

You Shall Love the Lord Your God

A scribe once asked Jesus, "What's the first, the greatest, commandment of all?" Jesus answered by saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and mind, and strength."

A consideration of these words is our theme on the Wednesdays of Lent.

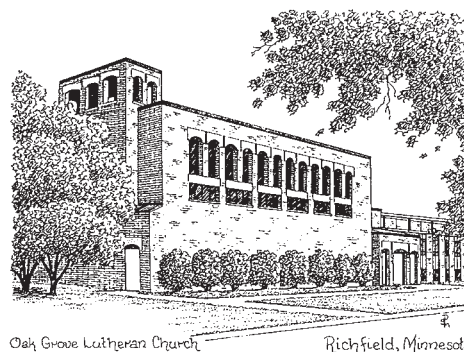


Ash Wednesday Service

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Lent Services

Wednesday, February 28 – March 28 at 7:00 p.m.



Women of Oak Grove Annual Birthday Party

*Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall*

Ladies, you do not have to be a circle member to be involved in the activities here at Oak Grove, nor do you have to hold back any passion that you might have to push others to become involved. Are you a leader? A co-leader? Want to get involved, but don't know where to start? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come to the Fellowship Hall on February 21. We will take care of business, and then have a party. Hopefully, it will be a big birthday bash along with the birth of a new Board of Directors for the Women of Oak Grove.

The tables will be set and decorated for the four seasons of the year. We ask that you be seated at the season in which your birthday falls. Punch and coffee will be provided by the board and circle members will provide the dessert at each table. Surprise entertainment will keep the party lively. Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, or you are considering a position on the board, please contact Margie Risch at 612-866-0858/612-281-9696 cell. Positions open are President, Secretary, and Member-at-Large.



February 2012

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February Birthdays

- 2 – Lolita Driscoll
- 4 – Michael Foss, Mary Lou Fowler
- 5 – Charles Bauer, Jr.
- 6 – Shirley Flatau, Tricia Harris, Paul Maggitti, Arlie Skogheim, Carol Tveite
- 7 – Jason Sammon
- 8 – Patty West
- 9 – Kyle Highum, Miriah Meyer, Rachel Memelink
- 10 – Kevin Driscoll
- 11 – Stephanie Meinke
- 12 – Jessica Lagaard
- 13 – Scott Erie, Kathryn Hinton
- 14 – Paul Andrews
- 15 – Grace Meints
- 16 – Judy Johnson, Julie Hopkins, Keith Shellberg
- 17 – Cathi Doroff, Vivian Jacobson
- 18 – Ann Botsford, Jordan Zoellmer
- 19 – Nancy Gertner, Kristin Olson
- 20 – Jennifer Murdick, Jim Peterson, Cynthia Shellberg
- 21 – Jaunita Carpenter, Angela Christenson
- 22 – Caroline Castillo, Zack Jones, Rachel Nycklemoe
- 23 – Nicholas Driscoll, Marion Petersmeyer
- 24 – Mary Kay Ashley, Diane Maurer
- 25 – Adria Deutsch, Clement Schulze
- 26 – Randy Hummel, Meredith O'Brien, Cecilia Wright
- 27 – Charmin Andrews, Mary Keller, Matthew Krohn, Michael Tveite, Paul Tveite
- 28 – Margaret Olson

Do you have questions about church, theology, the Bible, the history of the church? ask.dr.dana01@gmail.com

Circle Meetings for February

All Circles will meet the first Tuesday of the month, February 7, unless otherwise indicated:

Esther – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Katherine – 1:30 p.m. at Liz Andersen's, 6901 Oakland

Lydia Ruth – at 7 Kathryn Strating's, 6900 16th Ave

Rebecca – 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Leverne Morseth, hostess

Baptisms



December 25 – Rose Elizabeth Sammon

January 22 – Josephine Betty Barum

Deaths



We extend our sympathies to the following families:

Jo Mordecai, mother of Leslie Mahraun, our Oak Grove Intern

Remember Oak Grove in Your Estate Planning: When you make your will, consider naming Oak Grove Enduring Gifts as one of your beneficiaries. Already have a will? You can update it to include Oak Grove Enduring Gifts as a beneficiary. You can help Keep Oak Grove Alive and Growing. Contact Pastor Tom or Maynard Wood for more information.



Storytelling

In a handful of cities across the nation, regular people like you and me take to the stage of a coffee house or club to tell a story about something that happened in their lives. Other people spend good money to listen to the stories and appreciate them for what they are—true stories about real things that happened. There’s no shortage of storytellers, listeners, or stories because human life is interesting and people can relate to other people’s stories even if nothing like that has actually happened in their lives.

It’s stories that have been at the center of our scripture readings on Sundays since September. Our Narrative (story) Lectionary has given us stories from the Bible—some old familiar tales and others we didn’t even know were in there. Many of you have expressed interest and appreciation for hearing these Bible stories. And sometimes we’ve been surprised to discover how such ancient stories can still connect powerfully with our lives today.

Because God’s story in scripture DOES connect with our own stories, and our own stories we often keep to ourselves, or share with a select few, we’re going to try something a bit different. This is an invitation to you to tell your story. Out loud, in church, as part of our worship service.

Once a month, starting the First Sunday in Lent, we’d like to hear one of the Oak Grove faithful tell the rest of us a personal story of faith—something they did or that happened to them that had an impact on their lives or the world around them. It doesn’t have to be big or life-shattering. It will be inspirational and interesting because it’s true. We’ll put some guidelines together to help get you started, but for now give some thought to a story you might tell. Those of us who “love to tell the story of Jesus and his love” will be blessed to hear how his story has shaped the story of your life.

Pastor Tom Zarth

Note of Thanks

Dear brothers and sisters of Oak Grove Lutheran Church,

A special “thank you” to all who have kept me and my family in your prayers during the time of my mother’s illness and especially following her death.

This is a very sad and difficult time for us, and we are held lovingly by God’s tender embrace and the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord. My mother loved to worship here at Oak Grove. You made her feel welcome and she enjoyed visiting with you each week.

Thank you for the many cards and memorial gifts, encouraging words, calls, notes and emails. Your kindness embodies what it means to be Christ to one another. Deep gratitude as well to Pastor Tom for coming to be with us as we awaited difficult news, to Pastor Brice for steadying our worries and reminding us that “God will be all over this” and to our Parish Nurse, Lisa Martin for her unwavering belief that God is always love.

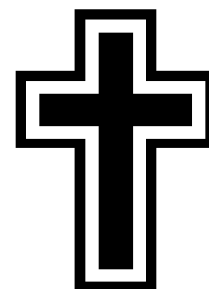
We will never forget you, Oak Grove, and we love you.

Leslie, Dan and Benjamin

Wednesday Supper’s

Dinner is served between 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.
All dinner served with salad bar and dessert
\$4.00 per plate

February 1	Chicken Kiev Rice Blend
February 8	Brats and Hot dogs
February 15	Italian night
February 22	Soup and sandwiches
February 29	Mexican Buffet



Milestone Updates

Baptism Birthdays Celebrated

Three children and their families shared stories of their faith journeys and parenthood during the Baptism Birthday Milestone on Sunday, Jan. 15. The event not only celebrates those baptized in 2011, but also reminds all of us of our baptisms and to let our light shine as children of God.

The sign of the cross was placed on the forehead of Vivian Vik and her parents Kelly and Klaus plus big sister Lauren-Paige; Blake Duncan and his dad Dennis Lewis, grandmother Nancy Lewis and great grandmother Avis Little; and Evelynn Follett with parents Erin and Travis, grandfather Tom Stertz, plus godparents Jane Peterson and Erik and Zeanna Amundson. Candles on top of cupcakes and muffins were also lit as part of a blessing.

Special Oak Grove guests were Terry and Jan Gambaiani expressed how they have become connected to Oak Grove.



Blake Duncan
and Family



Evelynn Follett
and Family



Vivian Vik and Family

Upcoming Milestone Events

Jesus Loves Me Milestone

Sunday, Feb. 5, 9:45 a.m.,
Fireside Room, 2-year-olds and families

Demystifying Death

Sunday, March 11
For Teens and Families

First Communion Milestone

Sunday, March 25, 5 – 7 p.m.
Fellowship Hall, sign-ups coming soon

First Communion Service

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service



Spotlite on Women



Treasurer's Report: We thank all ladies who were able to take part, we are grateful.

As you may have seen in our bulletin, there will be our annual Birthday Party on Tuesday, February 21, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be taking care of business and then have a Party. Childcare will be provided that evening, so we're looking for it to be a big birthday bash along with the new Board of Directors for the Women of Oak Grove. All of us on the board have had some good experiences but it's time for some of us to give our batons over to the new replacement ladies.

For my last article I'd like to publish some Attribute's of God as written by Max Luccado

I CHOOSE LOVE . . .

No occasion justifies hatred;
No justice warrants bitterness. I choose love
Today I will love God and what God loves

I CHOOSE JOY . . .

I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance.
I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...
The tool of the lazy thinker, I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God.
I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I CHOOSE PEACE . . .

I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I CHOOSE PATIENCE . . .

I will overlook the inconveniences of the world.
Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so.
Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clinching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I CHOOSE KINDNESS . . .

I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone.
Kind to the rich, for they are afraid.
And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

I CHOOSE GOODNESS . . .

I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one.
I will be overlooked before I will boast.
I will confess before I accuse.
I choose goodness.

I CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS . . .

Today I will keep my promises.
My debtors will not regret their trust.
My associates will not question my word.
My husband will not question my love.
And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I CHOOSE GENTLENESS . . .

Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle.
If I raise my voice may it be only in praise.
If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer.
If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

I CHOOSE SELF-CONTROL . . .

I am a spiritual being. . .
After this body is dead, my spirit will soar.
I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal.
I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy.
I will be impassioned only my faith.
I will be influenced only by God.
I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control.
To these I commit my day.
If I succeed, I will give thanks.
If I fail, I will seek his grace.
And then when this day is done,
I will place my head on my pillow and rest.

May God Bless us All.
Sincerely,
Dawn Sankey, WELCA Secretary



Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

Wapo • Ox Lake • Luther Dell • Wilderness Canoe Base
738 Hickory Point Lane Amery WI 54001 www.campwapo.org

A huge thank you to all of our congregations for your support and partnership in the Gospel. We look forward to next year with hope for even greater ministry.

Here are a few **2011 Highlights:**

Across the sites -

- We had impactful ministry at our sites in 2011. We experienced a drop in camper numbers across the board and congregational giving was down about \$12,000. We will be making responsible cuts where we can in the 2012 budget.
- We exceeded our 2011 Annual Giving Club budgeted goals. We are so thankful for the gifts from individuals as their generosity allowed us to move forward.
- Thrivent Choice giving increased by over \$20,000 from what we received in 2010. We are grateful for this important program from Thrivent.
- Ox, Luther Dell and Wilderness were up for ACA accreditation renewal in 2011. They all passed with flying colors!

Ox Lake –

- High and low ropes course continues to be used heavily.

- Journey programs added more customizable options.
- Hired summer staff from Cameroon, Rwanda and Tanzania.
- Garden Project Continues.
- Erik Teig spent 2 months in Ethiopia volunteering at a school and gaining valuable experience.
- David and Wendy Maxon continued their fine work in maintenance, horse program and packout.

Luther Dell

- Excellent summer staff, led by Dave Peet.
- More work has been done on the Outdoor Chapel and bath house to improve people's stay at camp.
- Jacob Calvert continued his good work in maintenance and upgrade of plant and facilities.

Wilderness Canoe Base

- Drew Heinonen works as camp manager and did a great job in cleaning up the site and finishing some projects with a limited budget.
- Emma Harness completed her 2nd year as Site Director and is working hard to expand Wilderness programs.
- Jon Hoyme, a retired LOM Camp director, worked with us again at WCB last summer. We are thankful that he shared his skill and expertise with us.

- Refined by Fire appeal is completed with \$93,000 of the \$125,000 target.

Wapo

- Hosted successful broomball and golf tournaments – with funds going towards camperships.
- Experienced another bustling retreat season – welcoming people of all ages to a “place away”!
- The game Gaga becomes a hit! There was almost always a line at the Gaga pit. You'll have to come and try it some time!
- The Slip –N – Slide was a hoot! Provided kids another opportunity to cool off and laugh.
- Paul Halverson and Loren Teig completed 35 years of ministry at Wapo.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”

Lamentations 3:22-23

“Celebrating Jesus and Kids!”

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:25 AM Congregational Meeting 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Check 11:00 AM Lunch and Youth Camp Fundraiser 11:15 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	30 3:00 PM Schmidt Music 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	31 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Schmidt Music 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	1 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Youth Basketball	2 6:00 PM BASKETBALL	3 Loaves and Fishes OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS 8:30 PM Boy Scout overnight	4 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Messenger practice 12:00 PM Richfield Girls Softball Assoc. Practice
5 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Jesus Loves Me Milestone - 2 year olds 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:45 AM Wasting Time With Jesus 9:50 AM OakTones Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball 7:00 PM RGSA Board Meeting	6 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	7 Circles meet 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM GIRL SCOUT TROOP 12810 8:00 PM Basketball	8 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Youth Basketball	9 6:00 PM BASKETBALL	10 OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS 4:30 PM Richfield Optimists Chili Feed 7:00 PM Richfield Square Dance	11 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 12:00 PM Richfield Girls Softball Assoc. Practice 6:30 PM Girl Scouts
12 7:45 AM OakTones Warm Up & Rehearsal/Sing 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Check 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 9:45 AM Wasting Time With Jesus 11:00 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM Haiti Team Challenge 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball 6:30 PM Richfield Soccer Meeting	13 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 6:00 PM Mh Dahlia Society 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	14 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Council Meeting 8:00 PM Basketball	15 5:45 PM Supper 6:00 PM Spirit Bells 6:30 PM Carolers 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Junior Bells 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Chorale 7:00 PM Grand Chimers 7:00 PM Joyful Singers 7:30 PM Faith Bells 7:30 PM Youth Basketball	16 9:00 AM NSR Training 6:00 PM BASKETBALL	17 OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS	18 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Messenger practice 10:30 AM Huntington's Support Group 11:00 AM BD PARTY 3:00 PM Family Event
19 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour 11:00 AM Worship Service 1:00 AM Men's Volleyball 6:30 PM RSA Planning Meeting	20 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	21 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 6:30 PM GIRL SCOUT TROOP 12810 8:00 PM Basketball	22 5:45 PM Spirit Bells 5:45 PM Supper 6:15 PM Carolers and Grand Chimers 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday 7:30 PM Youth Basketball 7:45 PM Chorale 8:00 PM Faith Bells	23 6:00 PM BASKETBALL	24 OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS	25 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 12:30 PM Volleyball Marathon
26 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Check 9:30 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Education Hour - S Lent Project Kick-off -VEAP 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Men's Volleyball	27 6:00 PM BASKETBALL 7:00 PM Bible Study Group 7:00 PM Troop 262 Boy Scouts	28 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Basketball 8:00 PM Basketball	29 5:45 PM Spirit Bells 5:45 PM Supper 6:15 PM JR Bells and Joyful Singers 6:30 PM Wee Praise 7:00 PM Lent Service 7:30 PM Youth Basketball 7:45 PM Chorale 8:00 PM Faith Bells	1 6:00 PM BASKETBALL	2 Loaves and Fishes OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS	3 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Joy Bells 10:00 AM Messenger practice 12:00 PM Richfield Girls Softball Assoc. Practice 2:00 PM FMSC

Memorial Easter Garden

Flower	Color	Quantity	Cost
Lily	White	_____	\$ 6.95
Star Gazer	White/Pink	_____	6.95
Tulip	Lavender	_____	6.75
	Yellow	_____	6.75
	Pink	_____	6.75
Mum	Yellow	_____	9.95
	Lavender	_____	9.95
	White	_____	9.95
	Easter Egg (assorted pastels)	_____	9.95
Hydrangea	Pink	_____	15.50
	Blue	_____	15.50
	Total	_____	\$ _____

Please include your payment with your order. **Checks payable to Oak Grove Lutheran Church marked "Easter Garden."** Your order may be left in the offering plate or in the church office. **Orders must be received by Sunday, March 18.**

Your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin

Phone _____

In Memory or honor of:
