

# grace notes

November 2017

## NOVEMBER = SERVING

### LOTS of Opportunities to SERVE

November is traditionally the month that we emphasize the joy of SERVING.

Here are **LOTS of opportunities to share God's grace** with LOTS of people - both locally and globally - as we engage in LOTS of SERVING events during November.

May we continue our mission of being 'a ministry of grace in the heart of Andover . . . and beyond' in LOTS of ways, sharing LOTS of God's love!

### GRACE 4 RAKAI

During worship on Nov. 4/5, we will highlight our outreach ministry to Rakai, Uganda. Ann Hill (from FMSC) will share LOTS of stories and photos from her recent trip to Rakai. Also, there will be LOTS of opportunities to support children in Rakai: through monthly sponsorship for education, by purchasing hand-crafted items from Uganda, or through one-time donation for items needed at the School-Dormitory we are helping to construct.

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Join our marathon packing on Nov. 17/18 as countless volunteers (hopefully 500) will pack meals at FMSC. Please bring LOTS of friends with you (co-workers, choir members, your hockey team, etc) as we pack LOTS of meals! Also, this will be an opportunity to bid farewell to Pastor Mark and Jeannie at a reception after each packing session.

Friday - Nov. 18      6-7:30 pm / 8 - 9:30 pm  
Saturday - Nov. 19    9 - 11 am / 11:30 - 1:30  
                                 2 - 4 pm / 7 - 9 pm

LOTS of M&M tubes will be handed out at worship Nov. 4/5. Enjoy the candy - then please refill the tube with quarters (or bills or checks) for FMSC. \*Please bring your filled M&M tubes to FMSC when you pack meals on Nov. 17/18.



### FAMILY PROMISE

Grace hosts Family Promise guests, local families experiencing homelessness, the week of Nov. 26 - Dec. 3. LOTS of volunteers will serve in various ways: sleep overnight for security, drive the van to transport guests, cook dinner, donate supplies, or assist children with activities. Please join

other Grace volunteers in sharing LOTS of God's grace through Family Promise ministry.

### LOVE OF GRACE BAZAAR

LOTS of volunteers will make the Grace Bazaar a grace-filled event again this year! And we hope LOTS of people (yourself included) will attend this annual holiday craft bazaar 9am - 3 pm Saturday Nov. 11. Proceeds will support The Sheridan Story at Sand Creek Elementary School, to provide needed nourishment for children on weekends.

### STEPPING STONE GIFT BAGS

This all-church effort will bless LOTS of local individuals in need, as we create 'Gifts of Grace' gift bags for the residents at Stepping Stones Emergency Housing in Anoka. Take a reusable Target bag from the narthex, then fill it with the LOTS of requested basic-need items and small Christmas gift. Please return filled gift bags by Sun. Dec. 10.



## Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Senior Pastor .....Mark Hellmann  
Ext. 110 .....markh@graceandover.org

**Visitation Pastor**.....Delwayne Hahn  
Ext. 105 ..delwayneh@graceandover.org

Dir. of Outreach & Women Ministries  
.....Jeannie Hellmann  
Ext. 109 .....jeannieh@graceandover.org

Dir. of Youth Ministry.....Kristi Larson  
Ext. 100 .....kristi@graceandover.org

Coord. of Youth Ministries.....Tom Baker  
Ext. 123 .....tomb@graceandover.org

**Coord. of Rockin' Kids Bible Club**.....Monica Allen  
Ext. 116..... monicaa@graceandover.org

**Director of Children's Ministries**.....Kristin Lowe  
Ext. 112..... kristinl@graceandover.org

**Dir. of Worship & Music**.....Jonathan Orwig  
Ext. 113 .....jonathano@graceandover.org

Church Administrator .....Kate Morpew  
Ext. 102 .....katem@graceandover.org

**Dir. of Grace Choir**.....Doreen Hutchings  
doreenh@graceandover.org

Accompanist.....Justin Cook

Secretary .....Kris Miller  
Ext. 101 .....krism@graceandover.org

Bookkeeper .....Beth Clarstrom  
Ext. 111 .....bethc@graceandover.org

**Parish Nurse**.....Lily Tunby/ Lori Ackerson  
Ext. 100.parishnurse@graceandover.org

Head Custodian.....Mark Kempenich  
Ext. 117 ..... mark@graceandover.org

Custodian.....Cheri Schaaf

Dir. Of Golden Rule Child Care Center....Tami Mielke  
421-1996 .....tamim@graceandover.org

## Vision Board Members

Doug Hanson (Pres.)	Deb Stang
Scott Christensen (V.P.)	Alden Riley
Lynn Noren (Secretary)	Johnna Rohmer-Hirt
Deb Shepard	

*If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit [graceandover.org](http://graceandover.org) and click on leaders*



### In Thanks....

Dear Grace Members & Friends:

I want to thank everyone at Grace for their prayers while I was ill and recovering. I know that prayer works!

Also, thank you so very much to all of the people who came down to my home to help weed and clean up my yard during the Gifts of Grace 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary week-end. What a gift and a blessing that was to me. I know it was hard work. You all show what Grace is all about. Your kind and loving thoughtfulness will forever be in my heart. God Bless each and every one of you.

*With Love, Cathy Stoll*

### PRAYERS TO CELEBRATE

We celebrate with the newly baptized;  
Kinsley Mae Roinestad-Olson,  
daughter of Tara Roinestad and Timothy Olson  
Yini Alexandra and Pete Justice,  
children of Alexander and Christiana Gandah

### PRAYERS TO HEAL

We pray for comfort and healing:  
Jerry Fischer, Deanna Brayton, Tyler Emberland,  
Sophia Carlson, LaVonne Goodell, Mike Berg,  
Lynda Leonard, Sue Barker, Rodney Voss,  
Christina Midkiff, Lenix Greig, Jacob Welle,  
Steve Gfroerer, Nate Gfroerer, Bennett Ruud,  
John Malecha, Heidi Houghtaling, Judi Wold,  
Denise McLain, Lu Henning

We keep in our hearts and prayers the families  
with recent loss of:  
Larry Sohr



## Vision Board Message

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." — Corrie ten Boom*

When we find ourselves in a time of change, it is easy to be fearful, it is certainly something I am guilty of in life. However, our God is so much bigger than that. He always has a plan and in my life, most often the end-result of His plan is much better than anything I can imagine. Pastor Mark and Jeannie Hellmann are beloved members of our Grace community and for me it is so hard to think about Grace without them! We have in a sense, **been a family for the past 22 years, so it's like** losing beloved family members. Amidst our sadness is a profound gratefulness and excitement for them as they move to this new chapter in their lives.

I can remember when Pastor Mark and Jeannie came to Grace---many members of Grace were uncertain then because we were facing change, and just look at how God has blessed us in that change. I trust that God has a plan for Grace that will bring new talents, relationships and blessings for our congregation. **We will grow in the "newness" of God's evolving plan for Grace.**

Over the next several weeks, our time with Pastor Mark and Jeannie should be a time of celebration **and an opportunity to say "Thank You!" for their** ministry with our congregation. There will be many opportunities to gratefully celebrate, in addition to our Octoberfest event to recognize the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. During the weekend of November 18th and 19th, we will join together in volunteering to serve at **Feed My Starving Children. Our greatest "Thank You" to** Pastor Mark and Jeannie would be to have 500 people pack meals on that weekend! Be sure to bring the whole family, inviting friends and relatives to help pack meals for starving children around the world! Finally, we will cap off the weekend with a special event to thank Pastor Mark and Jeannie.

The Vision Board is working with the synod to plan for an *intentional interim ministry*, an in-between time when the former pastor has left and a new pastor has not yet been called. While we know this can be a time of uncertainty, it will also

be a time where we can reaffirm our sense of identity and mission and gain clarity about how God is leading Grace. Intentional Interim pastors are specially trained to help congregations navigate this interim time, serving fully as our pastor, while also working with us to discover where and how God is calling our congregation in the next step of ministry together. We are hopeful to complete an interview process and select an Interim Pastor by mid-November and install them into service at Grace by the end of November.

We will soon be forming a Transition Team that will formally begin the process of planning for **Grace's future and to be an intentional support to** the Interim Pastor. Throughout these changes, you can expect the Vision Board to have open communication about the process and where we are at. We too, are feeling the loss, but are planning and praying together, confident that God will provide and continue to nurture and care for our church in this time of transition.

One thing we are sure of, is that God has a plan for our church. The church is us! Over the 50 years Grace has been ministering to our community, staff members have come and gone, but what is **constant, is God's work in and through us. Please join us in prayer for God's wisdom and guidance as we grow in the "newness" of God's evolving plan for Grace.**

If you have questions regarding the transition and call process, please check the website or email [transition@graceandover.org](mailto:transition@graceandover.org)

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Noren  
Vision Board Secretary





## Pastor Mark's Final Grace Notes Remarks



It seems so strange to think in terms of "I have only..." this past month: 1 more Vision Board meeting, 3 more sermons, 3 more adult classes, 1 more all staff meeting, 1 more wedding, and a few articles for the newsletter, and then my ministry at Grace will be complete! I'm not counting things down

because I want it all to be done, but I feel like the moment I come to the end of my regular jogging route and wonder whether I'll have enough for a final burst of speed.

So many people have asked me how I'm feeling as I retire. Frankly, I don't know. I've never done this before. I remember leaving my church in Grand Rapids, Michigan to move here and begin my call at Grace. It was a bittersweet: leaving some deep friendships, letting go of the hopes and dreams I carried, and celebrating all the wonderful moments of grace I had been given. Yet, it was exciting because of new possibilities and opportunities.

Retirement is bit different and yet, the same. It is bittersweet as I leave friendships which have sustained me as I grew and developed as a pastor, a husband and as a father. It is challenging to say, "good bye" to wonderful and talented staff members who have walked along side me through the good and tough moments of ministry. Retirement is a release as I let go of the goals and dreams I still have for Grace, and trust God to bring the right pastor to carry on the ministry of Grace in the years to come. Finally, retirement is exciting as Jeannie and I learn a different way to live and serve.

I am so thankful for this church. You allowed me to grow, experiment, try, and dream in so many ways. I am a different person and pastor from the one who came here with a wife, five young children and two cats more than twenty-two years ago. I believe I understand grace and God's love in a deeper and more meaningful way. Much of that is due to the ways in which we've tried to live out our name and be a

ministry of grace to everyone who comes in our doors. This church is unique in so many ways, and I'm thankful for the ways in which God has stretched, changed, and transformed us by his love.

My prayers will continue for you and the leadership of the church. These next couple of years of transition will not be easy. It will be a time of inward examination to discover once again, what are the important elements and values of Grace. It will be months of discerning what specific skills, abilities, and spiritual temperament you will need in your next pastor. But more importantly, it will be a period of trusting each other, as you patiently wait for the process to be complete. And, finally, it will be a **moment of trusting God's Spirit as you call your new pastor.**

One word about the Interim Pastor, trust them to help you through the initial steps of finding a new Senior Pastor. Being an Interim Pastor is not easy, but fortunately, the person who will step in is trained, experienced, and called to this kind of ministry. If you welcome him or her just as you welcomed me, then everything will be good.

Finally, thank you for these years we have shared in the ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond. I am forever grateful for what God has done. I end with two scripture passages, both from the first chapter of Philippians:

*"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."  
Philippians 1:6*

*"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.  
Philippians 1:9-11*

In Him,

Pastor Mark



## A Note from Pastor Steve McKinley

Congratulations to Grace Lutheran Church on fifty years of ministry in the heart of Andover! I was eager to be in your midst to deliver that message in person on September 10, but a little health problem cropped up and before that day was over, I was a patient at Methodist Hospital. (It was only a 24 hour stay!) I missed being with you.

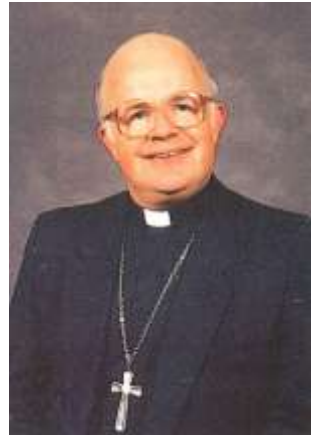
I missed you, because we all remember with fondness the kindness of Grace. We lived through some exciting years together, times of great change in Andover and great change for Grace. It was a privilege to share that with you. I thought of myself as the coach; the people of Grace were the team doing mission out on the field, and you made me look good.

Had I been with you on September 10, I would also have wanted to tell you this: when a pastor leaves a church, the pastor wonders what will happen next in that place and who the next pastor will be. I wanted to tell you that you chose well. Mark Hellmann is exactly the kind of pastor I was hoping would come along to lead the next chapter in the life of Grace. His creativity, his energy, his abilities...just what I was hoping for. I am an old traditional guy. I do traditional fairly well, if I do say so myself. Grace did not need traditional. It needed Mark.

And, had I been there in person, I would have given you a quick update on the McKinley family.

- \* After leaving Grace I spent eleven years as senior pastor of House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield, retiring from parish ministry in 2005, after which I spent ten years working half-time at Luther Seminary helping to coordi-

nate the internship program. I have been fully retired for two years. Pat and I still live in the Eagan house we moved to when we left Andover. In recent years Pat has become quite a potter, and produces some wonderful pieces. I keep from rusting up by doing supply preaching. We belong to Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul.



- \* Jill works for Optum Health Care and lives in Eden Prairie. She is a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.
- \* Kirk works for Ameriprise and his wife Angie works for the American Institute of Architects. They are the parents of our delightful grandchildren Luke (11) and Eliza (7) and live in Bloomington, where they belong to Christ the King Lutheran Church. Kirk has served several terms as congregational president there.
- \* Meg is employed by Lifeworks, Incorporated, at Innovative Office Systems in Burnsville. She lives with Pat and me, attends Augustana, socializes with Kota Connections, and is a big fan of cruises.

Again, congratulations on the fifty- year mark! I can hardly wait to see what God is up to next in Andover!

Pastor Steve McKinley

grace  
remember • rejoice • renew



## Children's Ministries



### THE HEART OF SONDAY SCHOOL

Orange is a strategy for guiding our families. When we combine Red, which is the love of family, with Yellow which is the light of the church, we create Orange which combines the strength of each. Orange teaches children who God is. When home and church work together, we are much more effective in helping children know they are loved by God, called by God, and saved by God.

#### SONday School Offerings

Each week we will be taking offering; encouraging children to develop the habit of generosity.

#### Birthday Offerings

During each large group session we will recognize birthdays. Children are encouraged to bring a coin for each year to put in the Birthday Bank. This offering will go towards buying flocks of chicks donated through Heifer International. Watch our chicks add up! Summer Birthdays will be recognized in April and May.

Family Worship Sundays ~ Nov. 5 & Dec. 3

**NO SONDAY SCHOOL NOV. 26**

*SONday School needs a few more helping hands, please consider....*

⇒ We are looking for 3 teachers at 9am. Our curriculum is designed to make it easy for you. All the materials you need to teach your lesson are provided.

### ROCKIN' KIDS BIBLE CLUB

We are off to a great year as we learn about making choices. In November, we will explore choosing to work together, pray for others, and to trust God as learn about Bible heroes Nehemiah, Esther, and Job.

Important dates for RKBC

November 5 – RKBC will sing in Worship.

November 8 – Bible Discovery Night – Grades 2-5 need to bring their Bibles

November 15 – Malt Night

November 22 – No RKBC, Thanksgiving Break, come for worship and pie!

### BAPTISM WORKSHOP November 5th at 9 am

Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith. During the Baptism Workshop, we will learn how God is at work in baptism and in our daily lives. We will share insights with you to help you, as you help your child know and love God, by creating habits and **traditions that will make God a part of your family's** every day life.

Baptism Sunday is November 19th at either the 9 or 10:30 am Worship Service. Baptisms can be scheduled for almost any Saturday night at 5 pm. We will not schedule any baptisms in Advent (December).

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ~Dec. 10 @3:30 pm

Info for Grades 2-5 will go home by November 5th.

Kids wanting a speaking or non-speaking part for the program need to return their contracts by Nov. 13.

Scripts will be given to kids on November 19.

Rehearsal: Sat. Dec. 2, 9-11 a.m. This rehearsal is for children with speaking and non-speaking parts only.

Rehearsal: Sat. Dec. 9, 9-11 a.m.. This rehearsal is for Grades 2-5.

Program: Sunday, Dec. 10 3:30p.m. (Please have children here by 3pm)

PreK & K will rehearse during large group. Info about songs and finger plays will come home in November.





## Youth Ministries

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

Please pray for our  
60 Middle School Camp Okoboji travelers  
November 10-12<sup>th</sup>!



### DOUGHNUTS W/ KRISTI & T BAKES!

Need a little extra  
spring in your step  
on Sunday  
mornings? Kristi  
and Tom host  
doughnuts in their  
office EVERY  
SUNDAY from 9:50-  
10:30!

### NEW HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP FOR ALL 9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS!

Come and hang out with your friends, eat snacks, play games, and have a great discussion about God and your faith! High School Youth Group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7:00pm-8:30pm! No need to sign up – just stop on by portable 2. Fun and games begin at 7:00 and the discussion starts at 7:30pm.

Upcoming gathering times: 11/7; 11/21; 12/5; 12/19

### BIBLE STUDY SMALL GROUP FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS!

Join your 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade peers at Caribou coffee across the street from church the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7pm! (Nov. 14; Dec. 12) We meet to connect with one another and to discuss life as a junior or senior, how God is at work in our future, faith, and the Bible. Bring your questions about God and faith!

No Catechism November 22<sup>nd</sup>!  
Come to worship at 6:30 and pie social  
to follow!

### SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND SERVICE DAY & ROLLED ICE CREAM

November 4; 11:45am - 4:30pm

Kick off November right by spending a few hours volunteering at Second Harvest Heartland – one of the largest food distribution centers in Minnesota! Volunteers repackage bulk foods such as pasta, cereal, potatoes, rice into family size packages, sort food from food drives and donations, or label canned goods. These items go to our nearly 1,000 partner agencies, including food shelves and feeding programs that serve our hungry neighbors. After – head over for a tasty treat of rolled ice cream! For more information or to register go to [www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org).

### SUMMER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Are you in High School and interested in traveling with us this summer? Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to join us on the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas! Over 30,000 students from all over the country will meet together to worship, serve, and learn about how God is at work in us, the Houston community, and our world! We also will hear the stories of people from all over the world tell us about the challenges and joys of their community. The dates of the trip are June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Interested? You must act fast! The deadline to sign up is November 4<sup>th</sup>! For more information on what the ELCA Youth Gathering is about, how much it costs, and details on the trip go to [www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)!

### DECEMBER/JANUARY SAVE THE DATES!

Middle School Christmas Party – Friday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>; 7-9  
High School Christmas Party – Friday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>; 8-11  
Mini Stretch for Middle Schools– Thursday Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>  
Mayham – Middle School Lock In – January 19<sup>th</sup>

More information on these events coming soon to  
[www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)



## Outreach Ministries



### THE “LOVE OF GRACE” BAZAAR

Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 am – 3 pm.

*Shop Creative Handmade Crafts*

Proceeds will fund The Sheridan Story at Sand Creek Elementary in Coon Rapids, providing nourishment for children on weekends



### “GET YOUR HAIR NET ON”

Join hundreds of Grace volunteers (hopefully 500) at Feed My Starving Children on Nov. 17 and 18 as we “Get our Hair Nets On” and pack meals together! Packing meals is fun and easy, and FMSC will train all volunteers at each shift. We will truly make a difference in this world, especially in the lives of starving children!

This is our annual marathon serving event at FMSC so plan to join us Friday night or Saturday – or BOTH! This will also be a celebration as we bid farewell to Pastor Mark & Jeannie as they retire. So please join us at FSMC and “get your hairnet on”

Friday, Nov. 17	6 – 7:30 pm
	8 – 9:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 18	9 – 11 am
	11:30 am – 1:30 pm
	2 – 4 pm
	7 – 9 pm

Register on line at [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org), sign up on blue opportunity pages, or call the church office (763) 421-6520. Children are welcome to join this event, but must be 5 years or older per FMSC age requirements. FMSC warehouse is located at 401 S. 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW, Coon Rapids.



### Share God’s Grace this Christmas “ADOPT A FAMILY”

Would you like to share God’s grace in a very tangible and REAL way this Christmas? Then please consider ‘adopting’ a local family who will be truly blessed by your generosity. Through our Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School, we will connect families from our church with local students and families in need.

#### Details about ‘Adopt a Family’:

- During December, you will be assigned a specific family for which you’ll be given the age and gender (but not names) of each family member, along with clothing needs and a wish list for a toy or book.
- Then you’ll shop for your ‘adopted’ family and bring the gifts to Grace. The school staff will deliver gifts to your ‘adopted’ family by Christmas.

If you’re interested in adopting a local family this Christmas, please contact Amy Kemp (612) 749-5201 [a.m.kemp@comcast.net](mailto:a.m.kemp@comcast.net)





## Outreach & Adult Ministries



### **'GIFTS of GRACE'**

for those experiencing homelessness

Please join our outreach efforts as we provide "Gifts of Grace" for residents at Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in Anoka at Christmas.

Pick up an empty Target bag in the church narthex. All instructions are on the bag to guide you in purchasing basic care items for a Stepping Stone resident, and each bag is clearly labeled for male or female recipient. Please return your filled Target bag to the church narthex by Sunday, Dec. 10th.

