

JANUARY 2024



Good News of Grace

Family Worship Times

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Pastor

Michael Buchhorn

904 Logan Wayne, NE 402-375-1905

May God's grace and peace be yours in abundance during this new year of grace He has opened to us. In the gospel of Luke, we read the following parable from Jesus. *"A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"* Luke 13:6-8

Like the fig tree in the parable we have each been planted in this world for the purpose of bearing fruit for God. In order to accomplish that purpose, God gives us the gift of time. The unproductive tree in the story was given more time for the gardener to work with it in order that it might bear fruit, but that time is not unlimited.

How often don't we see that theme played out in the Bible. We repeatedly hear the story of God's grace giving His people the gift of time and the opportunity to repent. Sadly we also see how many squandered the chance. Ultimately their time ran out and they were cut down.

Our time in this world is not unlimited. God's word declares *"You are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes"* (James 4:14). The prayer of the believer in response is *"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12).

The gardener in the parable spoke of digging around the tree and fertilizing it. God accomplishes this work in our life by laying bare our sins through His law and allowing us to hear His word of forgiveness in the gospel. This work of God is designed to strengthen our connection to Jesus. Connected to Him, we are able to bear fruit.

An example of that fruit was seen in the account of the woman caught in adultery from John 8. As Jesus gave that woman the gift of a second chance and more time, He told her, “go and from now on sin no more.” We are given this time not so that we can continue in sin. Rather this is our time to live as children of God. God said the same to His Old Testament people through Isaiah: *“Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow”* (Isaiah 1:16).

Our steps and efforts in this direction will be marked with pitfalls. We will no doubt be unable to perfectly do what we should. Yet this remains our goal. This is to be our Holy Spirit empowered resolution. We live in this world to live a Christ-like life. We strive to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us. By God’s grace we have been given the gift of time. Like for the unproductive tree, this year gives us the opportunity to receive gifts from God and respond to those gifts. May God bless your use of the time God gives as we receive God’s gifts and bear fruit for Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Buchhorn

Call Committee Update

Our call committee has been working with the Nebraska District President and the placement director from Concordia Seminary concerning our congregation’s decision to try to fill our Associate Pastor Vacancy with a graduating seminarian. We have been informed that there are more requests for candidates than available graduates. In an effort to make the best possible match between congregations and available candidates, we are allowed to interview prospective pastors. God willing, our call committee will be interviewing several possible candidates to fill our vacancy this month. Even though we will be interviewing there is no guarantee that we will receive a candidate. We should know more about whether a candidate will be placed with us by the end of February. Continue to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up more workers and that our congregation may be blessed with a new worker at the time God knows to be best.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY

meets at CUP OF GRACE the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. In January, the dates are January 6th and 20th at 7:30 AM. Congregational men please come for a hot breakfast/coffee, good conversation (maybe a joke or two), give and take study of the Word and prayer.

The question for study Saturday January 6 will be on Mark 4:10-12 where Jesus says that he speaks in parables, so the truth of the Word is concealed from unbelievers. Why would Jesus say that?

The question for Saturday January 20th will be on Mark 2:23-28 a passage of significant theological significance. Mark highlights Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath, emphasizing Jesus' authority over legalistic interpretations of the law. Join the Men's Study Group to explore these texts.

Each **Wednesday morning** at 9:00 a.m. a lively class is held upstairs in the large meeting room. The class is presently studying the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study for January

is scheduled for Sunday, January 14th @ 5:30pm in the church basement. Join us for a devotion, fellowship, candle and soap making. Bring a snack if you wish. *Mark your calendars* for February's Bible Study as we plan to have a soup swap; more details to come. *Reminder;* this is a low key group that plans to meet monthly but that doesn't mean to join you need to be there every month. Come as it fits in your schedule, all are welcome! *Questions contact* Julie Bose or Teresa Tiedtke.

Each Sunday Morning

an Adult Bible Class is offered during the Christian Education hour in the church basement. This month the class will be studying the book of Titus.

Sunday Mornings a class for youth and parents is held in the upstairs meeting room. New faces are always welcome.



CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

Thank you to our Sunday School Students, teachers and leaders and other behind the scenes workers for the wonderful Christmas Eve Program performed for the congregation. The children reminded us of the marvelous promises of God fulfilled in Jesus and encouraged us to join the angels' songs of praise. We were exhorted to harken to the message of the Herald Angels. A special word of thanks to Symphony Jareske for being our program coordinator this year. A link to a recording of the program is available on the church website www.gracewayne.com under the Listen Anywhere: Online Services tab.

In January we will be learning about some famous Old Testament people like Rahab, Deborah, and Samson. Join us for these action packed stories of God's faithfulness which equip us for living out our life for Him.

Our Christian Education hour begins with a unified opening in the church basement at 9:15 a.m.

Mark you calendars for March 23 when a special VBS type event entitled "Journey to Easter" is being planned. Look for more details in the next newsletter.



Youth Group HAPPENINGS PLANNING AHEAD

In **January** we plan to go Ice Skating in Sioux City. Emails have been sent out to youth parents with a google form to let us know what date(s) works best for their youth. Parents will be needed as drivers.

For **February** we are seeing if there is enough interest in youth/parents in having this year's Sweet Heart Valentine's Dinner. Contact Lora Heithold or Teresa Tiedtke if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION RECAP

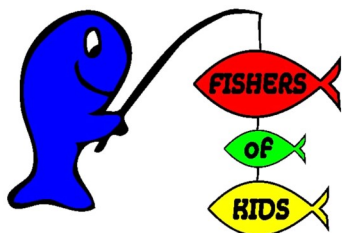


The Christmas tree was decorated, Christmas trivia was conquered, 12 Days of Christmas wasn't much in tune but fun, ugly sweaters were judged, bellies were filled and the gifts were gifted.
Thanks to ALL who attended!

Holiday Ham Sales **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all the youth that sold hams this year! Great job!
For those of you that purchased one of our delicious hams...
thank you for your support. We appreciate it!

Fisher's of Kids Preschool



The preschoolers have been learning about the birth of Jesus by opening gifts every week and discovering "What God Wants For Christmas." It is exciting to see what the next item is and how it relates to the Christmas story! The students have also been busy designing ornaments as

we prepare for Christmas. Our Christmas parties and gift exchanges are on December 21st and December 22nd. Our last day of preschool for 2023 is Friday, December 22nd. Preschool will resume on January 8, 2024.

In January, our themes include Polar Animals/Penguins, Keeping Warm In Winter, and learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Enjoy the holiday with your families, and we look forward to a new year!

National Lutheran Schools Week is an annual celebration that promotes the important role of Lutheran schools in the United States and around the world. The theme for the 2023-2024 school year celebration is "Connected," inspired by John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

The theme "Connected" emphasizes the importance of staying connected to God and to one another when we face challenges and difficulties and when we share in joys and triumphs! It encourages Lutheran schools to continue to cultivate an environment of faith, love, and fellowship, where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

Fishers of Kids Preschool will be showcasing the students' art work around the church January 21-27, 2024. We are very blessed to have so much support from Grace Lutheran church. We have 18 students this year. Ten students in the 4-5 year old class and 8 in the 3-4 year old class. Our playground equipment is amazing. We thank the Neil and Bonnie Sandahl family for this wonderful gift. We thank Grace for the new windows and the church council for all their work sprucing up our school and playground. We are truly blessed.

Keila Olson Teacher

Rhonda Sebade Director

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid

December 13, 2023

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid met on December 13, 2023, for our annual Christmas Tea with 14 members and 11 guests and Pastor and Kathryn Buchhorn and Pastor and Darlene Lilienkamp present.

President, Ellen Heinemann, opened the meeting by leading the group reciting the LWML Pledge. Pastor Buchhorn gave a program on the origin and meanings of several Christmas hymns.

Members and guests were introduced and shared their stories about their tea/coffee mugs they had brought to be used today.

The birthday song was sung for Esther Brader, Connie Mindrup, and Rhonda Sebade.

A group sing-along of favorite Christmas songs were sung followed by our cookie, tea, coffee, cider, hot chocolate and cookies.

Cookie boxes were assembled for our shut-ins and will be delivered by members of the group.

Wayne Circuit Bible Institute

January 28, 2024

2pm to 4pm

Grace Lutheran Church

Wayne, Nebraska

“The Unchanging Message in the Changing Mission Field”

A study of the Book of Acts

by

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld

Director of Concordia Institute for Rural & Small Town Ministry

Concordia University Nebraska

News from our Seminarian

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Thank you to everyone at Grace Lutheran Church for their continued support of my preparation for the office of the Holy Ministry! The past quarter at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne was quite a busy one for me, both academically and musically.

Over the ten-week fall quarter, I was in five classes. The classes covered a wide range of topics, from Lutheran doctrine and leading worship services to Matthew's gospel and reading the Bible in Greek. My favorite of all the classes was Liturgics, which was the class in which I learned to lead services.

I also received my placement for field education, St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville, Indiana. Field education is an opportunity for all first year and second year seminarians to go to the same church each Sunday in order to participate in worship and Bible study, as well as help the pastor lead various church functions after completing the necessary seminary classes to do so. As of the writing of this update, I have read for the services at St. John several times and served as the liturgist for the traditional service once.

On the musical side of things, I was asked to play the organ for evening chapel services at the seminary about once a week. On top of playing for those services, I also participated in the Schola Cantorum choir. There were weekly rehearsals on Thursday nights, as well as a few Sunday afternoon rehearsals, in preparation for a hymn festival in November that was lead by our choir. For that event, we were joined by members of several local church choirs to form one large choir of about 100 singers.

Thank you to everyone for you financial and prayer support. Having so many people support me is wonderful, and I would not be able to get through my time at the seminary without you all! May God richly bless each of you as we continue to celebrate God's greatest gift to us - His Son Jesus!

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

Blessings in Christ,

Riley Hlavac

Grace Lutheran Church
Mission Council Minutes

December 11, 2023

Mission Council for Grace Lutheran Church met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Members present at this meeting were Craig Evans, Pastor Buchhorn, Louise Green, Chuck Potosnyak, Mike Temme, Lowell Johnson, Dwight Mock, Ron Sebade, Diana Langemeier, Nick Diediker, Megan Dubbs, Pam Janke, and Michelle Ekberg.

Meeting was called to order by President, Craig Evans.

Opening devotion and prayer was led by Pastor Buchhorn.

SECRETARY REPORT

Minutes from October 16, 2023 Mission Council meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Dwight Mock was left off as a member present during this meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with that revision was made by Lowell, seconded by Diana. Motion carried.

Minutes from November 19, 2023 short Mission Council meeting were reviewed. A correction adding Megan Dubbs as a member present was made. A motion to approve the minutes as revised was made by Dwight; seconded by Lowell. Motion carried

Minutes from November 19, 2023 Annual Voters' Meeting to be presented and approved at the 2024 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve these minutes for final approval at the 2024 annual meeting was made by Louise; seconded by Chuck. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2023 financial report was presented by Louise. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Lowell; seconded by Dwight. Motion carried.

A report on the Memorial fund balance was presented. The beginning balance was \$2,833.19 additional memorials in the amount of \$1,280 were given. Disbursements to the Sunday School, Altar Guild and Kitchen Fund were made leaving a closing balance of \$2,433.19.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS:

Elders' Report was given by Chuck Potosnak. The Board of Elders met at 7:30 p.m. on December 4, 2023. Pastor Buchhorn opened the meeting with prayer. The board continued with the study of the Sixth Commandment in Luther's Large Catechism. Official Acts included the following. The baptism of Lucas William Dubbs, infant son of Megan and Trey Dubbs on November 26, 2023. The transfer into Grace by Brian and Rachelle Reeg and Grant from St. John, Pilger and Norma Stoltenberg from Our Savior, Norfolk. Mike and Brooke Sturm and their children Chase, Evlyn, Logan, and Taelyn, and Donovan and Nadine Bjorkland were welcomed to Grace by Reaffirmation of Faith. Official Acts included the wedding of Emily Matthes and Caden Korth on November 4, 2023, officiated by Pastor Buchhorn. Midweek classes and Sunday School are continuing successfully. Sunday School has begun their Christmas program practices on Sundays following the 10:30 a.m. services. Plans are in place to hold Crosspoint 2024, a one-day Lenten VBS, on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Campus Student Ministry is currently on semester break and will resume in January. The Youth have been very active. A Corn Hole tournament took place in November, a Christmas party was held on December 2, and a successful ham sale was offered to Grace members. Pastor Lilienkamp has begun a Men's Bible Study on every other Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at Cup of Grace. All men of the congregation are invited to attend this interesting class. The Call Committee met on December 4, 2023 to begin the process of calling a graduate from the seminary. Midweek Advent services have begun on Wednesdays. A meal will be offered prior to the 6:15 p.m. service. There will be a Blue Christmas service on Sunday evening December 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. There will be an 8:00 a.m. communion service on Christmas Eve, followed at 10:30 a.m. by the Children's Christmas program. At 8:00 p.m. that evening a Candlelight Carol service will be held. Sunday, December 31, 2023, Communion will be offered at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Pastor Buchhorn will be on vacation December 23, 2023, and from January 29-February 5, 2024.

Call Committee: Members met December 3, 2023 following the DCE call declination of Brian Pike. During the Annual Church Meeting a straw poll on direction for the call process was conducted. The majority voted in favor of calling a candidate for ordination from the

seminary. The committee reviewed the process for this and the approximate timeline. Interviews with potential candidates are normally scheduled through the Seminary in January or early February. The paperwork for this process has been started. The job description for the position was reviewed and approved by the committee.

Property/Trustee: Lowell reports that the roof leak from the bell tower into the sanctuary and wood replacement on bell mount has been repaired. A thank you to Craig Evans, Nick Forsyth, Ron Sebade, and Harlan Brugger. The roof leak over the bell room in the front of the sanctuary from the heating vent pipe will be looked into further by Craig Evans and Nick Diediker. Curb replacement was approved by the voters. Concrete bids for the area around the preschool will be entertained. An ad will go into the Wayne Herald and Morning Shopper for two weeks. The north sanctuary thermostat for the boiler system was malfunctioning. Pastor Buchhorn replaced the batteries and it is functioning normally again.

Campus Ministry: Craig reports that the Cup of Grace had its last meal of the semester on December 10. A sign-up sheet for spring semester meals is now available. Dan and Bonnie Hansen have volunteered to continue hosting. A new vacuum was purchased for the facility. Several lights were replaced by Craig. He will investigate why the south porch lights are not working.

Auxiliaries (LWML/Altar Guild): Pam reports the LWML will be hosting their Christmas Tea at 2 p.m. Wednesday. All women of the church are invited to attend. The Altar Guild would like to extend a tremendous thank you to Karen Schardt for making the Chrismon kits. A thank you to all who took a kit and assembled a Chrismon.

Education (Sunday School/Midweek/VBS/Children's Programming): The children's Christmas program will be December 24, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Practices have been underway. Symphony Jareske is coordinating. Diana also reports, the Youth Group has been active and held an Ugly Christmas party. Christmas hams will be delivered on Wednesday, December 13. Upcoming events for them include a Sweetheart Dinner in February and another group outing.

Preschool: (Megan) Ron noted that the nativity scene was placed with lights in front of the preschool by himself and Josh Ruwe.

Endowment Administrative Committee: Louise noted the checks for six of the eight recipients approved by the voters in the annual meeting have been sent out.

Stewardship/Finance: (Mike) Kathy Wiser has put labels on 2024 offering envelopes and they will be distributed in church mailboxes soon. Envelopes are assigned only to those who pick them up and use them. Anyone not assigned offering envelopes who would like them are encouraged to call the church office. Al and Brenda Pip-
pett will be joining Mike and Brittany Temme as additional offering counters.

Administrative Handbook: Louise notes October/November items have been completed.

Evangelism/Publicity/Community Engagement: (Dwight) A Christmas ad will be placed in the Morning Shopper and Facebook noting the upcoming holiday services.

Fellowship/Kitchen: Ron reports from KimBerly that the kitchen has been serving snacks prior to children's Christmas practices. Advent meals have served 60 people, and an offering of \$352 will be donated to Riley Hlavac. A request to install under cabinet lighting in the kitchen was made. At all times and particularly during this busy season it is requested that those using the kitchen and fellowship area be diligent in cleaning and straightening up after themselves so the facility is ready for the next use.

OLD BUSINESS

District & Circuit Items: Grace will host Circuit Pastor Meeting on January 2, 2024. The Circuit Bible Institute is tentatively scheduled for Grace on January 28 with Rev. Sommerfeld representing Concordia University, Seward, presenting.

Voters' Meeting Follow-up/Suggestions: It was good to see improved attendance at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Advent Meal: Mission Council will sponsor the Advent meal for December 20, 2023. Proceeds will go towards the support of Riley Hlavac.

Tax Exempt paperwork for the church property for 2024 has been filed by Pastor Buchhorn at the Tax Assessor's office.

A big 'thank you' was extended to Megan Dubbs and Dwight Mock for their service on the Mission Council.

New officer installation will be held on December 31, 2023 at both services.

Reorganization of reporting areas for 2024 will be discussed at the next meeting when all new members are present.

A motion to approve the installation of the undercabinet lighting in the kitchen was made by Lowell; seconded by Diana. The money for this will come from the Kitchen Fund. Motion carried. The lighting will be researched and ordered by Craig.

A discussion was held on the best ways to help encourage those using the facility to make sure that it is cleaned following various activities.

Pastor shared a thank you to Grace Lutheran Church from the Wayne State “Wild For Life” group for the congregation’s assistance with the Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser. They were able to purchase over \$2,000 worth of baby diapers and necessary items for Haven House and a pregnancy center in Sioux City.

Meeting was adjourned; followed by the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Ekberg

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Elder on duty

7	8:00 am.	Payton Janke
	10:30 am.	Doug Heithold
14	8:00 am.	Chuck Potosnyak
	10:30 am.	Chad Janke
21	8:00 am.	Mike Heithold
	10:30 am.	Jared Heithold
28	8:00 am.	Doug Heithold
	10:30 am.	Payton Janke

Acolytes

07	8:00 am.	Lauren Ekberg & Bryn Tiedtke
	10:30 am.	Dreu Jensen & Colston Starzl
14	8:00 am.	Chloe Kai & Sadi Fredrickson
	10:30 am.	Grant Reeg & Chase Rethwisch
21	8:00 am.	Myles Tiedtke & Reagan Heithold
	10:30 am.	Evan Bose & Ashlyn Trautman
28	8:00 am.	Brayden Stegemann & Trecyn Ocampo
	10:30 am.	Veronica Daum & Courtney Roeber

Lay Readers

7	8:00 am.	Hallie Heithold
	10:30 am.	Brian Kesting
14	8:00 am.	Irene Mock
	10:30 am.	Chase Sturm
21	8:00 am.	Jeanette Swanson
	10:30 am.	Jennifer Kesting
28	8:00 am.	Diane Zach
	10:30 am.	Brooke Sturm

