

grace notes

December 2016

Christmas at Grace

It begins with Advent - Don't Rush the Promise!

Special Advent Services	Christmas Eve Worship	Christmas Day Worship
Dec. 10 & 11 ~ during worship Advent Choral Services	2pm & 4pm Family Christmas 7pm Contemporary Candlelight	10am Sunday Quiet Communion Service
Dec. 18 ~ 2pm Children's Christmas Program	9pm & 11pm Traditional Candlelight	

ADVENT AT GRACE

December... it's all about the rush to Christmas. **It's a month of the hectic preparations we find ourselves in, like expectant parents in the last month waiting for the birth of their first child. It's a hard month!**

There is so much to do! We want to avoid the last minute rush. There are cards to be addressed and mailed. Our homes wait to be decorated, both outside and inside. Packages and gifts have to be bought and wrapped, while we also try to bake cookies and prepare other Christmas treats. Then there are trees to be bought and decorated! Family gatherings have to be planned. Whew! It is a rush to the finish line!

In all this busyness, we invite you to take time to come to church each week and pause for just an hour or so to worship and avoid the rush. Each week we will look at how God's people waited for the promise of the Savior of the world to be born. Perhaps we too can use these weeks of waiting, to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas once more.



CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

For those who are new to Grace, we celebrate **Christmas in a "BIG way."** We have five different worship services on Christmas Eve to give everyone an opportunity to include worship amidst all the family activities.

The first two are early Family Services (2 & 4 pm) **which offer an extended children's sermon and a special gift for children.** The next service (7 pm) **has a more "contemporary" feel to it, as well as candlelight singing.** The last two (9 & 11 pm) services will be joyous traditional candlelight services with lots of special choral music. And after **the "BIG" celebrations of Christmas Eve, we** gather in the quiet of Christmas morning to share

the story of the Shepherds, and gather around the **Lord's Table for a reflective "Quiet Communion" service (10am).**

**Please note, Christmas is on a weekend this year. There is NOT worship at 8am, 9am and 10:30am on Sunday, Christmas Day. Join us Christmas morning at 10am for a "Quiet Communion" service.*

Pastor Mark's Remarks

God's Promise IS for Everyone... even in Rakai!

It is one thing to talk and preach about God's Promise for everyone. But it is an entirely different matter to experience it! I'm talking about the joy and excitement at seeing firsthand, the ways God is working in Rakai, Uganda.

People have asked Jeannie and I about our trip and I find myself at a loss. I met so many people and witnessed countless ways of how God is working through the sponsorship of children, the Amazing Grace Bakery, the new school, and the Hope Again Women Project. The overriding sense was hope – **hope that comes from God's promise of rescue, redemption, and restoration.**

Perhaps the best way of sharing it is to share part of the email I wrote to Richard Mutaawe soon after our return:

*Dear Richard,
Just a short word to express a large amount of thanks for our wonderful visit we had with you, Johnson, the RODI staff, and all the children! My heart is so full of so many emotions – gratitude, thanksgiving, praise, **compassion, and hope. I can't seem to get my mind and heart around it all. So many people at Grace want to know how our trip went. I find it challenging to adequately express and describe all that we experienced. I also realize that I will never sum up all that happened, as well as how wonderful the ministry you and Richard, with the counsel of Ann, have developed. All I can say is: "Praise God for giving you the vision, fortitude, strength and passion to be his instruments of healing and grace! I admire you and what God has done through you!"***

I really meant what I wrote, for what impressed me the most was the vision of reclaiming and restoring the lives of children. It seems that the real hope of Rakai lies in the many children who are being lifted up from poverty through education and a strong Christian community of support. The intention of the ministry is to educate and help the children grow up with a skill or college education to be re-invested in



the Rakai community. It is a multi-generational ministry that will take years to fully succeed. But in the meantime we saw little glimpses of success!

What has been the impact? Perhaps it would be good for me to share the email I got back from Richard that might further help you understand the meaning of our trip.

