

grace notes

January & February 2019

KICKOFF 2019

with GRACE



Grace Lutheran Church Staff

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

Vision Board Members

Scott Christensen (Pres.)	Alden Riley
Johnna Rohmer-Hirt (V.P.)	Dave Trapp
Vickie Meade (Secretary)	Carla Renner
Chad Hadler	

PRAYERS

We keep in our prayers those in need of healing:

Marlene Elton, Lola Money, Barb Keller, Kathy Lovik,
Tom & Mary Taillefer,
Levi Larson, Doug Nelson, Paul Harker,
Verlyn Wenndt, Doreen Hutchings, Lynda Wilde,
Jamie Hess, James Richter, Pat Roettger,
Lynda Leonard, Jan Benskin, Julie Swedberg
Phillip & Abby Wadsworth and their unborn baby,
Becky Anderson, Sue Miner, Joan Miller,
Colleen Wernimont, Lindsay Orwig, Tony,
Loren Gritti, Beth Passenheim, Nate Gfroerer,
Dick & Lu Henning, Sylvia Lindgren

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

Robyn Barker, Dick Moler, Debra Gallagher,
Cathy Biggs, Debra Beam



To our family at Grace,

You all have shown us again how Jesus has helped us take our journey with the help of many angels. We have been helped by many here. Your prayers, love, hugs, hands, food, rides and everything we can't even remember THANK YOU from us is just not enough!! Please know with the gifts you have made, our journey has become so much easier for both of us.

December 21st, Mary finds out if Chemo is working. Tom has some bleeding and has slowed the healing how about 2 weeks. He finds out December 28th if he will need a few rounds of radiation.

With much love & thanks, Tom & Mary Taillefer

Vision Board Minutes

November 2018 Vision Board Minutes

The November 2018 Vision Board meeting was held at Grace after a joint meeting with the Transition Team and Call Committee.

The Vision Board approved the Transition Team Final Report, and it was turned over to the Call Committee to start their process.

Pastor Bruce presented his written report. The Call Committee meets 11/17/18 with Pastor John Hulden from the Bishop's office. Pastor Bruce will serve as an on-site resource for the committee but will not be a part of the selection process. Three families attended the Baptism Class. First Communion Class was held on 11/17/18 for the service on 17th & 18th. Two households are ready for the next New Member Class. Advent and Christmas services are scheduled. December 22/23 will be "Christmas Early" services.

Our financial statements were reviewed. Grace will balance if we receive \$165,000 in offerings by year end. A year-end push of \$35,000 will be implemented. 66 giving units turned in their Giving Cards. Follow-up will continue on the Giving Cards.

Pastor Bruce, Scott Christensen, Greg Ackerson and Kate Morphey will meet with Jim Dickinson, City of Andover Administrator to clarify what Grace's options are regarding the portables and Nightingale land.

The next meeting of the Vision board is Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

We ended the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by Vickie Meade, Secretary

December 2018 Vision Board Minutes

The December 2018 Vision Board meeting was held at Grace on Tuesday December 11, 2018 from 6:00 pm - 8:33 pm.

The minutes for the November 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

The Call Committee has begun work on the Ministry Site Profile. Lori Ackerson is Chair of the Committee. John Anderson is their Spiritual Leader and Frances Fernandez will head up Communications. Bishop Ann Svennungsen is scheduled to meet with the congregation on 1/20/19 for face-to-face conversations regarding our wants and needs in a new Senior Pastor.

Scott Christensen, Greg Ackerson, Kate Morphey and Pastor Bruce are working with Jim Dickinson, Andover City Administrator, Julie Trude, Mayor of Andover, and the Andover City Council requesting an extension for the removal of the portables.

Our financial statements were reviewed. No more capital expenditures are expected for this year. Additional Free2B donations will be moved to a dedicated account at year end for future expenses in 2019. A projection of \$80,000.00 in donations to our "Current Fund" are still needed to balance this year's budget. Benevolence for the Synod is complete for 2018. The 2019 budget will be presented to the congregation on 1/22/19 for review. The Annual Meeting follows all services on 1-26/27-19.

The next meeting of the Vision Board is Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

Submitted by Vickie Meade, Secretary



Message from Pastor Bruce

A New Year, a New Chapter

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

The first Sunday of 2019 is January 6, the Day of Epiphany when we remember the journey of the magi to visit the Christ Child. As the story is told in Matthew 2, these “magi from the East” would probably have been from ancient Persia or modern-day Iran. Iran’s capitol, Tehran, is about 1250 miles from Bethlehem. That would have been a long and slow journey on camelback. It may have involved a huge caravan of magi, families, servants, livestock, and camels. They may have camped along the journey for extended periods of time, living in large tents like modern-day Bedouins. The trip could have taken two years. As the saying goes, *the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step*. Guided by the light of a star, magi and caravan set out on their journey. And camel step by camel step, they eventually reached the Holy Family and knelt before the Christ Child.

We begin the journey of a new year by taking one step. We know little to nothing of what lies ahead. In our lives and in our world, there will be joys and sorrows. There will be struggles and pleasant surprises. But we will journey forward, one step and one day at a time. As we journey, we are guided by One who travels with us. Jesus the Christ, born as light of the world, travels with us through whatever we will face in the year ahead. *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.* (John 8:12) Present with us in community, even where only two or three are gathered, this is the One we follow into a new year and new chapter.

A new year means continuing to move into a new chapter for Grace. As of mid-December, the Call Committee has met three times. They were installed during worship services on December 15/16. They are completing the Ministry Site Profile and will submit it by mid-January.

Bishop Ann Svenningsen will worship with Grace on Sunday morning, January 20. At 11:30 that morning, all are invited into the worship center for conversation with her about your hopes and dreams for Grace’s future and your new pastor.

The Call Committee will receive candidate names about a month later in February. This means they’ll likely be ready to begin interviews during the first part of March. This is good timing since it could allow Call Committee members to hear candidates preach and potentially conduct second interviews before Holy Week and Easter in mid-April. (Again, the goal is to have the new pastor on board next summer before Rally weekend.)

Grace will begin a new chapter in this New Year as you call a new pastor. Together you will journey, step by step, as you follow the One born as light of the world. Please continue praying for the Call Committee. And may God bless the remainder of our travels together in 2019!

– Pr. Bruce Arnevik, Interim Pastor



2019 Tentative Timeline to Call a New Senior Pastor

Bishop Ann Svenningsen will worship with Grace on Sunday morning. At 11:30am, all are invited into the worship center for conversation with her about your hopes and dreams for Grace's future and your new pastor.

**January
20th**

**Late
February**

The Call Committee will receive candidate names

The Call Committee will likely be ready to begin interviews

March

April

The Call Committee may be allowed to hear candidates preach offsite and potentially conduct second interviews before Holy Week and Easter.

The goal is to have the new Senior Pastor on board before Rally weekend in September.

Summer

Children's Ministries

KNO (Kids Night Out)

resumes Wednesday, January 2nd!
We will be watching "The Star"

SONday School

resumes January 6th
(Family Worship Weekend) ...see below



January 6th

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

Baptism Class

Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 11:45 am
and
March 10, 2019

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.



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@graceandover.org) if you would like to enter your own chili.



Special Person Dance

Friday February 22nd at 6-8pm

Bring your Child, Grandchild or special Child in your life. Join us for a night of dancing, crafts, and treats. Get your photo taken in our photo booth with the special child in your life. Cost is \$5 per Child or \$10 per family. We invite all!!
Look for registration in coming soon.

Spring First Communion Class

~April 27th, 9-11am

Pastor Bruce and Kristin Lowe teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on April 27th at the 5:00pm service, or April 28th at the 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Register through GraceLink or at graceandover.org.



Youth Ministries and Mission Trip News

Catechism

resumes Wednesday, January 2nd!
Family Pizza each Wednesday at 6pm



Mystery Bus Tour

February 9th, 2019

What are we doing? Where are we going? How will we get there? Nobody knows! Show up and find out all the fun stuff Kristi and Tom have planned for this day of fun!!!

More information at www.graceandover.org!



Ultimate Middle School Lockin

Maple Grove Community Center

Friday, February 1st 10pm - Saturday to 6am

ARRIVE AT GRACE BY 9:45PM

LEAVE GRACE AT 10PM

RETURN TO GRACE BY 6:15AM ON SATURDAY

All 6th-8th graders are welcome to attend (and friends!)

Cost: \$25.00 plus \$5.00 for bus transportation
Swimming, ice skating, 9 square/ air, great music with dj, inflatable games, Knockerball, dodge ball, dance, ga ga pit, ESCAPE ROOM, food (pizza) and much more!!!

For more information or to sign up go to www.graceandover.org or contact Tom Baker at Tomb@graceandover.org

2019 Youth Mission Team Fundraisers

We have 14 middle school youth serving in Milwaukee, WI in June and 21 high school youth serving in Boston, MA in July.

Please consider how you can support our mission team youth through these upcoming fundraising opportunities:



A new way to support our youth mission teams!

Choose gift cards from over **750 brands** you're already shopping, including Best Buy, Amazon, Nordstrom, The Home Depot and many more. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents to family and friends or use them for every day purchases, your order immediately raises funds for our organization. Share the giftspiration with others—the more people that order, the more we earn.

Watch for information in the bulletins and on graceandover.org



Community Impact Fundraiser

Champlin Pizza Ranch

Monday, February 11th 4pm-8pm

Join us for dinner between 4pm and 8pm. Flyers with details will be distributed after services in February and will be on our website.

Ministry Opportunities



CELEBRATION DINNER

Sunday, February 24 2019
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.

Contact Stacy Surratt stacysurratt@yahoo.com or Scott Christensen 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!

If you know for sure you are planning to come, please contact Stacy Surratt or Scott Christensen and let us know. If you're not sure now, feel free to come anyway! Look forward to seeing you!

Feed My Starving Children 2019 Dates Announced

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. -Psalm 146:7 (NIV)

The people of Grace have a long-standing tradition of feeding hungry kids around the world through *Feed My Starving Children*. Whether you have supported the organization financially or participated in packing food, you have provided nourishment to thousands of children, enabling them not only to live, but to thrive!

As you can see from the dates below, there are plenty of opportunities to participate in *Feed My Starving Children* in 2019! And although you can pack food anytime, why not join others from the Grace community in one of the sessions reserved for us? It's a great way to get to know others better as we work together to feed the hungry!



SATURDAYS:

Shifts between 11:30am & 2pm

February 16, May 11, June 22, July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 26

FRIDAYS DURING LENT:

Shifts between 6pm & 8pm

March 8, 15, 22, 29; April 5 and 12

MARATHON PACK:

Friday, November 15 – 6:00 and 8:00 PM

Saturday, November 16 – 9:00 and 11:30 AM; 2:00 and 7:00 PM

Mark your calendar and register directly on *Feed My Starving Children's* website: www.fmssc.org

Ministry Opportunities



Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me...

Women's Retreat 2019

ATTENTION LADIES WHO HAVE RESERVED YOUR SPOT FOR THE RETREAT – We are excited to let you know that the Women's Retreat is full and we are working hard to make sure all the activities are ready for you. Look for an email from Stacy Surratt at the end of January that will have a packing list of what to bring as well as carpooling instructions. That weekend we will savor good food, supportive friendships and growing faith. I can't wait to relax and be "chilled but filled"with what we have planned at our retreat this year!

Date: Friday, February 8 – Sunday, February 10

Time: Arrive at camp between 6-8 pm Friday
We'll arrange carpooling from Grace's parking lot. Departing at Noon on Sunday, arriving back to Grace's parking lot around 2pm)

Place: Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI

Price: \$90, includes All meals and lodging
Contact Stacy Surratt with any questions at stacysurratt@yahoo.com



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



C3 Connection Potluck

Saturday, January 12

immediately following the 5pm Worship Service. We'll gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy a meal together. Beverages, plates, silverware, and napkins will be provided. All are welcome to join us. Please bring a favorite dish to share. Questions? Contact Low & Joe Jackson 763-762-6151 lowjackson@aol.com

Ministry Opportunities



January 27-February 2

When you hear about the homeless encampment in Minneapolis what comes to mind? Do you think that's Minneapolis's problem it doesn't affect us here in Anoka County? Or do you think those poor people I wish there was something I could do? Would you be surprised to learn homelessness is not just a Minneapolis problem, there are homeless families living here in Andover. And there is a lot you can do to help.

Here at Grace we have partnered with Family Promise in Anoka County since 2008 to provide a safe environment for families with children to reinvent themselves and get back on their feet.

Grace will be hosting Family Promise families again January 27th through February 2nd 2019.

You can help:

- * Donate supplies
- * Prepare and serve a meal
- * Visit with the families one evening
- * Sleep overnight
- * Drive the van
- * Help setup and/or clear sleeping rooms.

Please watch for and sign up on the Blue Sheets in January.

And the King shall answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me.

Matthew 25:40

“being neighbor – extending grace”

Announcing three upcoming “Word” opportunities toward *understanding, forgiveness and growth* – for all at Grace, and our neighbors, too!



Understanding: “The Wired Word” – a very informal study/discussion for adults. Spirit-filled dialogue on current events utilizing the lens of Scripture and thought provoking questions (seven weeks beginning Thursday, January 17 at Two Rivers Vineyard and Winery). Watch for more details on GraceLink coming soon.



Forgiveness: The Forgiveness Project’s “The F Word” – an exhibit for all, forgiveness on display that is almost beyond belief. These are incredible stories of forgiveness from around the world, teaching unconditional forgiveness to deep within the hearts of those that experience this unique exhibit. Powerful stories of hope and transformation coming to Grace March 8-10, March 15-17.

Growth: Into “the Word” - “Seven Steps into Jesus”, a Scripture study and video series on the seven “I Am” statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John - