

GRACE NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

OFFICE: (217)522-3965 www.gracelutheran-springfield.org

GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT:

As disciples in Christ, we support our faith community, encourage spiritual growth in everyone, and serve all creation with Christ-like love.

We accomplish this by:

- ◆ *spreading God's Word*
- ◆ *building relationships*
- ◆ *serving the community*
- ◆ *reaching out to those in need*



December 2022

God's greatest gift...

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Pastor's page

The 2022 Stewardship Appeal has been an inspiring learning experience for our Stewardship Committee, as we hope it will now be for you, too. The season of Advent will be an immersion in our theme of *Giving with Grace!* Temple Talks and inserts will be shared the first three Sundays of Advent. A first letter has been mailed, and a second letter will follow mid-month. Our 6:30pm Wednesday Advent worship will be blessed with guests from Grace Food Pantry (Nov 30 Doug McFarlan), Helping the Homeless (Dec 7 Julie Benson), and Washington Street Mission (Dec 14 Kim Ayers).

Sunday, December 18 is our Appeal Sunday, the day every household is asked to offer/return their *Statement of Intent* (you will receive this form in the mail the week of Dec 11). Those who cannot be present may mail theirs to the church at 714 E. Capitol Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62701.

This two-year stewardship program does **not** assume the use of dedicated giving and accounts, so we are bringing together the program and our particular style of giving. For example, let's say your household gives \$100 a week to Grace Lutheran Church. If all of that \$100 goes to Current & Building, then the \$100 figure is your baseline for considering your 2023 offering.

But let's say your household gives \$100 a week to Grace Lutheran Church, and you divide that up:

- \$80 to Current & Building
- \$10 to Food Pantry (dedicated account)
- \$10 to Little Lambs (dedicated account)

It is hoped and assumed that you will continue your giving pattern of directing offering to dedicated accounts in 2023. Support for the food pantry that the 2023 budget may provide (*TBD at the Congregational Meeting on December 11 to Approve a 2023 Budget*), is not there to replace dedicated giving; it is there because additional support is needed. The \$100 figure is also your baseline for considering your 2023 offering.

Grace Lutheran Church is our community of faith because we believe Jesus, and because we see purpose and meaning in the many ways we love our neighbors (a.k.a. ministry). Everyone taking the opportunity to pray, complete and return their *Statements of Intent* is part of how we can grow this faithful ministry, and here is how serious we are about it: a **CHALLENGE GIFT of \$5,000** has been offered to Grace Lutheran Church IF we receive 35 *Statements of Intent* by December 18! We have 106 giving households, so 35 is well within reach.

In the weeks following Appeal Sunday we will continue to keep you updated on how many *Statements of Intent* have been given, and then on Sunday, January 29, 2023 we will celebrate our tally as we share together in a potluck brunch after our Annual Meeting. Watch the flames grow weekly on my stole, as a measurement of the number of *Statements of Intent* given (one flame per *Statement*)!

Finally, thanks be to God for the dedication of the Stewardship Committee of Grace Lutheran Church. Mary Plymire, Laurie Farrell, Carolyn Nelson, Annie Ellis, and Aaron Babel have exemplified teamwork and *Giving with Grace*, and their service to Grace Lutheran Church in this two-year program is so greatly appreciated.
with Grace, Pastor Krieger

SING
SONGS
OF  PRAISE *Notes from the Cantor...*
James 6:18

I am now playing for two different **Christmas Carol singing events** at other churches. I would be happy if Grace people would be able to attend; I know December gets really busy.

Saturday, December 10, at 6:00pm First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 18, at 4:00pm Cathedral of St. Paul (2nd and Lawrence)

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. Students come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making and build a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a college campus. During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles (Festival Choir, Band and Orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and elective classes (such as musical theatre, composition, church music, jazz band, conducting, music therapy). In the evenings, students attend recitals, evening prayer services, and social events with their friends. LSM 2023 takes place at Valparaiso University in Indiana from June 25-July 23 (Full Session) or June 25-July 9 (Half Session) and is open to students who have completed grades 8-12. To learn more, go to lsmacademy.org/about.

Connie and I had the privilege of seeing this great camp in action last summer at the church music conference we attended at Valpo. If you know a student who would benefit from this program, or you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please talk to JB. LSM offers a matching grant program for support that comes from a student's congregation.

JESUS PROMISED TO COME AGAIN. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR MORE THAN 2,000 YEARS, BUT WE'RE CLOSER THAN WE'VE EVER BEEN TO OUR SAVIOR'S RETURN



YOUR HEALTH NEWS **Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer**

Stress Relievers

With holidays right around the corner, I thought some easy stress relievers might come in handy for you. They are as follows:

- Get up 15 minutes earlier in the morning. This can avoid early morning problems.
- Don't rely on your memory write appointments down.
- Make duplicates of your keys and carry one in your wallet or purse. I have done this for quite a while and it comes in handy.
- Be prepared to wait in line. Take a book with you to read while you wait.
- Plan ahead don't let the gas tank get below one quarter of a tank. I've taught our daughters this when they were growing up.
- Limit caffeine.
- I keep a gratitude journal and write down three things I am grateful for every day. This helps appreciate the little good things in life.
- Simplify simplify simplify!!!! I am still working on this one.
- Try the following yoga technique whenever you need to relax. Inhale deeply through your nose to the count of eight. Then, with lips puckered, exhale very slowly through your mouth to the count of 16, or for as long as you can. Concentrate on the long sighing sound and feel tension dissolve. Repeat 10 times.
- Every day, do something you really love and enjoy. This is a lot easier since I've retired. There is more time for enjoyment.
- If you are faced with an unpleasant task, do it early in the day to get it over with; you will no longer have anxiety surrounding that task. I really like this one.
- Forget about counting to 10. Count to 1,000 before saying anything that could make matters worse. It will keep you out of trouble too.
- Have a forgiving view of events and people. Accept what you do and do not have control over.

Easy Tips to
Ditch Your
Holiday Stress

Continues on page 5

YOUR HEALTH NEWS continued...

- Have an optimistic view of the world. Believe that most people are doing the best they can because they really **are** doing the best they can.
- SMILE!!!!!!!!!!

Several of these ideas came from a PDF file from the University of South Carolina at Wilmington

Merry Christmas may your Christmas be full of love and joy!
-Diana

Join us weekly for worship in person or online:

FACEBOOK and YOUTUBE

You can go to either our website at
www.gracelutheran-springfield.org

on Facebook to *Historic Grace Lutheran Church* or to our YouTube Channel: Grace Lutheran Church Springfield IL and you will be taken to a link that will allow you to view the video of the service for the week-end. If you need pastoral assistance please call the church office.

Attendance records Online and In Person

		You Tube	Facebook
Pentecost 21	10/23/2022	59 In-person	
Pentecost 21	10/23/2022	36	44
Pentecost 22 Reformation	10/30/2022	61 In-person	
Pentecost 22 Reformation	10/30/2022	25	71
Pentecost 23 All Saints	11/6/2022	75 In-person	
Pentecost 23 All Saints	11/6/2022	20	83
Pentecost 24	11/13/2022	70 In-person	
Pentecost 24	11/13/2022	15	43
Pentecost 25 Reign of Christ	11/20/2022	58 In-person	
Pentecost 25 Reign of Christ	11/20/2022	29	94

Serving the Assembly in December

December 4

Greeters: Jim & Maurine Orr
Ushers: Frank Beckman &
Paul Derlitzki
Assisting Minister/Reader:
Diana Weyhenmeyer
Communion Assistant: Chuck
Weyhenmeyer
Altar Guild: Diana Weyhenmeyer

December 11

Greeter: Jean Scherer
Ushers: Verne & Carolyn Nelson
Assisting Minister/Reader:
Rosie O'Fallon
Communion Assistant: Pat Ekle
Altar Guild: Deb Smith

December 18

Greeters: Clemons family
Ushers: Kim & Pam Schlicht
Assisting Minister/Reader:
Jan Conrady
Altar Guild & Communion
Assistant: Kim Gietl

Christmas Eve 5:00 pm

Greeters: Gari Hurst & Arlene
Honeycutt
Ushers: Chuck & Diana
Weyhenmeyer, Jack & Judy
Wheaton
Assisting Minister/Reader:
Sara Oehlert
Communion Assistant: Phil
Galloway
Altar Guild: Kim Gietl

Christmas Day 9:15 am

Greeter/Ushers: OPEN
Assisting Minister/Reader: OPEN
Communion Assistant: OPEN



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Grace will offer opportunities to celebrate
Christmas with worship on
Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm
with half hour prelude music.
Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day
we will worship at 9:15 am
January 1 (New Years Day 2nd Sunday of Christmas)
Lessons & Carols

What's in it for Me?

ADVENT IS HERE!

November 30, December 7,14 with dinner beginning at 6:00 pm You are welcome to sign up and bring a soup or sandwich one of the three weeks.

Each night **devotions will follow beginning at 6:30 pm.**

We will also be streaming the devotion time via ZOOM LIVE so you can also join us in that way as well.

Advent DEVOTIONALS

There are Advent devotionals for adults, families and children alike. There are special Advent Candle fold outs for the kids and devotionals with traditions for adults and families. They are on the back window sill of the sanctuary.



Church Decorating Schedule

Week of December 4: Hang evergreen wreaths and bows when they are delivered during the week. (Extra help will be appreciated on the week-day they are delivered. We'll let everyone know when they arrive.) Week of December 11: The Christmas tree will arrive. We will enjoy the simple, natural beauty of an undecorated tree on Sunday 12/11. Sunday, December 11 (following Education hour/Meeting): decorate tree. Sunday January 8 (following Education hour): take down decorations.

Prayers of Grace

Our Prayer Ministry is alive and well and the email responses that many of you have offered to each prayer are uplifting and greatly appreciated by those we pray for. Keep 'em coming! You are an active part of this ministry so feel free to hit "reply all" and add others to the list. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, have updates you want me to add to the "Still in our Prayers" list, or if you want to be taken off of the list just let me know. Thanks, Sara Oehlert In need of prayer? - Call the church office (217) 522-3965 - Email Sara Oehlert at soehlert@aol.com

Stewardship Stories are monthly human-interest pieces that celebrate how God through Grace Lutheran Church has made a difference in peoples' lives. This month we are spotlighting Dick Smith who is definitely a man on a mission to help others with food and housing.

In November, 1979, Dick and his family moved to Springfield and initially joined another Lutheran Church in town. After attending that church for a number of years they decided to look at all of the ELCA churches in town. When they visited Grace, they were impressed with the congregation and with Pastor Christell. After attending a few times, they learned that Grace managed a food pantry. They had talked about this for years and had decided to commit their resources to helping fight hunger and doing what they could in addressing homelessness. When they began doing things for the food pantry it was on a limited basis, since they were both working, but began to do more after they retired. They have bagged soap and sugar, bagged food, handed out food and unloaded trucks. They also give financially to the food pantry and the Central Illinois Food Bank seeing both as vital providers who work well together. I recalled for Dick that years ago when loading groceries into bags I developed a chronic sore shoulder because the cart was too high. The next thing I knew Dick was down there with a tape measure and said he could easily make a shorter cart. He did and I no longer had sore shoulders. I think they still use that cart. Dick really went above and beyond the call of duty! I didn't ask him if he had a favorite carpenter.

**Help
for the
Hungry**

When Habitat for Humanity was building a house in 2005, the main sponsor was the Springfield Education Association.



Debbie got involved since she was working at Franklin Middle School. She and Dick had planned to do the painting in the house when they returned from a trip that summer, but the roof wasn't even on the house. They ended up helping build and paint the house working from August to November. They have helped build nine houses from start to finish and have assisted with a dozen others. Dick has worked with a group of older folks to do the flat work—sidewalks, driveways, and porches. He feels that God has blessed him with the ability to do this type of work. Even though he can't do as much as he used to, he does what he can. His main role now is financial support.

In addition to helping Habitat build houses, Dick has donated tables and chairs to the Washington Street Mission to help people get back on their feet. He has also helped Willie and James by donating money through the church and getting and delivering furniture and appliances to their house. He even installed the stove after a gas leak was fixed.

Giving small amounts of money to many charities is not as satisfying as focusing on two specific goals -- food and housing. He feels like he gets more bang for the buck. Instead of handing out money to people on the street or giving to the many charities seeking help, he looks for something that sets people apart. In different places in the Bible God tells us to love our neighbors. Building houses, furnishing houses and feeding the hungry, are ways that he and Debbie manifest that love.