*Dear Pastor Mark, my brother
Thank you for this email! You can be sure I have looked at it every day ever since I got it. I am glad we shared a moment here in Uganda with your dear wife and the rest of the group. We were so happy you came over to visit with us and to see firsthand what God is doing in Rakai, but also see the 'huge field' ready for harvesting!*

My heart still brings fresh memorable events during the trip but the most outstanding is the dedication of the land and the school. I see well that circle with all people, and God, represented, with the water pouring by your hands. May God continue to guide us on our positions in His work in the near and far future.

I did Skype with Ann this afternoon and God continues to amaze me! 14 more kids sponsored and so much from sales! We are so thankful for our relationship with the Grace family. So many kind hearts!!! We have started roofing the Grace Block - moving closer to that opening. We are trusting God for all the provisions and for each step.

As we consider our Advent journey of preparing for Christmas, I am filled with a sense that God's promise of the Baby Jesus is for everyone! Isn't that great news! And God has invited us here at Grace to be a part of that! Amazing!

Wishing you the Christmas joy of Promise!

Pastor Mark

Spiritual Formation ~ Pastor Steve

The world can be a noisy place. People yelling at each other. Children screaming for attention. Technology whirling around us at the speed of light. How can we find some silence?

The Psalmist challenges us with these difficult words, **"Be still and know that I am God!"** (Psalm 46:10)

These words are challenging for two reasons:

1. It is hard to be still in our fast-paced world, and
2. It seems that the only way that we can actually hear and know God is when we slow down and be still.

So, as your pastor of spiritual formation, my challenge to you for the season of Advent is to find ways to slow down and be still. How do we embrace our Advent theme, **"Don't Rush the Promise,"** this year?

Here are some practical suggestions:

- Fast from social media. I have been running a personal experiment for the past month. I deleted my Facebook and Twitter account. Those of you who have followed me on social media in the past know that this is a BIG deal for me. I found that I was becoming enmeshed in the clutter and noise of social media in an unhealthy way.

⇒ There are lots of positive aspects of social media, but there are also two aspects that cast a dark shadow. First, people present their best self, their edited self to the world, thus presenting a distorted and caricatured picture. Second, the accessibility of social media promotes lots of SHOUTING, but very little actual listening. Both of these things are counterproductive to the Kingdom of God that Jesus invites us to indwell.

⇒ So, give it a try. Cut the cord for a while and see what the silence does to you. I have found a new expansiveness in my soul because of it. Be warned, you will go through **withdrawal, but it will be worth it. You don't** have to stay away forever, but give it a few weeks.

- Drive the speed limit. **I'm being literal here.** Discipline yourself to drive the exact speed limit on every street. See what happens.
- Set aside at least 5 minutes every day to simply breathe. No devices. No reading. No music. Get into a place where you can be alone and focus on slowly breathing in and breathing out. You may want to say a simple prayer like

this. When you breathe in, say, "I receive God's grace." When you breathe out, say, "I extend God's grace."

- Notice the details. You've heard the expression **"stop and smell the roses."** As you go through your hectic day, take moments to stop and notice seemingly insignificant things. Perhaps it is the tiny spider crawling in the corner of your office, or the bird sitting impossibly on the highest bare branch of a tree. Then remind yourself that God cares about all these things.

I'd love to hear about ways that you try to slow down and listen for God. Shoot me an email at stevet@graceandover.org and share your story.

A Call for Prayer and for Groups

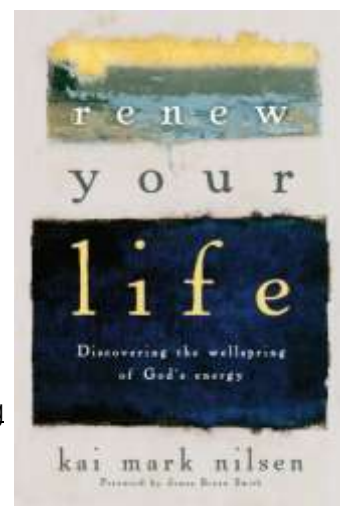
I ask that you will pray with me and the Spiritual Formation Team this month. We are being led to invite you to consider forming a short-term small group around a new book titled Renew Your Life: Discovering the Wellspring of God's Energy by Kai Mark Nilsen.

From the back cover:

His lips were moving, but I could barely hear a sound. "I was dying from the inside out and could envision nothing life giving, nothing energizing, nothing vital happening in my life. Ever. Again." Many of us can identify with this place of exhaustion and long to find a source of refreshment. This book shows us the way to the wellspring of the Holy Spirit. When we find the energy for creative life change in God, we discover the courage to

- ✧ Say no to an addiction and yes to life
- ✧ Gain new insight into how we are designed and linked to the web of creation
- ✧ Forgive others and reconnect relationships
- ✧ Participate in loving service with and for others

If you are ready for renewal, then the life-giving spiritual practices in this book will point the way.



Please go to graceandover.org for more information about this book and how to get involved in a small group.

Vision Board Message

Sometimes it seems like we are so busy that it is hard to slow down and look around. With the hectic, busy lives we lead it is difficult. I must admit, when I am able to slow down for a minute and think about what is going on at Grace, I am amazed. I believe that the Spirit is alive and well here! I say that because I sense **God's presence in the midst of what we are doing.**

We just concluded a 5 week focus on Stewardship. It was interesting to hear about what it means to be good stewards, to contemplate what it means if we truly believe that it all belongs to God. If our relationships, skills, careers, time, and money all belong to God, and they are all given to us as gifts, what are we supposed to do with them? Are we using them all in a manner that would make God happy? At the conclusion of the series, 95 families said they wanted to take a step in their own personal stewardship journey. That is awesome!

I also see **God's Spirit in the missions that are** occurring at Grace. I believe that missions are a core piece of our personality and part of what defines us. Sometimes these missions are big and grandiose, like trips to Uganda or Haiti. More often the missions we are involved in generate less noise and fanfare, but are no less important or worthy. I think a good test of **a congregation's strength and vitality is, what would** happen if it suddenly ceased to exist? Would anyone miss it? Would needs go unmet? I think we pass those tests with flying colors. Our local involvement is impressive. I would encourage anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in serving others and building relationships in order to share the love of Christ to ask the church office how you can get involved. The opportunities are too numerous to list in this short article.

In closing, I just have to say that I am so proud to be able to say that I am a part of the Grace family. I am proud of what we are doing. I am proud of what we stand for. I am blessed to be part of this family that is growing closer to Christ and trying to be like Him. Most of all, I feel so blessed to be able to be on my own spiritual journey with all of you.

In Him,
Greg Ackerson

Grace Lutheran Vision Board President

Vision Board Minutes

The Vision Board met on Tuesday, November 8th at **Greg Ackerson's home.** All board members were present along with Pastor Mark. A delicious meal was enjoyed, along with always enjoyable conversation. The meeting then progressed into the living room where the group first discussed goals for the 2017 year. Here is a list of some the exciting ideas for coming year:

- We are excited for the future as we begin to think about celebrating both **Grace Lutheran Church's 50th Anniversary in September 2017**, and also the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. We hope to incorporate an outreach to our neighbors as **a way to say "Thank You" to them, along with** working with other churches to further unity in the Love of One Risen Lord.
- As Free2Be Grace ends in 2017, we think ahead to a new campaign for continued debt reduction (our mortgage keeps dropping!), finally dealing with the portables and **parking lot and "upgrading" to things such as** video cameras to stream services to the ill and homebound.
- Continued outreach to our friends we already serve in Uganda and Haiti.

It is exciting to dream and plan!

