



January 12, 2018

Greetings friends,

As I put away Christmas decorations this year, I decided to do some “Mid-Winter Cleaning”. This is similar to Spring Cleaning in that it goes deeper than just regular weekly cleaning chores.

In the last couple of years I’ve been “downsizing” my Christmas decoration collection. I had several things I haven’t used for years, had no intention of using again, and was ready to let go. As I went through that process, I realized I felt the same way about many other things we’ve been storing in prime spaces within our home.

Last month my siblings and I went through the last of our parents’ things that had been living in two of my closets. Seven good-sized plastic bins and four boxes of old pictures, documents, bookkeeping records and assorted memorabilia were sorted and either tossed or went to live at my sibs homes for them to do with as they wish. The old joke in our family was that Dad loved creating closets and cupboards and Mom loved filling them – a perfect match! Mom had lots of help though, as much of what we went through were indeed photographs of their kids, grandkids and our family vacation adventures. Six kids and 16 grandchildren generate a lot of pictures over 50 years! Our old childhood slides and photographs will be scanned and shared digitally. There are some things about living in the digital age that are really wonderful.

Since Mark and I moved Mom and Dad’s place, we’ve fallen into the habit of just stashing stuff in the nearest open space and thereby losing it for a time because there is basically no rhyme or reason to the exercise. Usually we just know an item is “in a drawer...somewhere”. In that way lays madness, (and also duplicates, triplicates...) my friends. Now is the time to nip that practice in the bud. So we are downsizing - giving away or tossing out what we don’t need and then reorganizing drawer and cupboard spaces. I think this time of year is the perfect time to take on a big project like this because we’re not antsy to be outside. Maybe it will even help these frigid wintertime months pass more quickly.

**This Week at Grace** –Pastor Fred’s message, *Remember Who You Are*, is inspired by Mark 1:4-11. The bell choir will be back in service with their piece, *’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*. Terry Gustason is our liturgist this week with Caleb, Lorijo Lounsberry and Sheri Allen serving as greeters and Jim & Alyce Wirth and Denny & Gini Michel taking a turn as ushers. Our 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade students, along with their teacher, Andrea Jensen will serve as Wheel Chair Captains at Bethany Life this Sunday. As always, worship begins at 9:15 with Coffee Fellowship time immediately following. Sunday school and Confirmation classes will meet at 10:30. Please join us!

### ADULT STUDY

In John 20:51 we read, “These things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.”

You are invited to join us during the Sunday school hour beginning this Sunday as we explore the major themes of the Gospel of John. We will be using the Adam Hamilton study “John: The Gospel of Light and Life.” Each chapter includes a short video by Rev. Hamilton as an introduction.

Please, stop by Fellowship Hall for coffee and a snack, then join the group for study, insight and greater understanding of this important Gospel. If you have questions, contact Rhonda Hampton. All adults are welcome.

**Thank you to Hubert and Raejean Bicklehaupt** for volunteering to help with pew maintenance in 2018 – it sure would be nice to have a few more people to help with this twice monthly chore! Let us know in the office if you'd like to be a part of this helpful ministry chore.

**Candi Holm will be in the sanctuary on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.** to audit the books for Grace Church. If you are the treasurer of an organization with Grace, please bring your books that night. If you are unable to please make other arrangements with Candi by email at [candiholm21@gmail.com](mailto:candiholm21@gmail.com)

**Okay, we have set a date for a Grace Church Family Gathering.** You're invited to join us on **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. for a Valentine Pot-Luck Meal and Games.** We'll hold it at the church in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets will be put on a clipboard and located on the north table just outside the sanctuary in the narthex hallway. The hosts will provide the group games and some "fabulous" prizes. We hope you'll choose to come have a warm, fun time on a cold winter afternoon.

**January 21<sup>st</sup> Wheelchair Captains are:** Suzy Hess, Kevin & Candi Holm, Kevin & Linda Larson

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:** Family and friends of Pat Wilson; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Natalie Tryon; Denny Michel; Julie Jacobson; Sara Dappen; Norman Patti; Sharon Matson; Pam Hillis; Lois Johnson; Cooper Leeman, Taylors in Africa

## News You Can Use

### Sunday, January 14

8:00 AM Trustees

9:15 AM Worship – bell choir

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school and Confirmation

### Wednesday, January 17

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bells

### Sunday, January 21

9:15 AM Worship – choir

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,  
Cathy**