

# grace notes

December 2017

## CHRISTMAS AT GRACE



# REJOICE!

### ADVENT

Sunday, December 10th  
Children's Christmas Program at 3:30pm

Sunday, December 17th  
Advent Choir Christmas Cantata at all  
services

Sunday, December 24th ~  
10am - 4th Sunday of Advent\*  
(Note: only 1 Advent service on Sunday morning)

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th  
2pm Family Worship\* ASL Interpreter  
4pm Family Worship\*  
7pm Candlelight \*  
10pm Candlelight

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th  
10am Quiet Communion

## Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Bridge Interim Senior Pastor .....Sara Vanderpan  
Ext. 110.....sarav@graceandover.org

**Visitation Pastor**.....Delwayne Hahn  
Ext. 105 ..delwayneh@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 Morphew  
Ext. 102 ..... katem@graceandover.org

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

Accompanist.....Justin Cook

Administrative Assistant.....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

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

## Vision Board Members

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



## PRAYERS TO CELEBRATE

We celebrate with the newly baptized;

Jaxson Wyatt,  
son of Justin & Brittany Lawrence

Nolan Patrick,  
son of Jason & Nicole Kuechenmeister

Brianna Marie,  
daughter of Jamie & Nicole Vadner

Quinn Jessie,  
Delaney Jordan,  
Rylen Emily, daughters of  
Jessica Nauman & Amy Thompson-Nauman

## PRAYERS TO HEAL

We pray for comfort and healing:

Sandy Bergeron, Monica Allen, Jill Brown,  
Mary Taillefer, Sylvia Lindgren, Sophia Carlson,  
Lynda Leonard, Nate Gfroerer, Chad Welle,  
Kathy Beckman, Bill, Sr. & Barbara DeVries,  
Zachary Barker, Caitlyn Grandell, Denise McLain,  
Lu Henning, Allen Montgomery

## Vision Board Message

As I sit down for what seems like the hundredth time to write this, my mind is still in a whirl. Each time I have tried to put words down on paper, nothing seems to capture all that I am feeling at this time. Should I reflect on our worship theme for the year – remember, rejoice and renew? Should I talk about going through change? Should I talk about the complexity of feelings that are surging through my heart, mind and soul? Should I reflect on the upcoming advent season and waiting on the Lord? The following is the culmination of all of those thoughts...

Michael Quinn Patton, in his book entitled *Utilization-Focused Evaluation* (2008), talks about the concepts of *simple*, *complicated* and *complex*. Simple situations include things like following a recipe. There are step-by-step directions with a detailed list of everything that is needed and the order and procedure in which to use them.

A complicated situation would be something like sending a rocket to the moon.

Parenting is an example of a complex situation. Different from a recipe and sending a rocket into space, there are no clear rules to follow that will guarantee or even predict success.

The emotions and reactions we are feeling to Mark and Jeannie's retirement are complex. On one hand, we are genuinely happy for them as they begin the next phase of their journey. We are also immensely sad at the feelings of loss we are experiencing. These extremes are intertwined with a sense of excitement as well as anticipation of what is to come for Grace. Sometimes we are anxious, to both positive and negative degrees. Based on our interactions and prior experiences, we may be feeling differently at times and our feelings may change depending on our state of mind.

The process in which our church is embarking is complicated. We are entering a time of an intentional interim senior pastor to allow us to remember, rejoice and renew our commitment to discern what God is doing in our midst and determine where He is calling us to join him in the next phase of our journey. During that time, a transition team, will be reaching out to the congregation to gather input as to who we are and what God is placing on our hearts. This team will work closely with the interim pastor who is trained to walk alongside congregations during this important time of renewal. Although this is a complicated process, requiring training and expertise in certain areas, it is

also well-documented and has been a practice of the ELCA for many years. Working together with the guidance of the Synod and our interim pastor, we will experience a much-needed time of reflection and discernment and gain valuable guidance as to who God is calling us to be in the heart of Andover and beyond, and who God is cultivating to join us in the next phase of our journey. Our interim pastor is completing an appointment at another congregation and we are anticipating he will be available to join Grace in January. In the meantime, we are blessed to have **Pastor Sara Vanderpan join us as a "Bridge" interim pastor.** Pastor Sara will be on staff part-time and will share preaching responsibilities with Pastor Hahn, among other duties, until our long-term interim pastor is able to join the staff. There will be many opportunities to engage in this process; I encourage you to seek out those occasions and lend your insight and voice. If you have questions along the way, please seek out any member of the Vision Board and we will do our best to provide answers.

What remains simple is that God is, was and always will be in control. He has been with Grace and His people from the beginning of time and has a plan for us. The Bible readings for this weekend (November 25-26) included Jeremiah 29:11-14a; *<sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the Lord.* **God's plan for Grace is unknown to us right now, but not to God.** He loves us and will continue to guide us as we seek Him with our whole hearts through this process and beyond. We should look forward with unbridled anticipation of the all the goodness and grace God has in store for us as we decipher how we can continue to be His hands and feet in the heart of Andover and beyond.

*All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful and whose wisdom is magnificent. (Isaiah 28:29)* **May we trust in God's wonderful plan and rest in His magnificent wisdom as we enter the Advent season and practice waiting and anticipating the celebration of the birth of our Lord; May we learn to patiently wait upon Him to continue to show us the Way...**

## A Note from Pastor Delwayne Hahn

Long ago I read a quote that when Eve and Adam were leaving the Garden of Eden, at God's demand, Adam turned to Eve and said: "My dear, we are now living in a state of transition." That's exactly the situation at Grace Lutheran. Collectively and individually we said goodbye to the Hellmanns a couple weeks ago and have welcomed Pastor Sara Vanderpan as the bridge interim senior pastor.

Pastor Sara has been hired since the interim pastor selected by the Vision Board will not be available until mid-January. Hence the term *bridge interim*. In the early days of 2018 another transition will take place with the arrival of the permanent interim pastor, whose name could not be revealed yet at the time I wrote this piece.

I have been asked to review my staff role as we move into these next few months together. This will be an attempt to clear up any confusion concerning my staff responsibilities.

When I began last April it was close on the heels of Pastor Steve's departure and my arrival was perceived, in the minds of some apparently, as an interim for his position. The reality is, I am Pastor Heglund's successor as visitation pastor on a half-time basis.

According to the agreement with the Vision Board and Pastor Mark, I have major responsibility as a staff presence with Graceful Seniors and now the newer O.K. @ Play (i.e. Older Kids at Play) and the Pastoral Care calling group. In addition I share visitation of all sorts— home, hospital, etc., with the Senior Pastor and the Pastoral Care team.

My other major responsibility is preaching at least twice a month and assisting in the liturgy at other worship services. (The first Sunday of each month I serve as preacher/worship leader at a previous interim congregation where I also mentor the stewardship committee.) In addition, I do a monthly Bible study with the Ruth Circle and did fill in once for Pastor Mark in his "What It Means to Be Lutheran" course. I have also conducted one funeral service.

This portfolio is perhaps a little broader than what the title Visitation Pastor might imply but it has developed as a result of the original job description and as specific needs arose and after mutual

discussion between Pastor Mark and myself.

If you have further questions about my role at Grace or about the interim period, please ask.

### GET TO KNOW GRACE STAFF Pastor Delwayne Hahn



Do you have a furry friend? If so how many and what kind? Not unless you count the deer, turkeys and squirrels I feed in my back yard--- plus raccoons and an occasional bear.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Grandchildren's (11 of 'em) activities, photography, travel

One thing you cannot live without? Other than coffee? Interaction with people.

What is your favorite place to be? Salzburg, Austria--- especially Spaghetti and Company, Getreidegasse 14,

Tell us a fun fact about you? Fifty years ago I was officially declared a heretic by action of an auxiliary of a major protestant denomination. You will have to ask about this.

What is your favorite line from a movie, book or TV show? "To infinity and beyond", Buzz Lightyear in Toy Story

Do you enjoy playing a sport or watching them if so what? Enjoy watching my grandsons--- football, golf, wrestling.

Where did you grow up? Eastern NE, about 40 miles from Omaha--- Fremont. Born there, grew up and educated there all the way through my college degree (Midland Lutheran College [now University])



## Silent Prayer Gathering

## Thank You



### SILENT PRAYER GATHERING

7-8pm  
December 12th

Due to the Christmas Holidays, we will be gathering on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.

**The theme for December's Prayer Gatherings will be "A Blue Christmas".**

Praying for those who will be without loved ones, family or friends at this special time of year. Either due to a loss or separation.

The prayer gather is open to everyone, members or not, **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

A time to silently pray for the sufferings and struggles of our family, friends, the church, our country, the world and ourselves.

A time for reflection and for giving thanks.

A time to gather in silent community for intercession, contemplation and centering prayer.

As the Psalmist says, *"Be still and know that I am God"*.

To our wonderful Grace family ~  
Our heartfelt THANKS for such an amazing outpouring of love and support as we embraced our final weekend of worship and serving together on Nov. 17-19. THANKS for joining the marathon event at Feed My Starving Children as we helped pack over 243,000 meals, which will feed 662 kids for an entire year! Also, our sincerest thanks to you for the warm reception after each FMSC shift and worship service – thanks for countless yummy bars (you all are awesome bakers!) and thanks for this wonderful opportunity to share memories and say farewell.

THANKS for all your encouraging words, beautiful cards, and genuine care for us as we begin this new chapter - retirement. After resting awhile, we trust that God will 're-fire' our spirits and reveal His next steps for our lives. We are so grateful for our 22 years together at Grace Lutheran – and please know that we will remain united in spirit with you, **as together we strive to be a 'ministry of grace'** wherever we go!

In His grace alone, *Pastor Mark & Jeannie*



## Children's Ministries



NO SONDAY SCHOOL  
December 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

NO RKBC  
December 22<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>



DECEMBER  
SERVICE PROJECT  
SONday school will  
be hosting a food drive for  
May All Be Fed Food Shelf  
at Grace.

Dec 3 ~ PB & J -  
Bring Peanut Butter or  
Jelly  
Dec 10 ~ Grains -  
Bring in Rice or Noodles  
Dec 17 ~ Soup -  
Bring in Chunky Soups,  
Chicken or Tomato Soup

Family Worship Sundays ~ January 7, 2018

We will not schedule any baptisms in Advent  
(December).

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ~Dec. 10 @3:30 pm  
Join us for carols and a Christmas Play as the SONday  
School children share the Good News! Jesus is Born!  
Grades 2-5 will be present the play, *What the Elf  
Knew*, A Christmas Pageant told by an ELF on the  
Shelf that comes to life. The story of the birth of  
Christ told with humor, wonder, and awe.

Dates to remember:

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

Rehearsal: Sat. December 9, 9-11a.m. All grades  
Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> will join this rehearsal at 10am.  
Program: Sunday, December 10 3:30p.m. (Please  
have children here by 3pm)



## Youth Ministries

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

NO CATECHISM  
December 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>



### MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
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, 6<sup>th</sup> We can use some parents to 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](mailto:tomb@graceandover.org)

### HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 15  
8:00-11:00pm

Join us for night games around church, food, decorations, and a special food creation challenge. Friends welcome!

Cost: \$10 for supplies and snacks (dinner will not be served – but snacks will be in abundance)



Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:15am-3:30pm  
6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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!!!!

(registration starts at 9:00)

Cost \$10 and please bring a lunch

In the morning we will do a service project at Second Harvest Heartland and after lunch we will participate in a fun recreational activity! For more information or to register please go to [www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org) and go to "youth ministries."

-----  
[January Save the Date!](#)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MAYHEM LOCK-IN!

Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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, inflatables, 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](http://www.graceandover.org) for more information!

### HIGH SCHOOL MYSTERY BUS TOUR!

Saturday, January 13  
All 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students (and friends!) are welcome to join us for a mystery bus tour! What will we be doing? Where will we be going? Show up to find out! For more information go to [www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)

There are still a few openings for our  
7- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for our  
Mission Adventure in the Quad Cities!  
July 21—28, 2018

Go to [www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org) for information



## Outreach Ministries



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Feed My Starving Children event November 17 & 18 as we said goodbye to Pr. Mark and Jeannie. Special thanks to the bakers who contributed the many varieties of delicious bars! During our six sessions at FMSC (and with assistance from some other volunteers), we packed 1121 boxes, which equals 242,136 meals that feed 663 kids for a year! GREAT WORK TEAM!

Speaking of team, I am looking for people who love Feed My Starving Children and who would like to help coordinate our Grace packing events for 2018. Please email, call or text me to join the Grace FMSC leadership team.

Nancy Jenkins, FMSC team leader: 763-354-9764 or [dnjenkins@comcast.net](mailto:dnjenkins@comcast.net). Many thanks!



### REGARDING THE DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH POSITION

We are waiting to fill this position until after the holiday season. We advertised and interviewed for the position, but after a first round of interviews the interview team felt it was best to wait until we have our Interim Senior Pastor on staff before we hire. We recognize that the Director of Outreach did many things and it is important to have someone on staff that can help the Outreach team leads coordinate things like dates for events, building space, publicity and other things that come up. This Staff person will be Tom Baker. He will not be able to attend your team planning meetings but he is willing to help if you have things come up. We are grateful he was willing to step into this role. He is also the Youth Coordinator and Youth will take priority with his time. Tom can be reached at [tomb@graceandover.org](mailto:tomb@graceandover.org).

## GRACE 4 RAKAI

### CELEBRATION DINNER

Sunday, January 7, 2018

5:00-7:30pm

Everyone is invited to the Grace 4 Rakai Celebration Dinner. From sponsors to those just wanting to know more about this wonderful ministry.

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 5pm followed by a time of sharing stories, celebrating the ministry opportunities and dreaming of the future. We will provide dinner and dessert 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(ren) in Rakai, we welcome you to share stories, letters and pictures of your sponsored child(ren). If you have questions or comments, please bring those too.

Hope to see you on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 5 pm! We will **strive together 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).

Contact Stacy Surratt [stacysurratt@yahoo.com](mailto:stacysurratt@yahoo.com) or Scott Christensen [scottc@nuaire.com](mailto:scottc@nuaire.com) Co-Leaders of Grace 4 Rakai Ministry Team if you **have any questions or concerns about the evening's event or the entire Grace 4 Rakai ministry!**

PLEASE RSVP Stacy, Scott or Sally McPhillips [sjm7714sjm@gmail.com](mailto:sjm7714sjm@gmail.com), by Tuesday, January 2.



## Outreach & Adult Ministries



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

for those experiencing homelessness

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.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE takes place at Grace on Wed., Dec. 27, Noon to 5:00pm. Blood supplies are in very short supply during the holiday season. If you can help by giving blood, register at [www.redcross.org/give-blood](http://www.redcross.org/give-blood)

### **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!

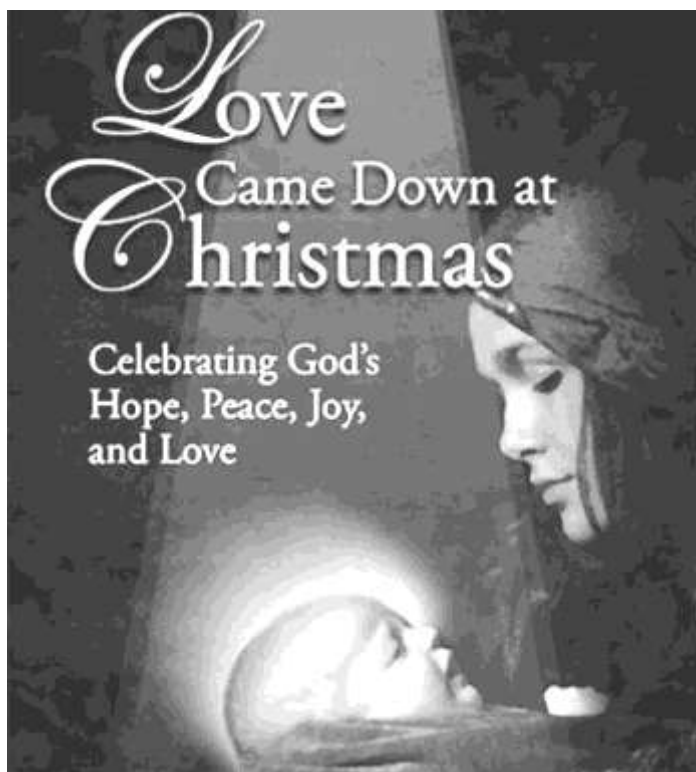
Date: Jan. 26 -Jan. 28, 2018

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)*

## Christmas Cantata

## Filling In The Puzzle



### 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!

We know that Jeannie is by now enjoying the beaches of North Carolina, but you may not know who is filling her shoes at Grace.

Here's a list of congregational leaders who have stepped up to "fill in the puzzle". We will continue to strive to be a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover...and beyond!

Staff Liaison - Tom Baker  
[tomb@graceandover.org](mailto:tomb@graceandover.org) 763-421-6520  
 Feed My Starving Children - Nancy Jenkins  
[dnjenkins@comcast.net](mailto:dnjenkins@comcast.net) 763-354-9764  
 WOW - Jessie Crooks  
[JessieRCrooks@gmail.com](mailto:JessieRCrooks@gmail.com) 612-655-8121  
 - Kate Morphew  
[katem@graceandover.org](mailto:katem@graceandover.org) 763-862-9808  
 Family Promise - Alden Riley  
[aldenandjudy@comcast.net](mailto:aldenandjudy@comcast.net) 763-412-9489  
 Stepping Stones - Ann Lange (Interim)  
[ann.lange@comcast.net](mailto:ann.lange@comcast.net) 763-323-6868  
 Grace4Rakai - Scott Christensen  
[scottc@nuaire.com](mailto:scottc@nuaire.com) 763-241-6874  
 - Stacy Surratt  
[stacysurratt@yahoo.com](mailto:stacysurratt@yahoo.com) 317-506-6362  
 Community Partnership Sand Creek School  
 - Ann Lange  
[ann.lange@comcast.net](mailto:ann.lange@comcast.net) 763-323-6868  
**Women's Ministry** - Leah Hadler  
[lmhadler@gmail.com](mailto:lmhadler@gmail.com) 763-350-3917  
 - Deb Stang  
[DebOdellStang@gmail.com](mailto:DebOdellStang@gmail.com) 763-232-1689  
 Grace2 Haiti - Greg & Lori Ackerson  
[grega@apex-co.us](mailto:grega@apex-co.us) 763-355-7336  
 Family Table - Michelle Healy  
[mmcchealy@gmail.com](mailto:mmcchealy@gmail.com) 763-228-8364  
 Quilters - Jan Galvin  
[jan.galvin01@gmail.com](mailto:jan.galvin01@gmail.com) 763-421-0668  
 Quilters 2 - Jan Margotto  
[margotto@msn.com](mailto:margotto@msn.com) 763-434-4617

Please feel free to contact any of these people with your questions or comments.



## Finances at a Glance

### As of Week 47

OFFERINGS	2016	2017
Operational	\$638,181.57	\$632,491.65
Capital	\$72,901.66	\$69,338.00
Other (Holiday)	\$16,860.48	\$ 17,583.88
Free 2B Grace	\$135,626.66	\$114,617.00
Total:	\$863,570.37	\$834,030.53

YTD Noisy Offerings collected & dispersed = \$24,416.16

YTD Benevolence dispersed = \$47,490.47

YTD General Operating expenses = \$711,030.62

YTD Mortgage paid = \$144,306.00

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



### YEAR END SNAPSHOT

This time of year we also look back on all the church has done with the gifts the congregation has shared with us. We have vibrant children and youth ministry programs that help educate more than 270 children about the love of Jesus. We have partnered with organizations like FMSC, Hope 4 Youth, African Children Today, and our Abandoned Children in Haiti, to name a few. In the midst of the transition, God is working through us at Grace to be His hands and feet in our communities and our world.

To help us continue to do God's work, we need your help to finish our year in a strong financial position. Please consider making a special end of the year donation to Grace to help us meet our financial needs.

With staffing changes and the program staff doing a great job managing their resources, we have managed to be under budget to date on expenses by \$54,310. However to reach our budgeted goal we will need to have contributions reach \$152,033 in December. We have worked to set a goal for a year end push of \$50,000. This goal is achievable with your help.

Pastor Hahn shared the following verse with the Vision Board and myself. I think it is very fitting.

*And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something- 11 now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means.*

*2 Corinthians 8:10-11 NRSV*



Help us finish strong and start 2018 in an amazing way. ~ Kate Morpew



# 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)

NON PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Anoka, MN 55303

PERMIT No. 118

Address Service Requested

## December Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 7th -	<b>Old Kids (OK) @ Play "Forever Plaid" Outing</b>
Friday, December 8th -	Middle School Christmas Party (7pm)
Sunday, December 10th -	<b>Children's Christmas Program (3:30pm)</b>
Tuesday, December 12th -	SALT Prayer Gathering (7pm)
Friday, December 15th -	High School Christmas Party (8pm)
Saturday, December 16th -	Advent Choral Service (5pm)
Sunday, December 17th -	Advent Choral Services (8am, 9am, 10:30am)
Sunday, December 24th -	Christmas Eve Services (2pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10pm)
Monday, December 25th -	Christmas Day Quiet Communion Service (10am)
Thursday, December 28th -	Mini Stretch for Middle Schoolers