Kate Morphew, Grace's Church Administrator, joined the group and the discussion turned to the budget. Kate, with assistance from Beth Clarstrom, has done a wonderful job working towards a budget proposal. The group made great headway as we discussed issues, such as the new overtime law that affects certain key staff members and how to accommodate this into the budget, and overall financially supporting the staff and growing programs, while keeping the budget balanced. The group continues to pray over this matter and will continue the discussion next month. The budget will be presented in January to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting.

The meeting ended in a time of prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Crooks

Grace Lutheran Vision Board Secretary

Outreach Ministry

“GIFTS of GRACE”

(for those experiencing homelessness)

Please join our church outreach ministry as we will donate 70 “Gifts of Grace” to the residents at Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in Anoka this Christmas.

Please pick up an empty Target bag in narthex - all instructions are enclosed to guide you in purchasing basic care items for a Stepping Stone resident. Please return your filled Target bag to the narthex by Sunday, December 11th.

These “Gifts of Grace” bags will be given to Stepping Stone residents at Christmas time to encourage and empower them as they strive for independence. Stepping Stone Emergency Housing is the only shelter in Anoka County that accepts single adults experiencing homelessness. This facility, located in the Cronin Building (on former State Hospital grounds), serves over 60 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.

For more info, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, Director of Outreach, jeannieh@graceandover.org 763 421-6520, ext. 109



Share God's GRACE . . . “Adopt a Family” this Christmas

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 would 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.

Here's how it works:

- During December, you would be assigned a **specific family for which you'll be given the age and gender (but not names) of each family member, along with needs and a wish list.**
- **Then you shop for your ‘adopted’ family and bring the gifts to Grace by Sunday, Dec. 18.** Sand Creek staff will deliver gifts to your ‘adopted’ family by Christmas.

Some other ideas:

- **Invite friends and family to join you... and ‘adopt’ a family together.**
- **Shop & Pray** - While shopping for toys and clothes, remember to pray for your ‘adopted’ family
- **You may include ‘extra’ items if you'd like** – such as Target gift card, grocery store or gas station gift cards, wrapping paper & ribbon, fast food gift card, etc. These gifts are not required or expected, just extra gifts of grace.

If you're interested in adopting a local family this Christmas, please contact Amy Kemp 612 749-5201 a.m.kemp@comcast.net or Jeannie Hellmann jeannieh@graceandover.org 763 421-6520

Youth News



6th – 8th grade students!

- ⇒ Do you miss Summer Stretch and all the friends you made?
 - ⇒ Do you long for another day filled with service and FUN?
 - ⇒ Are you still bummed that you missed out on Summer Stretch this summer?
- Well here is your chance!!!!

Thursday, December 29th 9:00am-5:00pm
Cost \$10 and please bring a lunch

We will do a service project and do a fun recreational activity! For more information or to register please go to www.graceandover.org/get-connected/youth-ministries

High School Juniors and Seniors!

Are you wanting to connect with your fellow upper classmen? Join your 11th and 12th grade peers at **Pastor Steve's house for small group connection** hosted by Pastor Steve & Lona Thomason! For more information please contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org or Pastor Steve at SteveT@graceandover.org

No Catechism
on December 21 and 28. We will
begin again January 4th

Middle School Mayhem Lock-In!

Save the date! January 27th

6th-8th Grade! Stay up all night for the most fun you have ever had! Join hundreds of other kids from the Twin Cities at Maple Grove Community Center for a night of swimming, ice skating, gaga ball, inflatable's, karaoke, a dance party, pizza, large group games, kickball, basketball, dodge ball, and much more! You **don't want to miss out!** Go to www.graceandover.org for more information!

High School Boundary Waters Trip

We are excited to offer an exciting NEW opportunity for high school students this coming year! Increase your spiritual life by spending time with God in nature and forming relationships with your peers. We are firming up all the details. Tentative dates are July 27th-August 1st and the cost will be approx. \$450. Information will be available as soon as we have all the details confirmed. If you are interested, please contact Kristi Larson at kristil@graceandover.org.

First Communion Class For 6th-8th graders

If you are a Catechism student and have not yet received your first communion, we will be offering a class just for you on Saturday, January 14th, 3:00-5:00pm (with worship to follow). The class is for students and their parents. Please contact Kristi Larson if you are interested in joining us, at kristil@graceandover.org

Middle School Christmas Party

Friday, December 9th, 2016 7:00 – 9:00pm
2 hours of fun with games, food, and lots of Christmas Stuff!

Cost: \$5.00 + bring one wrapped gift for our White Elephant* Gift Exchange Game
(*Gifts are typically inexpensive, humorous items or used items from home. White Elephant refers to a gift whose maintenance costs exceed its usefulness. Cost of gift should be less than \$5)

RSVP by turning in your permission slip by
WEDNESDAY, Dec, 7th

Parents, we need your help!
.....if you can donate cupcakes, pop, or Christmas candy OR you can help out at the party please let us know ASAP: Tom Baker: tomb@graceandover.org



2017 Youth Mission Trips:

Spaces are filling up fast, please turn in your registrations SOON!

Information and registration is open for next summer's youth mission trips. Join us for an exciting week of serving others and growing closer to God with new friends as we head east to the shores of Lake Michigan:

7-9th Grade Mission Adventure to Milwaukee, WI
June 18 – 24

9-12th Grade Mission adventure to Chicago, IL
July 15 -22

Hold your spot with a completed registration form and \$30 deposit.



CELEBRATION DINNER

Sunday, January 8th at 5pm

Everyone is invited to the Grace 4 Rakai Celebration Dinner Sunday, Jan. 8 from 5 to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. This will be a time to gather as a church community and do three things:

- ⇒ SHARE stories, photographs and updates of our outreach ministries in Rakai, Uganda.
- ⇒ CELEBRATE how God is doing **"immeasurably more" in and through us** as a congregation.
- ⇒ DREAM about future possibilities!

We'll begin the evening with dinner and dessert at followed by sharing stories, celebrating the ministry opportunities and dreaming of the future. We will provide dinner for you, so please simply come and enjoy the evening of celebrating all the ways God's grace is stretching across the ocean from our faith community to the people in Uganda.

If you currently sponsor a child in Rakai, please bring photos and letters that you'd like to share from your sponsored children. If you have questions or comments, please bring those too.

Join us at the Grace 4 Rakai Celebration Dinner as together we'll strive to **"listen, support, give hope and love to the people in Rakai, Uganda, especially vulnerable women and children."** (words from our ministry team's mission statement)

Hope to see you on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 5 pm! And please contact us when you have any questions or concerns about the evening's event or this entire Grace 4 Rakai ministry!

It's our honor to serve in this way,

in His love,

Stacy Surratt and Scott Christensen

Co-Leaders of Grace 4 Rakai Ministry Team
stacysurratt@yahoo.com (317) 506-6362
scottc@nuaire.com (612) 247-3599



Birthday Offerings

During each large group session we recognize the month's birthdays. Children are encouraged to bring a coin for each year to put in the Birthday Bank. Kids will receive a sticker, a birthday pencils, and get their name put on the "Birthday Door" This offering will go towards buying flocks of chicks donated to Heifer Intl. Watch our chicks add up! Summer Birthdays will be recognized in April and May. We have 1 Flock! \$30.67

SONday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18 at 2 p.m.

Join us for a service of carols, finger plays, and a Christmas Play as the SONday School children share the Good News! Jesus is Born! Grade 2-5 will be present the play, Double Take, A Christmas Pageant as told by Matthew and Luke. The story of the birth of Christ told with humor, mystery, and awe.

Dates to remember:

Rehearsal: Sat. December 10, 9-10:30 a.m. This rehearsal is for children with speaking and non-speaking parts only.

Rehearsal: Sat. December 17, 9-10:30 a.m. This rehearsal is for all kids in Grades 2-5.

Program: Sunday, December 18 2 at p.m. (Please have children here by 1:40) Families are asked to donate only 1 dozen cookies for our reception following the program.

No Rockin' Kids Bible Club

on December 21 and 28. We will begin again January 4th.

Baptism Class

January 7th at 9:00 am

Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith. During the Baptism Class, 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 apart of your families every day life.

Baptism Sundays are January 15th and February 19th at either the 9 am or 10:30 Worship Service. Baptisms can be scheduled for almost any Saturday Night at 5 pm. The next baptism class will be March 4th. You can register online through Gracelink or contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

No SONday School
on December 25 & January 1
We will begin again January 8

Rockin' Kids Bible Club

We are wandering in the wilderness with the Israelites and Moses, but through it all, we learn to trust the One True God!

Check out our True Tale Tom videos each week on the **Children's Ministry facebook page**.

@graceandoverkids

Wacky Wednesdays

November 30th—Cowboy Duds

December 7th—Cow t-shirt, black, white, or brown

December 14th—Christmas Party! Any thing Christmas

The RKBC kids will sing in worship on Sunday, December 4th. Kids will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:35 to practice. We will sing at the end of the 9am and beginning of the 10:30 Worship Service.



Parent Cue App – Download the Parent Cue App for an abundance of ideas of things you can do **with your children connected to the month's unit**, including songs, videos, and wonderful parent resources. This is HUGE! Download it today!

Parent CUE app provides simple CUES throughout the week that remind you to pause and make the most of everyday moments.

- Offers CUES for families with preschoolers and elementary-age kids
- Parent Time section has videos, podcasts, and articles just for parents
- Videos, activities, and discussion questions link to First Look and 252 Basics material
- Content updates weekly



Facebook – graceandoverkids

“Like” Grace Lutheran’s Children’s Ministry on facebook and we will have information during the week for you to help reinforce what your kids learned that week in SONday School.

Family Worship Sundays

December 4

January 8

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School **after the Children’s Sermon**.

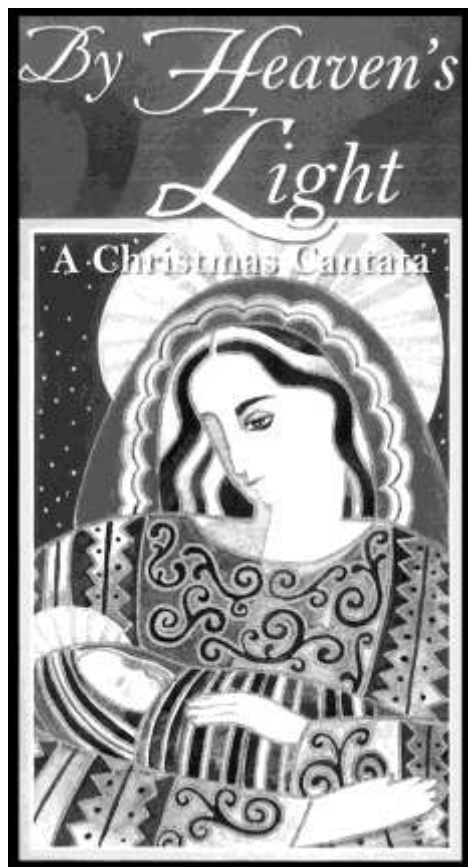


Dinner and a Movie

Friday January 20, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Families, with kids 3 years old-5th grade, are invited for dinner, movie, fellowship and fun! Parents must stay the entire evening. We will begin with a meal served in the Fellowship Hall and then we will head into the Theater (Worship Center) to watch the movie “Finding Dory”. Please watch the blue opportunity sheets to register your family.

Advent Choir Program



Saturday, Dec. 10th at the 5pm
Sunday, Dec. 11th at 8am, 9am & 10:30am

Join Grace Choir as we present "By Heaven's Light" by Allen Pote, a cantata taking us on a journey leading up to the birth of Christ and how His presence provided light to a dark world.

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. On Saturday, December 10th, we will gather at 2pm for a dress rehearsal for the program that evening.

We are also looking for singers for Christmas Eve for the 11pm service.

If you have questions please feel free to contact Doreen Hutchings doreenh@graceandover.org or Jonathan Orwig jonathano@graceandover.org

Come and lift your voices as we prepare a place in our hearts for the Prince of Peace.

Women's Ministries

Women's Retreat 2017

Please join us for this two night women's retreat for a real 'get-away-from-it-all' time so that your spirit may be refreshed!

Date Friday, January 27 – Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017

Time Arrive at camp between 6-8 pm Friday;

Depart at Noon Sunday (we'll arrange car-pooling)

Place Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI

Cost \$85 per person

- Registration is limited to 30

Registration fee includes:

Lodging for two nights

(yes, you'll sleep on a bed)

Bed linens and towels

Three meals on Saturday and Sunday Brunch

At this Women's Retreat, we will

- ☞ Know how "TREASURED" we are
- ☞ Seek the "TREASURED" truth of God
- ☞ Experience "TREASURED" time together

For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann at jeannieh@graceandover.org or (763) 421-6520.



Thank You

Thank you to the entire Grace community for providing a warm, loving, inviting place for Mary Jo for so many years. Thank you for helping make our mom's life fulfilled and summing up how she lived so beautifully. We are forever thankful.

~ The family of Mary Jo Andrusko

Help us finish the year strong! Give a End of the Year Gift!

A Challenge From Our Church Administrator

I have been asked many times in the last few months if I like my new job. I do like it. I work with great people in a place that we see God's Grace all around us. I see God working in lives of the congregation and hear about how God is working around the world, through stories of sponsored children and homes being built for abandoned children. God is working here.

As I started to transition into the Church Administrator role, we were well into the budgetary year. I have learned many things about church offerings and how they are often lower in the summer. We were significantly behind at the end of September on our operating budget. The staff was and is doing a great job of staying under budget. However, we are still significantly behind where we would like to be.

We are asking for Year End gifts above your normal offerings to put us back in the black for our operating expenses. This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and to put it bluntly, this will affect offerings for the month. Taking this into account, we are hopeful December's offerings will be \$85,000. We are asking for you to prayerfully consider a Year End Gift above your normal offerings. Pastor Mark and I set a goal of \$20,000 above normal offerings for the month. We believe this is achievable. In the area below, it shows expenses, offerings and other income at the close of October. Please prayerfully consider helping us finish this year in the black. Year End Gifts may be given online at GraceLink, a check can be dropped off in the church office or dropped in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please call or email me at katem@graceandover.org or (763)421-6520. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

Don't forget! December 31st!
End of year (of 2016 that is...)
 Our goal for END OF THE YEAR Opportunity



\$20,000 in above regular
December Offerings

• You can give using the response card
 • You can give online – www.graceandover.org
 • You can give in the offering, simply mark EOY 2016

Wishing you Christmas Joy!

Kate Morphew

	<u>2016 YTD</u>
General Offerings	\$ 615,326.63
Other Receipts (registrations, activity fees, facility usage)	\$ 56,993.79
Total Receipts	\$ 672,320.42
Total Expenses	\$ 741,489.09
	\$ (69,168.67)

GraceLink Giving

Giving Online at GraceLink helps the church and the congregant. It helps the congregant to give consistently and helps the church with cash flow. If you have been thinking about setting up reoccurring gifts, it is really simple.

1. Create a *Log in to GraceLink* for yourself. Once you have logged in.
2. Click on *Giving* on the tool bar.
3. Have a check or credit card handy.
4. Determine the total amount and how often you want to give.
5. The system requires an end date. You may push this date out more than a year or the expiration date on your credit card. You will be sent an email reminder that it is about to expire.
6. Then select how much you would like to give to each fund.
7. Finish filling out your bank information.
8. And follow the prompts to finish.

If you have questions, feel free to call the church office or email Kate or Beth. They would be happy to help you.



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

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