Laurie Farrell, storyteller



Thanksgiving Basket Blessings

Thank you to those who gave both in honor of loved ones and those who are caring for our community.

Joyce Abrams in remembrance of Bob Abrams

Curt and Valerie Benanti to remember Clara, John & Carolyn Benanti, Edna Nation, Betty & George Clough, Adysen Lowery and Helen Moore

Lorraine Bivin in remembrance of Robert Bivin

Pat Ekle in remembrance of family

Ann Evans in remembrance of Larry Evans

Laurie Farrell to remember loved ones.

Ann Jakowsky in remembrance of Jake and Henry

Corrine Kircher to remember Frank Kircher

John & Debbie Rigg in remembrance of Richard Sjolseth (Debbie's uncle)

Chris & Mary Schofield in remembrance of Sylvia Crawford

Salli Shields in remembrance of Patrick Shields, Pope and McVey families

Betty Webb in remembrance of all loved ones

Ed & Judy Wollet in memory of our siblings

Chuck and Diana Weyhenmeyer in remembrance of family and friends

NOTICE: Annual Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 10:30 am.

Budgets will be ready by the end of November by email, by mail and/or at the back of church.

Sunday, January 29, 2023 10:30 am will be our regular Annual meeting.

Grace Notes Lightning Strike & Building Update

The lightning strike repairs/replacements are almost complete with replacing the Chime Master system, repairing the sanctuary lighting system, and installation and connection of the lightning rod to the ground rods left to do. No specific date has been determined to complete these projects.

The internal lightning suppression system is complete. This suppression system will help to protect the church's inside electrical systems in case of another lightning strike.

The church's current telecommunications system is outdated with the analog phones not integrating well with the digitally based Comcast internet. In addition, there is not building wide internet availability. An upgrade to our current system has been explored by staff and presented to the Property and Administration & Finance will be presented for congregational consideration at the December 11 congregational meeting. With the lightning strike issues either resolved or on schedule, it will be time for the church to continue work that resulted from the 2021 building assessment. Both the Property Committee and the Grace Place Task Force have resumed meeting on that work.



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

BREADLINE SUNDAY—will look like

this. On **December 4** we will have a

noisy offering at the beginning of

worship for St. John's Breadline who serves meals to those in need every day. This is the

36th year for the Annual fundraiser. In 2021 alone they served 153,781 meals. They continue with the mission of mercy and love.

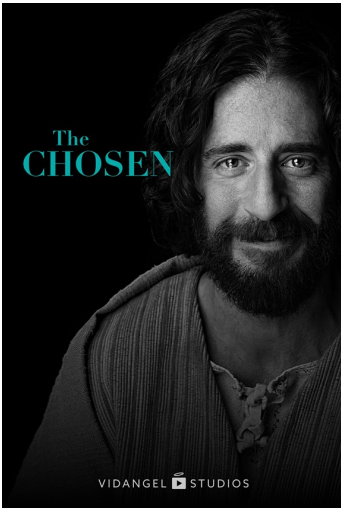
Christian Education News

**Please note there will not be Education Hour
on December 25 or January 1.**

Join us each week at 10:30 am!!

All are welcome!

Sunday school meets on the second floor each week in the large Sunday School room **at 10:30 am.**



GRACE FORUM... please join us **Sundays at 10:30 am** in the fellowship hall as we continue with "THE CHOSEN"

December 11 Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

December 25 & January 1 no Education hours

January 8 back to Education hour 10:30 am

January 29 Annual Congregational Meeting

AWESOME GOD, REMIND ME THAT YOUR GOODNESS
AND LOVE FOLLOW ME ALL MY LIFE.




Brown Bag Bible Study will continue **Thursdays at 12:10pm.** No bible study December 22 or 29. Please join us as we continue studying Exodus.






Servant Opportunities

- Help fund Christmas baskets
- Give gloves, scarves or hats to the trees
- Ring the bell at Scheel's
- Bring change for the noisy offering
- Bake or come pack cookies for our homebound members
- Come and decorate the sanctuary
- Buy a gift for a child at Grace

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<p>Grace Food Pantry will be closed beginning Wednesday Dec 21 and will reopen January 3 from 11:00am—1:00pm</p> <p>The church office will be closed Monday December 26-28 Kim will be checking messages.</p>			<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>6:00pm M Dinner</p> <p>6:30 pm</p>
<p>4</p> <p>9:15 am Worship NOISY OFFERING 10:30 am Education Hour</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 6:00 pm Twisted Stitchers</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:30 pm Circle 6:00pm M Dinner 6:30 pm</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:15 am Worship 10:30 am SCS 10:30 am Budget Meeting 3:00 pm Youth Voices</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 10:30 am Property 1:30 pm Jan Conrady at Concordia Village 6:00 pm Evangelism</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ALL Food 6:00pm M Advent D 6:30 pm</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:15 am Worship Christmas Potluck <i>Blood Pressure checks</i> 4:00 pm Caroling at St. Paul's</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting 11:00-1:00 <i>Food Pantry</i> 12:00 noon Admin & Finance</p>	<p>21</p> 
<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY 9:15 am Christmas Worship</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Office & Food Pantry Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:30 pm Ed Wollet at Concordia Village Office & Food Pantry Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Office & Food Pantry Closed</p>

ER 2022

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DECEMBER 30 Midweek Advent Devotions	1 <i>11:00-1:30 Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:15 pm Choir practice	2 1:00 pm Stewardship	3 Bell Ringing at Scheel's
n Faith/Grace Midweek Advent Advent worship	8 <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:15 pm Choir practice 6:00 pm Jan Conrady	9	10 Washington Place Outing 6:00 pm Caroling with the Lincoln's
Baskets Midweek Dinner Advent worship	15 <i>11:00-1:00 Food Pantry</i> 12:10 pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:15 pm Choir practice	16	17 9:00 am Cookie packing with breakfast
	22 Grace Notes 1:15 pm Choir practice	23	24  4:30 pm Prelude 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
try	29 Food Pantry Closed	30 Food Pantry Closed Wedding Rehearsal	31 NEW YEARS EVE Wedding 5:15 pm 

Love and Greetings from Little Lambs Learning Center, Uganda!

First we would like to wish you the best of the Holiday season, may this special season bring love, warmth and hope to you all as we remember how love came down to us.



We have successfully completed our 3rd term and hope to wrap up our year with an exciting Christmas party for our children. We are preparing a wonderful winter Wonderland for our Little Lambs something they have never experienced before. We do hope to send them home with some Christmas packages that will tide them through the long holidays God willing. And as usual we will be giving them some Christmas gifts this year too!

We are so grateful for all the love and support you have shown our children throughout the years. You have been there through the hard times and the good times.

Our little learning center is not so little anymore as we are currently reaching out to more children in our community in dire need of a quality education. Thanks to Kim we have a Christian curriculum that every parent desires their child to study we have enrolled some older children too and Kim was gracious to send some higher grades to accommodate our older children.

Next year as the Lord leads we would love to start a basic literacy program for the community which will give children who do not come to our school a chance to learn to read and write at least! This was Kristin's dream that every child in this community would get an opportunity to learn how to read and write. This basic literacy program will be held on Saturdays and so we will be taking a leap of faith and laying the foundation for a community hall that will also be the community library open to the kids in the community all in the hope of furthering literacy. This will be the first structure in fulfilling our dream of establishing the Kristin Memorial Academy . May God bless you all as you continue journeying with us. Barbara

MEMBERS HOMEBOUND

DIXIE ALVIES
DOROTHY BAHRE
GLENDA BOWLES
GEORGIANN
BREDEHOFT

BETTY & RC CURRY
GLORIA GAGNON
MARGE HANNER
ELEANOR SAKRIS

BONNIE
SCHATTSCHEIDER
ANN SCHLICHT
CRYSTAL SHADID



We now have over 60 members in our Online Church Directory. We are so thankful for all of you that have signed up and hope we can get 100 percent sign up by the end of January. If you want to and still haven't

signed up, please go to the website address listed below,

"<https://gracelutheranil.ctrn.co/signup.php>"

Fill out the form with as much information as you feel comfortable sharing (name and email is the minimum required to sign up). Please contact Aaron Babel at (aaronbabel@yahoo.com) or Kim Gietl (k.gietl15@yahoo.com) for any questions or problems signing up. For those of you who don't feel fully comfortable with signing up online, we can add you manually to the directory for other members to see. Please seek a member of the evangelism committee Josie Anderson, Aaron Babel, Charlotte Blumle, Jan Conrady, Roberta Volkmann, or Pastor Krieger to provide them with your most current information for the directory and a photo of yourself or let them take a photo, if you're not too camera shy.

