroy the unity of a church. As we see in James 3:6 "And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell."

How do we prevent the spread of gossip? We start by **not being the source** of gossip.

You must ask yourself if what you are sharing is actually factual. Then, we make sure we are **not allowing it to spread**. We need to be courageous enough to rebuke/admonish a person when they are spreading gossip to you. How do I do that? Kindly say you would rather not hear any gossip and you would hope it doesn't continue to spread. If we can be brave enough to do this, it will promote unity in the body, and beyond! Speculation about something can also be the root of rumors and gossip. I encourage you to be in *good communication* with others and **seek out the truth** of a matter before speaking about it to others. Even ask yourself, "Is this something I need to share, or can I just ignore it and let it go?"

The third piece of unity is **forgiveness**. Matt 6:14-15 states, "For if you forgive people their wrong doing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive people your Father will not forgive your wrong doing." Doesn't that sound like it is in our best interest to **forgive others**? We may find ourselves being unforgiving to fellow church members, Pastors, Elders, and even our own family, because of things that were said and done. (Like gossip!) Paul said in Col 3:12-13, "Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.**" There are those spiritual attributes again! (Highlighted for you).

If case you haven't noticed, we are all as imperfect as each other. None of us is without fault here. We will make mistakes. We will sin. We can all be hypocritical.

**Church unity can be destroyed when we refuse to forgive... but thanks be to God for His grace!**

Therefore, let's use the attributes we received from the Holy Spirit when we accepted Jesus into our lives to **forgive others, rebuke gossip, show love** to all our members and become a unified church. We will receive the loving approval of the Creator who made us for His purpose.

Blessings in Christ,

*Keith*

# NEWS & NOTES



▶▶▶▶▶

## MEMORIAL DAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 26 AT 10:45AM ON THE GRACE CHURCH LAWN

Join us for this special time of worship and fellowship!  
**BRING YOUR OWN:** Chairs, umbrella (for shade), blanket, picnic lunch & drinks (enough to share if you'd like) and a yard game or two!

## BUDGET VOTE

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MAY 12TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE FOR OUR BUDGET VOTE. THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT A PRIORITY TO BE PART OF THIS PROCESS AT GRACE!

## PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!




As you may have noticed our parking lot here at the church building is in desperate need of some help. That's why we are holding a special fundraiser to raise the rest of the money needed to complete this project. The Deacons are in the process of getting updated quotes with the current cost estimates but as soon as we have those numbers we will share more.

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO GIVE:

- **GIVE ONLINE:** Scan the QR code to the right OR
  - Go to our website [www.gracechurchfdl.org](http://www.gracechurchfdl.org)
  - Click the green **GIVE ONLINE** button
  - Click on the "Parking Lot Fund" give now button.
- **DROP CASH OR CHECK AT THE OFFICE**
  - If you give a CHECK please be sure to write *Parking Lot Fund* in the memo line.
  - If you give CASH and would like to be credited please put your name on the envelope your donation is in.

Thank you for helping us as we seek to be good stewards of the property and building that the Lord has blessed us with!



**INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION!** We have lots of opportunities to plug into the Kids Ministry here at Grace! Some areas currently looking for volunteers include the nursery, Children's Church and Vacation Bible Camp. If this is something you are interested in learning more about please speak to Jean Tittel: [tittelcrew@gmail.com](mailto:tittelcrew@gmail.com) or the Grace Office (920) 922-7211 or [office@gracechurchfdl.net](mailto:office@gracechurchfdl.net). We'd love to help you get "plugged in" and see you get involved with this fun & life-giving ministry to the next generation!



JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



6:00-7:00PM | VETERANS PARK, FDI  
 Join us at Veterans Park in Fond du Lac for a time of worship & prayer with other believers from around the city! Together we will pray for our community, nation & world. Prayer walk to follow weather permitting. **All are welcome!**

**MEMORIAL DAY** Remember and Honor


The Grace Office will be closed on Friday, May 24th and Monday, May 27th in honor of Memorial Day!

## HERE'S WHAT'S UP THIS MONTH



SUNDAY, MAY 5 - Youth Meeting at Grace | 6:30-8:00pm  
 SUNDAY, MAY 12 - NO YOUTH MEETING  
 SUNDAY, MAY 19 - Youth Meeting at Grace | 6:30-8:00pm  
 SUNDAY, MAY 26 - NO YOUTH MEETING

Details for summer youth meetings are still being finalized and will be announced soon! Please contact Pastor Brad with any questions (or if you are willing to help out this summer with our youth outings or events!)




## FREE RUMMAGE



The 30th Semi-Annual Free Rummage at Lighthouse Christian Church is just around the corner. This event is intended to help us bless each other & those in our community. **Everything is free!** Donations are needed and can be dropped off on Wed. May 8, from 6-7:30pm and Thurs. May 9, from 8am-12pm. If you bring donations plan to help set them out on the appropriate tables when you arrive. Church Family is invited to come "shop" on Thurs. May 9, from 2-6pm. The rummage is open to the public on Fri. May 19, 8am-1pm. Volunteers are more than welcome & helps to keep this project functioning. Contact Bonnie Buxton with any questions: [bonitabuxton@yahoo.com](mailto:bonitabuxton@yahoo.com)

## AWANA SCHEDULE

May 5 - Sundae-Sunday (Bring your favorite sundae topping to share!)  
 May 12 - Happy Mother's Day (No AWANA!)  
 May 19 - Last Night of AWANA!





163 18th Street  
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
 office@gracechurchfdl.net  
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

**CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Sunday mornings at 8:45am  
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm  
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:00am.  
 3rd Saturday of the Month Women's Prayer at 9:00am

*All meet at  
 Grace Church  
 building*

**GRACE CHURCH STAFF**

**Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ***

**Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford***

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

**Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart***

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

**Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain***

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

**Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel***

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.net

**Custodian - *Jen Koenigs***

phone: 922-7211

**Elder on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

(920) 948-9262

**Offering & Attendance**

|           |          |     |
|-----------|----------|-----|
| 3/3/2024  | \$5,149  | 140 |
| 3/10/2024 | \$8,199  | 148 |
| 3/17/2024 | \$27,386 | 141 |
| 3/24/2024 | \$7,273  | 168 |
| 3/31/2024 | \$8,157  | 250 |

*March Weekly Ave: \$11,232.80 169*

**Weekly average needed to meet budget  
 \$9,083**

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Year to Date Givings  | \$382,730 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$357,363 |

*Y-T-D amounts reflect March month-end totals*

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please submit information for the  
*June Words of Grace*  
 to the church office by **May 15th**.  
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or  
 office@gracechurchfdl.net

**Office Hours are:**  
 Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm  
 Friday 8:00am-11:30am