Greeters

7	8:00 am.	Lowell & Kathy Johnson
	10:30 am.	Justin & Megan Anderson
14	8:00 am.	Jan Doescher & Connie Mindrup
	10:30 am.	Chad & Pam Janke
21	8:00 am.	LeRoy & Carol Robbert
	10:30 am.	Don & Lisa Nelson
28	8:00 am.	Gene & Jan Casey
	10:30 am.	Brooke & Chase Sturm

GRACE FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dick Nolte
- 3 Ridge Broders & Diana Langemeier
- 5 Daniel Greenwald, David Stuthmann & Katie Talbott
- 7 Scott Heinemann
- 8 Amber Nelson & Violet Maturey
- 9 Kara Heaton, Taven Ocampo & Casey Junck
- 11 Katie Mathieson
- 12 Sadi Fredrickson & Brian Bebee
- 14 Cory Erxleben, Beckett Foote, Kurt Janke, Maddux Heithold & Nancy Niemann
- 16 Jerry Echtenkamp, Johnny Lempke, Dwight Mock, Brayden Stegemann & Leanne Centrone
- 18 Stacey Kai, Alan Thomsen & Pam Nolte
- 19 Kevin Anderson & Lowell Heggemeyer
- 20 Anthony Munson & Theresa Lubberstedt
- 21 Vickie Greve, Delvin Mikkelsen, Grady Van Cleave & Ben Lilienkamp
- 22 Joshua Ruwe, & Haley Brogren
- 23 Paul Biermann & Roger Fredrickson
- 24 Barbara Greve, Alvin Longe, Jess Thompson & Cheryl Suehl
- 26 Heath Greve & Nick Spahr
- 27 Karlee Janke, Amber Sperry & Ross Rastede
- 28 Gary Manning
- 30 Janice Poppe & Jill Roeber
- 31 Dan Mitchell & Logan Mathieson

Grace Lutheran Church
904 Logan
Wayne, Nebraska 68787

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

January 2024 Grace Lutheran Church — Activity Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Grace Lutheran Church 402-375-1905 www.gracewayne.com	1 <i>Have A Blessed New Year!</i>	2 9a Circuit Pastors' Meeting @ Grace 3:30p Kinship Communion	3 9a Bible Study 5p Bell Choir 6:30p Midweek 7:30p Elders	4 7p Choir	5	6 7:30a Men's Bible Study 4p Family Communion
7 8a Worship 9:15a Sun. School & B.C. 10:30a Worship 7:30p Sun. Night Dinner	8 7p Mission Council	9	10 9a Bible Study 10a Preschool Chapel 2p Ladies Aid 5p Bell Choir 6:30p Midweek	11 10a Preschool Chapel 7p Choir	12	13 4p Family Communion
14 8a Worship/Comm 9:15a Sun. School & B.C. 10:30a Worship/Comm	15	16	17 9a Bible Study 10a Preschool Chapel 5p Bell Choir 6:30p Midweek	18 10a Preschool Chapel 7p Choir	19	20 7:30a Men's Bible Study 4p Family Communion
21 8a Worship 9:15a Sun. School & B.C. 10:30a Worship 7:30p Sun. Night Dinner	22 6 p Teacher Meeting	23	24 9a Bible Study 10a Preschool Chapel 5p Bell Choir 6:30p Midweek	25 10a Preschool Chapel 7p Choir	26	27 4p Family Communion
<div> <div>National</div> <div>Lutheran</div> <div>Schools</div> <div>Week</div> </div>						
28 8a Worship/Comm 9:15a Sun. School & B.C. 10:30a Worship/Comm 2p Circuit Bible Institute @ Grace 7:30p Sun. Night Dinner	29 1:30 Country View Communion	30	31 9a Bible Study 10a Preschool Chapel 5p Bell Choir 6:30p Midweek			