A word from Stephen Ministry: Holi-days, Holy Days



God walks among us in Jesus, because God loves us and calls us to renewed relationship. That is the central message of Advent and Christmas. Stephen Ministry is here for you if you need a safe place to work through it all. Confidentiality is an essential in our work. We won't rush you to "don't worry, be happy." We will walk beside you as you explore what is inside you, where your faith is challenged and where it is authentically supportive. To walk with each other is holy ground every day. Advent and Christmas recall us to that holy ground as Jesus comes to walk beside us. Let

us know if we can help you. Your Stephen Ministry team: Cindy Anderson, Jim Hobbs, Susan LeMasters, Sara Oehlert, Lindsey Clemons, Charlotte Blumle, and Jan Conrady.

EACH DAY WE CAN OPEN OUR EYES and KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH US and FOR US

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

As Christ fed the multitudes, the mission of the Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry is to feed the hungry.



FOOD PANTRY *Volunteers*

We thank all the volunteers for their continued support and tolerance of all the weather conditions as we still serve those individual by curbside pick up.

Please give towards the Holiday Food Baskets as you are able as this will help families in our community enjoy a holiday meal.

Your continued support of the Food Pantry is vital in our community, especially this past year.

We cannot begin to thank Doug McFarlan, Randy Heidorn, Wanda Williams for their continued leadership and all those individuals who keep the Food Pantry a vital part of our ministries.

Thank you to all our partner churches including Peace, St. Johns and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches as well as First Presbyterian for their support and the extra gifts of food we received this past week.

We thank JB George and John Rigg for their leadership for our benefit concert which raised \$2560.00 for the Grace Food Pantry. To all the musicians and singers—job well done!

Grace Food Pantry will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 21 and will reopen January 3 from 11:00am—1:00pm.

Have a wonderful holiday season and God's blessings!

DO YOUR THOUGHTS EVER WANDER WHILE YOU ARE PRAYING? TRY PRAYING ALOUD TO KEEP FOCUSED ON YOUR TALK WITH GOD



Holiday Food Baskets have been a long tradition of Grace Lutheran Church. We partner with other Lutheran churches and schools in the area to provide food to help make the holidays a bit better for families in need. Baskets are provided before Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The Christmas schedule will be to build totes and snack bags on Wednesday, Dec. 14, deliver to Jefferson at 10

a.m. that day, deliver to Blackhawk at 2 p.m. that day, Smiths are going to deliver Franklin's 20 on that day, and then we'd have McClernand pick up its 30 baskets on Friday the 16th -- although we could do it all on Wednesday the 14th if that would help anything from Grace's end. Though funded separately from Grace Food Pantry by Grace, Peace Lutheran and St Johns Lutheran, we use obtain the food through the pantry and reimburse it for the costs. We have distributed baskets for Thanksgiving. Please consider donating to the Holiday Baskets, which cost about \$50 per basket. Grace pays for 60 baskets per holiday. That is \$3,000 for each of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Your help is appreciated. Each family receives a tote with about \$50 worth of groceries and personal items, including a ham, milk, bread, eggs, numerous non-perishable cans and boxes of food, and a bag of toiletries. You can support this ministry by donating cash (earmarked for Holiday Food Baskets) and/or the nonperishable foods listed below:

Non-perishable Needs for Holiday Food Baskets:

- * Cans of green beans, corn, peaches, pears, pork and beans, ravioli, and pasta sauce
- * Boxes of spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, saltine crackers, and cereal
- * Jars of peanut butter, jars of jelly (plastic, not glass, please)

Each basket costs \$50 to fill. If you would like to sponsor a basket, or half a basket, to honor someone, or remember someone who is no longer on their earthly journey, please fill out the form below, tear or cut it out and mail it to Grace. We will print your name and the name(s) of those you honor or remember in the January Grace Notes. Thank you for helping this special ministry. Your gift will be recorded on your giving statement.

CHRISTMAS BASKET

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Person(s) Name(s) to honor or remember: _____

Amount of gift: _____

Community Ministry Announcements~



Our annual, **Hats, Scarves and Gloves Christmas Tree** project is on again this year!! Trees are in the fellowship hall. We have usually donated all of the items to McClernand Elementary and Franklin Middle schools. We will be accepting donations through Sunday, January 3, 2022.

We appreciate your continued support of our annual Hats, Scarves and Gloves Christmas Tree project at Grace. Debbie Rigg and Judy Wollet are also willing to pick up those items from your home, just call the church office to schedule. Thank you!

WASHINGTON PLACE CHRISTMAS GATHERING



The 16th annual Christmas get together for the residents of Washington Place will take place on **Saturday, December 10th**. **This year the residents will visit Springfield for a special lunch at 11:00 am at Cracker Barrel and then have tickets gifted for the Nutcracker Suite at UIS for the 2pm show.** There are 12

VIP Backstage passes for 1:15 pm, 2 event parking passes, and 12 tickets. There will probably be 10 attending from Washington Place (including 2 staff) and using their van. Robin hopes to go to the lunch depending on how she is feeling. We will pay for their meals from our committee's funds. Are there some members who would like to attend this? Please let me know as soon as possible. Scott Raper, the Executive Director of Sangamon Auditorium, has been very generous offering these tickets and passes. Please let me know as soon as possible, call Jean at 217-725-0301 or the church office. We wish them a wonderful Christmas Season!!

**Washington Place is a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) operated by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. This particular CILA is designed to meet the very special needs of individuals with a diagnosis of Prader Willi Syndrome. Prader Willi Syndrome is a genetic condition characterized by developmental delay, a sluggish metabolism and a strong, overwhelming compulsion to eat. Management of this condition requires strict calorie control, a very structured schedule and a consistent daily exercise plan.*



SALVATION ARMY

Grace Lutheran church is scheduled to ring the bell at Scheel's **December 3 from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm.** Sign up in the fellowship hall.

THANK YOU

- * We wish to give a heartfelt thank you to Cindy for the new green panels she has made for our worship space.
- * To those extra helpers for the Holiday Food Baskets and the fantastic food deliveries these past weeks.
- * To St. John's Lutheran Church and Our Savior's School for their donation of food and the youth and people who delivered it.
- * To those who helped with Butter braids and to Charlotte Blumle who continues to coordinate this project so well.
- * Those who gave toward the Thanksgiving baskets.
- * All those who have given of their talents of music for worship these past weeks. All the extra efforts have been greatly appreciated and have truly enhanced our worship experience.
- * Thank you to those who walked for the CROP WALK.
- * Leona Garrison for coordinating the wreath delivery.
- * Krone's for their lovely Christmas tree each year.
- * Thank you to Aaron and Jaymie Babel who hand out the bulletins to people who arrive through the ramp door.
- * Thank you Brenda Poston for the lovely altar flowers arrangement after my recent back surgery. I also appreciated all of the calls, emails, texts and cards of well wishes. I'm truly blessed to have my Grace family in my corner. John Rigg
- * Dear Grace Family, Thank you for your love & support for me during the recent loss of a long time friend Vicki Sutton. The prayers, gentle hugs, thoughtful hand on the shoulder with a smile and letting me know you are there. To my chosen family, THANK YOU. Cathy McGuire
- * Thank you to all our members who donated food, finances, their time and talents for the 50 bagged dinner and 50 bagged breakfasts on November 16, 2022 for the Salvation Army Overflow Shelter. We had fun and fellowship shopping, organizing, packing, preparing and delivering the meals. We are thankful that a Thrivent Action Team paid for the food and we used our hands for God's work to love our neighbors! Community Ministry Committee



ALL WOMEN: *Please note the following schedule of things happening in December:*



TWISTED STITCHERS Grace Twisted Stitchers will have our annual Christmas gathering **December 6th**, 6:00 pm at the home of Sharon Knop. Don't forget your grab bag gift!

Faith Grace Circle December 7, 2022 12:30 pm at Grace.



COOKIES It's on again.....we have been given permission to hold our annual "cookies for the homebound" event **Saturday, December 17**. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. followed by everyone packing the cookies. We will need 744 cookies. Everyone in the congregation is invited to supply the cookies.

Your cookies may be brought to the church from Sunday, Dec 11- Saturday Dec 17 9:00. If there is a person to whom you would like to deliver their cookies let Charlotte know (217) 546-5573 or charblume@gmail.com. If you plan to attend the free breakfast please sign up on the reservation sheet on the white board in fellowship hall.

\$10 cookbooks!...We're hopeful you will consider them for Christmas gifts for neighbors, beauticians, teachers, birthday gifts, thank you gifts, etc.



CHURCH BROCHURES for both visitors to worship at Grace as well as tourists of the Lincoln area are outside in the gorgeous box that Jack Wheaton has built and placed in the front garden!

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The November Council meeting was held on November 22 at 6:30 pm

- ◆ Pastor reported on Narcan (overdose medication) container to be put into the parking lot corner for easy access. **MOTION to install – APPROVED**
- ◆ Challenge was extended to Council to be some of the first 35 individuals to turn in letters of intent as a challenge offering of \$5000.00.
- ◆ Temple talks will take place the next three Sundays and be presented online focused on our Stewardship and the ministries of Grace.
- ◆ Annual Budget Meeting December 11, 2022 and Annual Meeting January 29, 2023
- ◆ Online church directory coming along and the website seems to be functioning like it should.
- ◆ Budget right on pace with the year with 83.16% income and expenses on pace as well. A defect budget was voted on for 2022, however we will receive the Grace Trust income bring us into the black.
- ◆ A thank you to Bob Dial for all his continued work on the organ.
- ◆ Youth homelessness group will meet at Grace December 11th.
- ◆ A meal was taken to Overflow shelter November 16th and the Food Baskets went very smoothly.
- ◆ Advent Meals November 30, December 7, 14
- ◆ Next Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30 pm. No meeting in December.

FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2022

Income: \$35,286
Expense: \$33,630
DEFICIT (\$1,656)

YTD 2022

Income: \$305,053
Expense: \$361,231
DEFICIT (\$56,178)

October 2021

Income: \$25,248
Expense: \$29,552
DEFICIT (\$4,304)

YTD 2021

Income: \$288,998
Expense: \$341,088
DEFICIT (\$52,090)

December Birthdays

December 1	Gary Sandidge Jack Wheaton	December 19	Chuck Rehwald
December 2	Scott Mahnken	December 20	Helen Appleton Claire Thannen
December 5	Ann Evans	December 22	Frank Beckman
December 7	John Kennedy	December 23	Claudia Cross
December 8	Olivia Darling	December 24	Joey Klint
December 9	Glenda Bowles	December 25	Kendal Hoselton
December 10	Julie Fugate Otto Von Holten	December 26	Gabriella Behl Monica Dishon
December 13	Barbara Hedden Joann Howe	December 27	Dixie Alvies
December 14	Sara Oehlert Jessica Thannen Sharon Turner	December 29	Wanda Williams
December 15	John Klit Ilse Nunn	December 30	Della Thomas
December 17	Katie Christell David Farrell Dan Hoselton Pastor Tom Krieger	December 31	Mackenzie Schlicht

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and
GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU!



If you miss seeing someone from church...
call them and tell them we miss them. Call or write a note to
someone this Christmas season.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT

Vice President, Randy Heidorn

Treasurer, Brenda Poston

Secretary, Annie Ellis

Administration & Finance: Ed Wollet

Christian Education: Amy Monahan, Jessica Thannen, Mary Plymire

Community Ministry: Randy Heidorn, Annie Ellis, Diana Weyhenmeyer

Evangelism: Josie Anderson, Aaron Babel

Fellowship: Wanda Williams, Mary Schofield

Parish Life: Mary Schofield, Rosie O'Fallon

Property: Mark Anderson

Stewardship: Mary Plymire, Aaron Babel, Annie Ellis

Strategic Planning: Ed Wollet

Worship & Music: Wanda Williams, Randy Heidorn, Rosie O'Fallon

Youth: Julian Janssen

REMINDER: Committee chairs and/or secretaries please stop at the work room every week so that you can sign off on transactions vouchers.
Thank you for giving your time.

Church in Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Please call the church office for any information. Phone (217) 522-3965

Grace Food Pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
11:00 am– 1:00 pm



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Merry Christmas and a blessed, safe
New Year from the Staff of Grace!

Rev. Tom Krieger

JB George

Diana Weyhenmeyer

Aaron Von Holten

Kim Gietl