These "Gifts of Grace" bags will be given to Stepping Stone residents at Christmas time to encourage them as they strive for independence. Stepping Stone Emergency Housing is the only shelter in Anoka County that accepts single adults experiencing homelessness. The facility, located in the Cronin Building (on former State Hospital grounds), serves 66 single adults by providing emergency housing and support to youth and adults, 18 years and older. Stepping Stone also provides mentoring and life skills training for the residents as they strive towards self-sufficiency.

Last month, Stepping Stone Emergency Housing had 238 individuals on their waiting list. The need is great, so we pray that these "Gifts of Grace" will truly bring blessings and hope for many people experiencing homelessness in our local community.



### **OLD KIDS (OK) @ PLAY OUTING**

OK@PLAY! The new "not so senior" group at Grace, invite you to join our holiday event. (This event is not just for OK (Old Kids) @ PLAY members, but for any adults/members/friends of Grace!)

LYRIC ARTS in Anoka  
Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm

We will be attending "Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings", a "fun revue, chockfull of Christmas standards and classic harmonies." The story line is based in the 1950's when a singing group is broadsided on the way to their first big show. They find themselves harmonizing all the way to the Pearly Gates, but then a miracle happens!

Come join us for the show and/or dinner beforehand!

In order to get the group rate (\$22.50 a ticket), we must have at least 15 tickets ordered. Money and the final number is due mid November, so please make sure you register on the blue sheet or contact Deb Stang at 763.427.3252. Invite friends...and plan on having a "blast to the past" with the OK (Old Kids) @ PLAY!

### **MEN'S OPPORTUNITIES**

BWW Connection - 1st Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm  
Men's Gab & Grub - 3rd Sat. at Baker's Square 8am  
Bible Studies on Mon. 6:30am or Sat. @ 8am

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Please join us as we wrap our heads and hearts around the theme "Let Go & Let God"! Together we'll savor good food, supportive friendships and growing faith - all wrapped up in God's love!

Date: Jan. 26 -Jan. 28, 2018  
Time: Arrive at camp between 6-8 pm (We'll arrange car-pooling). Depart 12pm.  
Place: Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI Includes all meals and lodging (bed linens and towels provided)



## Advent Wreath Event

### ADVENT WREATH MAKING EVENT

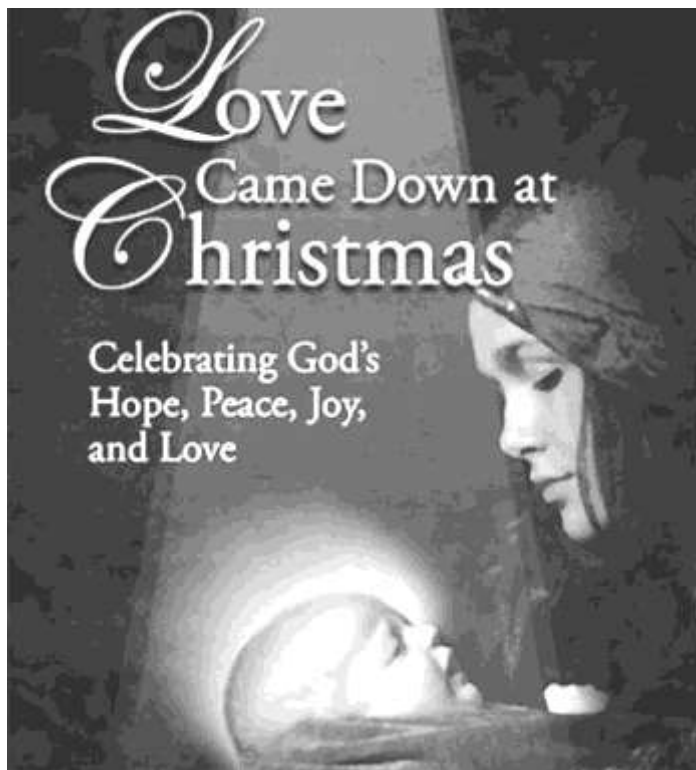
Sunday, December 3rd 5-7pm

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share **and we'll enjoy an old-fashioned potluck at 5 pm (green Jell-o anyone?). Then we'll create our advent wreaths and conclude the evening with singing carols together.**

The Advent wreath kit, including candles and evergreens, will be provided for a cost of \$12. Please bring your own pruning shears or scissors, and also decorations such as ribbon, pine cones, etc.

The advent wreath in our homes will be a reminder **to prepare our hearts for Christ's birth.** As we light another candle each week, and as we share in family devotions around the advent wreath, we will focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Please join us as we make our Advent Wreaths. Sign up on the opportunity pages in bulletin or call the church office 763-421-6520. For more information, please contact Jessie Crooks, [JessieRCrooks@gmail.com](mailto:JessieRCrooks@gmail.com)



### Love Came Down at Christmas GRACE CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA Sunday, December 17 during worship

Join the Grace Choir as we present "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Joel Raney. We will be performing this cantata on Saturday, December 16 at the 5:00pm worship service and again on Sunday, December 17 at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30.

This is an invitation to all singers (experienced and not experienced) to join us for the Advent and Christmas season. The Grace Choir meets from 6:45-8:15pm on Wednesday evenings with extra rehearsals on Saturday, 11/18 and 12/ 2 from 10am-noon. On Saturday December 16 we will gather at 2:30pm for a dress rehearsal for the program that evening.

If you have questions please feel free to contact Doreen Hutchings or Jonathan Orwig. Come and lift your voices as we prepare a place in our hearts for the Prince of Peace!



## Finances at a Glance

### As of Week 42

OFFERINGS	2012	2013	2014	2015		2016	2017
Operational	\$550,752.16	\$522,796.46	\$528,723.48	\$537,687.58		\$540,682.94	\$564,881.15
Capital	\$78,049.00	\$69,520.00	\$64,655.00	\$58,598.50		\$64,892.16	\$60,244.00
Other (Holiday)	\$26,633.84	\$18,448.12	\$14,709.29	\$13,218.72		\$16,158.48	\$17,038.88
Free 2B Grace	\$0.00	\$138,243.00	\$150,960.50	\$141,292.00		\$122,856.16	\$102,997.00
Total:	\$655,435.00	\$749,007.58	\$759,048.27	\$750,796.80		\$744,589.74	\$745,161.03

YTD Noisy Offerings collected & dispersed = \$21,918.36

YTD Benevolence dispersed = \$42,534.19

YTD General Operating expenses = \$685,878.37

YTD Mortgage paid = \$125,460.00

*\* if you would like a copy of the current month-end report, please contact Kate Morphew or Beth Clarstrom.*



## THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP & PIE SOCIAL

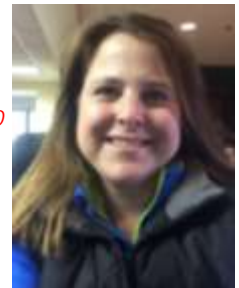
Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 pm

Pie Social is immediately following worship. Our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service is a wonderful time to reflect on the many blessings we have received as a nation, a church and a family. We hope you will join us as we Worship and give thanks to God, then enjoy a time of fellowship with our Grace family and friends and have some great pies too.



## GET TO KNOW GRACE STAFF

Beth Clarstrom



*Do you have a furry friend? If so how many and what kind?*

Vincent, my boxer

*What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?* Walking my dog

*One thing you cannot live without?* Hate to say it, but my calendar

*What is your favorite place to be?* Anywhere vacationing with my husband

*Tell us a fun fact about you?* I look at the clock at 3:11 every day ...same time I was born

*What is your favorite line from a movie, book or TV show?* From *Meet the Robinson's* "I have a big head and little arms. I'm just not sure how well this plan was thought through". Makes me laugh every time.

*Where did you grow up?* Menomonee Falls, WI





# Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304

(763) 421-6520

*A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!*

[www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)

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## November



Saturday, November 4 -

Baptism Workshop

Saturday, November 4 -

High School Youth Second Harvest Event

Sunday, November 5 -

Family Worship Weekend

Tuesday, November 7 -

Anoka Hennepin ISD #11 Election

Tuesday, November 7 -

High School Youth Group

Fri-Sun, November 10-12 -

Middle School Okoboji Retreat

Saturday, November 11 -

### **Veteran's Day**

Saturday, November 11 -

Love of Grace Bazaar

Saturday, November 17 -

Feed My Starving Children Marathon Pack

Saturday, November 18 -

Feed My Starting Children Marathon Pack

Saturday, November 18 -

Farewell Celebration for Pastor Mark & Jeannie

Sunday, November 19 -

Last Day of Worship with Pastor Mark

Tuesday, November 21 -

SALT Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, November 22 -

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social

Sunday, November 26 -

Family Promise Week