

grace notes

November-December 2018

Worship With Grace This Blessed Christmas Season

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 21 at 7pm

3rd Weekend of Advent

December 15/16

1st Weekend of Advent

December 1/2

Advent Choir Cantata

December 16 at 9am & 10:30am

2nd Weekend of Advent

December 8/9

4th Weekend of Advent

December 22/23*

**(worship times 5pm,
*8:30am & 10am)**

Children's Christmas Program

December 9 at 3:30pm

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

2pm, 4pm, 7pm and 10pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

10am Quiet Communion

Sunday, December 30

(worship times 8:30am & 10am)



Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Interim Senior PastorBruce Arnevik
Ext. 110.....brucea@graceandover.org

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

Dir. of Youth Ministry.....Kristi Larson
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Director of Nursery Ministries.....Annie Fitzl
Ext. 116..... annief@graceandover.org

Dir. of Outreach Ministries.....Debbie Jorgens
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Dir. of Worship & Music.....Jonathan Orwig
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Bookkeeper.....Beth Clarstrom
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Head Custodian.....Mark Kempenich
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Dir. Of Golden Rule Child Care Center
Sandy Schmoll...sandys@gracandover.org 421-1996

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on

Vision Board Members

Scott Christensen (Pres.)
Johnna Rohmer-Hirt (V.P.)
Vickie Meade (Secretary)
Chad Hadler

Alden Riley
Dave Trapp
Carla Renner



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP & PIE SOCIAL

Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 pm

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.



Vision Board Minutes

The October 2018 Vision Board meeting was held at Grace after a potluck dinner hosted by all the board members, for the Grace congregation. Chad Hadler shared a devotion from Hebrews 15:8.

The Transition Team was pleased with the good turnout for the Listening Session and the guests were very engaged in the process. The Call Committee is in place and will be meeting with the Transition Team. Pastor Bruce will facilitate this meeting.

Pastor Bruce presented his written report. The financial stewardship focus will culminate with the Oktoberfest celebration. Giving starts at the top with Pastor Bruce challenging the Vision Board Members to take their own step/leap in their giving. He suggested that several items will need to be discussed prior to a new Pastor hire: any staffing concerns, a new capital appeal, Nightingale Property issues and Worship Service changes.

Kate Morpew reviewed our financial statements. A capital campaign is suggested to cover the cost of repair of the flat roof over the day care and administrative offices, portables, the parking lot resurfacing, new worship center projectors and computers. The lease agreement with the city of Andover for the garden plots renews January 1, 2019. Following discussion, a motion and vote passed to renew the lease agreement for only 9 months.

Alden Riley reported that revamped construction plans have not been received as of our meeting date. A drafted email will be sent outlining Grace's deadlines to prompt action by the construction company. Plans are still pending for the replacement of the portables.

The next meeting of the Vision board is Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

We ended the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by Vickie Meade, Vision Board Secretary

Vision Board Update

As you learned from Pastor Bruce, a Call Committee has now been formed for the specific purpose of calling a new Senior Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church.

It is a process that started in September, when the Vision Board met to discern potential members to serve on the committee. We did our best to select committed members of Grace that represent a wide demographic mix, diverse backgrounds and worship styles. We also considered long time members and newer members, as well as younger members with families, some that are retired and others that are in between.

During the month of October, I interviewed the potential candidates selected by the Vision Board and had many great conversations with committed members of Grace! After considerable prayer and discernment, I am pleased to inform you that the process is complete, and our Call Committee is ready to serve! As defined in our constitution, the committee will consist of 8 members and the Vision Board has called 4 women and 4 men. Their names in alphabetical order are:

Lori Ackerson
Jan Anderson
John Anderson
Holly Dodds
Frances Fernandez
Joe Jackson
Jeremy Mattke
Charlie Wold

**GRACE
CALL COMMITTEE**

As Pastor Bruce mentioned, the Call Committee will hold their first of many meetings on Saturday, November 17th. Please be sure to keep them continually in your prayers over the next several months, as they work to discern who God is calling to Grace to be our next Senior Pastor!

*Submitted by Scott Christensen,
Vision Board President*

Vision Board Message

Worth the Wait...

It seems that there are all sorts of sayings about waiting: *'Anything worth having is worth waiting for'; 'Good things come to those who wait'; 'The best things in life are worth the wait...'*

We are also given guidance on waiting in Scripture. Isaiah 40:31 says that *"those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* Lamentations 3:25 says, *"The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him."*

If all of these texts profess the benefits of waiting, why is it so hard to do!?! In our personal lives we sometimes struggle with waiting for a much anticipated event, such as a family celebration, a holiday, the birth of a child, an offer of a new job or retirement. In our church lives, we are also in the process of waiting for a new senior pastor as the Transition Team finishes their work and a Call Committee begins their portion of the process. Many of us may be thinking, 'Why is this taking so long? Can't we just put out the posting and hire someone?' If that thought has crossed your mind, I would encourage you to consider a different perspective. The process of waiting can be far from a passive action or one that drives us crazy. It can be a time of great benefit, just as the common quotes and Bible verses suggest. Waiting can be a significant blessing; a time to slow our hearts and minds and intentionally contemplate who we are and who we are being called to be as we prepare to move into the future. It can be a time of rest and rejuvenation, restoring a sense of excitement and urgency for what is to come. I believe that is what we, as a church, are currently experiencing through this transition period at Grace.

In the liturgical year, we are entering the season of Advent. In some ways similar to our transition period in seeking a new pastor, Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation but, in this case, for the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child. It's a time to slow down and gratefully ponder all that God has promised and gifted to us. It's a time to push aside all the busyness that sometimes overwhelms us and to make time to bask in the wonders of God's love and grace.



As we rush to prepare our homes with decorations, our calendars with gatherings, our menus for the holidays, our shopping lists and gift exchanges, may we also spend at least as much time and attention quietly and prayerfully preparing our hearts, minds and spirits for the coming of our Lord and Savior. May this time of waiting be embraced as a gift we get to open early, intentionally and often – time to slow down and reflect on all God is to us, in our daily lives and in our world, and how we might respond to God's still small voice, calling to us with a tone of love much deeper than we've heard before, urging us to share that love with all of God's children. And in this time of waiting, may we experience all the goodness and grace that God so generously promises and abundantly provides. May you find the wait was worth it!

*Submitted by Johnna Rohmer-Hirt,
Vision Board Vice President*

Message from Pastor Bruce

Call Committee Begins!

The work of Grace's Transition Team is now complete. They began meeting at the end of April and have been meeting twice/month since then. They invested a lot of time and hard work as they looked inward at the congregation, outward at the surrounding community, and forward to the challenges and opportunities awaiting Grace and the kinds of leadership skills and qualities needed in Grace's new pastor. As part of their work, they offered two surveys to the congregation to which many responded. Thanks to all who participated! And they conducted two "listening sessions" in the fall to present information from their surveys and to listen to more of what the congregation had to say. I was privileged to work with them as pastoral advisor. They've written a final report and a copy will be available in the office for people from Grace to stop in and read. Thank you, Lori Ackerson, Chuck Donaldson, Kevin Gast, Nancy Jenkins, Ann Lange, Sue Melody, Johnna Rohmer-Hirt, and Michael Seide for your excellent work in completing "phase one" of the call process!

The Transition Team presented their final report to the Vision Board and the Call Committee on November 13. (See Scott Christensen's article on page 3 for a list of Call Committee members.) The

Vision Board officially accepted their report and passed it along to the Call Committee. The Call Committee will hold their first meeting on November 17 with Pastor John Hulden from the Bishop's office. Pr. Hulden will be working with them throughout the call process.

The Call Committee will be meeting twice/month until they begin interviewing candidates. During interviews, they may meet once or even twice/week. Their first order of business will be to complete the Ministry Site Profile. The Transition Team report will speed the completion of this document. Then the Ministry Site Profile will be sent to the Bishop's office. Following that, the Bishop will make a visit to Grace to have face to face conversation about what the congregation is hoping for in their new pastor. Then the Bishop's staff will begin to assemble a list of potential candidates. Some will be pastors they know of and think might be a good match for Grace. Some will be pastors who have asked to be considered as candidates. And some may be pastors whom members of Grace suggest. (The Call Committee will provide an opportunity for the congregation to submit names which the Call Committee will then forward to the Bishop's office.)

In my experience, the average time from a Call Committee's first meeting until the new pastor arrives on site is about nine months. This would put Grace's new pastor arriving next August. It could be sooner or later. While the Call Committee can't guarantee it, having the new pastor on board before Rally Sunday is a realistic and reasonable goal they'll be working towards.

Grace, we are moving forward and making progress! The Call Committee will be installed during worship services sometime in the next few weeks. Please pray for their work and pray that the Spirit will draw a pastor to Grace who will be a good fit for your future!

– Pr. Bruce Arnevik, Interim Senior Pastor

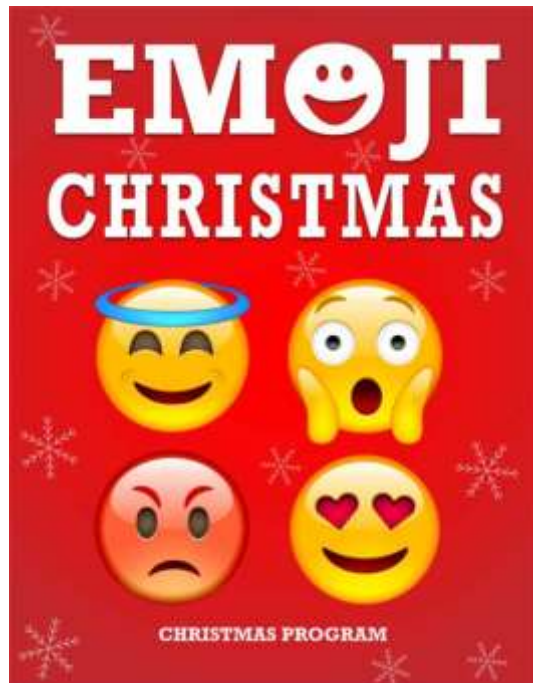


Children's Ministries

First Communion Class

November 17th, 9-11am

Pastor Bruce and Kristin teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive their First Communion during worship on November 17th at 5:00pm service, or November 18th at 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Register through GraceLink or at graceandover.org. If you can't make this date, there will be another class on April 27, 2019.



Christmas Program

December 9 at 3:30pm

Rehearsal: Sat. 12/1, 9-11 a.m. This rehearsal is for children with parts only.

Rehearsal: Sat. 12/8, 9-11a.m. All kids will join at 10am for a full rehearsal.

Program: Sun. 12/9 at 3:30 p.m. (Please have children here by 3pm)

All Children will rehearse during SONday school and during KNO. More information will be sent home with your children.



December 2

Children begin in worship with their family and will be dismissed following the children's sermon.

Baptism Class

Sunday, January 13th at 11:45 am

Baptism is an important part of a faith journey. We will discuss how God is at work in baptism and share insights to help you as you raise your child to know and love God. Register online through GraceLink, or call the church office to sign up. Baptisms may be scheduled during most services. Contact Kris Miller to confirm availability.

SAVE THE DATE

New- Chili Cookoff

~Sunday January 27th at 11:45 am

Bring your best Chili recipe or come and taste the competition. We will play bingo and enjoy fellowship. Email [Kristin Lowe](mailto:Kristin.Lowe) if you would like to enter your own chili.

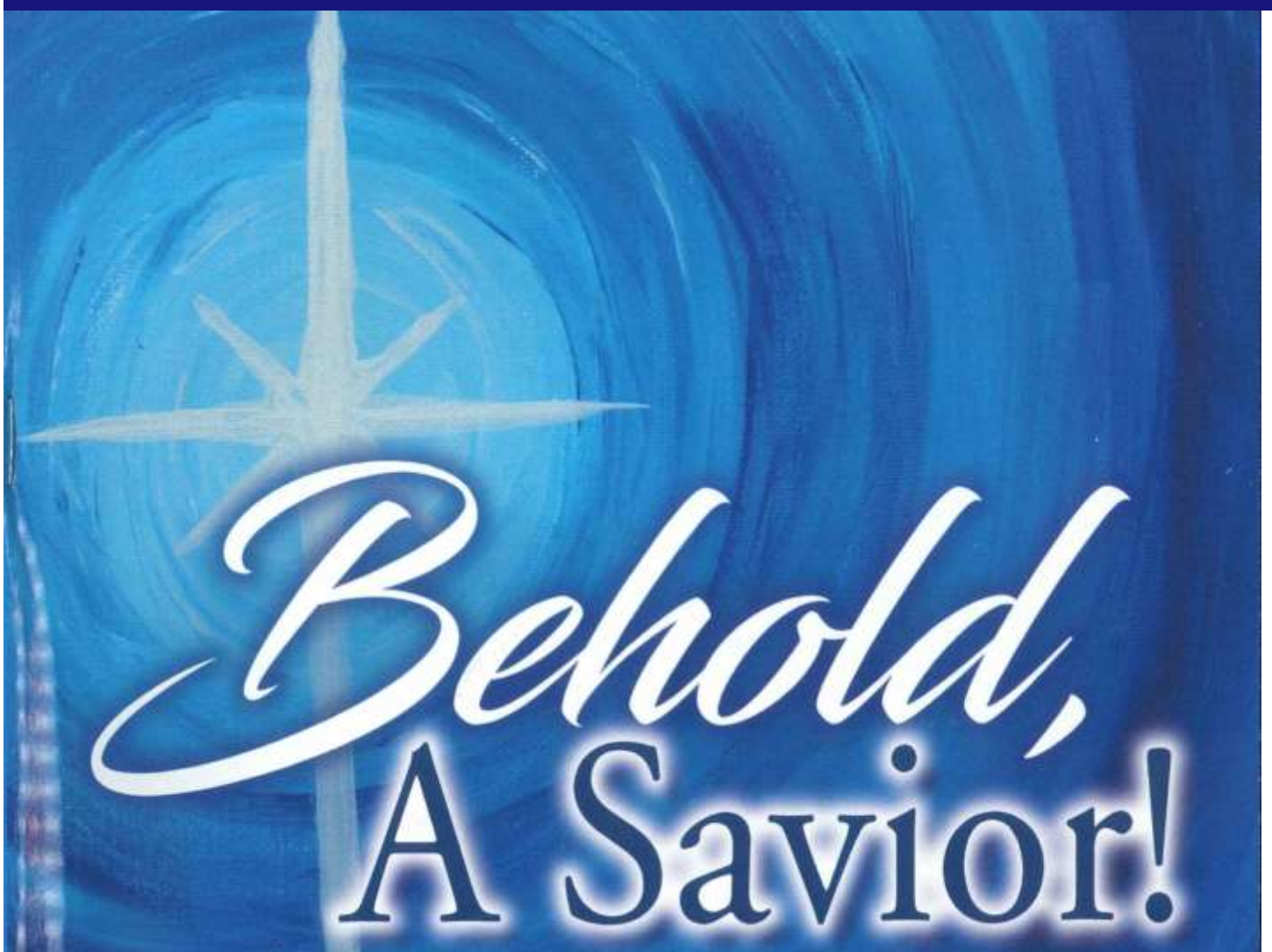
New Special Person Dance

~Friday February 22nd at 6-8pm

Bring your Child, Grandchild, Niece or Nephew or any special Child in your life. Join us for a night of dancing, crafts, and treats. We invite all!

No SONday School
November 25
December 23 & 30
No Catechism or KNO
November 21
December 19 & 26

Advent Choir Christmas Cantata



Sunday, December 16 at 9am and 10:30am

GRACE CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Join the Grace Choir as we present "Behold, A Savior!"
by Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall.

We will be performing this cantata on Sunday, December 16 at 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
(we will start with the Advent music at the beginning of rehearsal)
with extra rehearsals on Saturday, 11/17 and 12/ 1 from 10am-noon.

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!

Ministry Opportunities for Christmas



'GIFTS of GRACE'

for those experiencing homelessness

Please consider joining our outreach efforts this Christmas as we provide "Gifts of Grace" for residents at *Stepping Stone Emergency Housing* in Anoka. Beginning the weekend of November 24-25, you're invited to take a reusable Target bag from the narthex, fill it with the items on the list inside, and then return the filled bag to church **by Sunday, December 16th**. Please note that the list consists of basic-need items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.) that most of us take for granted, but that are *very* helpful to homeless individuals.

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 the former State Hospital grounds), provides emergency housing and support to 66 single men and women, 18 years and older. *Stepping Stone* also provides mentoring and life skills training for the residents as they strive towards self-sufficiency.

Thank you for being a blessing this Christmas to someone experiencing homelessness in our community!



THE GRACE GIVING TREE

This holiday season, Children's & Youth Ministries are joining together to brighten the holiday spirits of those needing help. This is for the Grace Community to support other Grace Families during a season which is often stressful. The stocking requests will be hung on the Giving Tree by November 24th. Questions? Contact [Annie Fitzl](#) or [Kristi Larson](#).



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 Jan Margotto (763) 434-4617 margotto@msn.com

Ministry Opportunities



Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me...

Women's Retreat 2019

LADIES please join us for our Women's Retreat Feb 8-10, 2019 at Luther Point Bible Camp as we wrap our heads and hearts around the theme "Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me"

Date: Friday, February 8 – Sunday, February 10

Time: Arrive at camp between 6-8 pm Friday
Depart at Noon Sunday

Place: Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI

Price: Early Bird Special:

Register by December 31 = \$75

January 1 - January 30 = \$90

includes All meals and lodging

Contact Stacy Surratt with any questions at stacysurratt@yahoo.com **Register on GraceLink!**

Women's Opportunities

W.O.W - Wednesdays at 9:30am

Bible Study on Mondays at 6:30pm

Ruth Circle - 2nd Wednesdays at 12:30pm

Quilters - Wednesdays at 9:00am

Grace Quilters 2 - Last Mondays at 6:30pm

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

Advent Wreath Making Event

Sunday, December 2nd, 5 - 7 pm

Bring the whole family and a dish to share.

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 \$15. 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.

Sign up on the blue sheet, call the church office or **Register on Gracelink!** . For more information, please contact Jessie jessieRCrooks@gmail.com



Family Promise

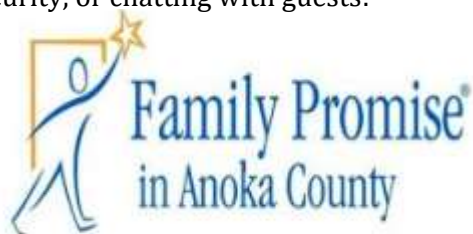
Thank You from Annie Fitzl

Providing safe shelter and
warm hospitality to the homeless

November 25 – December 2

Family Promise in Anoka County (FPAC) is a network of area congregations who provide temporary housing to families without homes. Guests are housed at each host congregation for one week, on a rotating basis, moving to a new location in the network each week until they become self-sufficient and independent once again.

Grace will host Family Promise guests at our church the week of Nov. 25 – Dec. 2. Will you please join us in this hands-on ministry of sharing God's grace in our local community? You will strengthen lives and build community in very tangible ways – through cooking a meal, driving the van, sleeping overnight for security, or chatting with guests!



Here's a list of various volunteer opportunities:

- **EVENING HOST:** Dine and chat with guests, play games with children, etc. (One evening, 5:00-9:00 PM)
- **OVERNIGHT HOST:** Provide overnight security at church. (One night, 8:30 PM – 7:00 AM). You DO get to sleep!
- **CHEF:** Prepare an evening meal for up to 16 people. (One evening)
- **SERVER:** Serve dinner and clean up the kitchen. (One evening, 5:00-7:30 PM)
- **DRIVER:** Drive the van to transport guests. (One day, at 6:00 AM or 4:30 PM)
- **PREP WORK:** Set up and take down beds on Sunday mornings.
- **DONATE:** Purchase and donate food supplies or gas cards for our Host Week.

THANK YOU for considering how you can make a positive difference in the lives of a family through this Family Promise ministry!

For more information, please contact Alden Riley, the Family Promise Ministry Team Leader, at aldenandjudy@comcast.net or at 763 412-9489.



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126:3

This sums up Grace's 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat. Overwhelmed with joy and love in a parking lot. Over 400 Grace members and community members, sharing in the love God has for each of us. Love, smiles, kindness, and giggles filled the air.

If you donated candy, opened your trunk, arrived in costume, or simply watched from the sidelines – THANK YOU. This would not have happened without the support of the Planning Team or Children's Ministry Team.

A Generous monetary gift was provided through the Thrivent Financial Action Team to implement the Teal Pumpkin Project which included those with dietary restrictions.

Thank you to Bill's Superette for the donation of a \$25 gas card for the "Best Decorated Trunk" winner. If you have a trunk, you have a need for fuel. Congratulations to the Mayer Family and their bubble bath trunk!



Help Grace finish 2018 strong! Give a Year-End Gift

Tis the season of thankfulness, love, joy, and giving. Grace is in the midst of transition, but the generosity of the congregation is ever present. The people of Grace continue to share their time, talents, and treasures. Please prayerfully consider a Year End Gift above your normal offerings. We have set a goal of \$35,000 in Year End Gifts. This is an achievable goal with your help. 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 may be dropped off in the church office, dropped in the offering plate or mailed. 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.

Kate Morphew, Church Administrator

Don't forget! December 31st!

End of year (of 2018 that is...)

Grace goal for End of the Year Gifts



\$35,000 above regular giving

You can give at graceandover.org, on GraceLink, drop off in the church office, place in the offering plate or mail. (please memo: EOY 2018 or Year End)

Scan the QR Code
for a direct link



GraceLink

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 that amount.
5. Then select how much you would like to give to each fund.
6. Finish filling out your bank information.
7. Then 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.

Finances as of October 31

	2018 YTD
General Offerings	\$ 548,209.57
Other Receipts (registrations, activity fees, facility usage)	\$ 75,210.60
Total Receipts	\$ 623,420.17
Total Expenses	\$ 655,100.75
	\$ (31,680.58)

YTD Noisy Offering = \$10,688.37

YTD Benevolence paid = \$42,832.31

YTD Mortgage paid = \$88,460.00

Remaining Mortgage = \$671,822.78

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



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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Address Service Requested

Join us for Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve, December 24th

2:00pm - Family Christmas Service w/ Staffed Nursery

4:00pm - Family Candlelight Service w/ Staffed Nursery

7:00 pm - Contemporary Candlelight Service

10:00pm - Traditional Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00am - Christmas Quiet Communion

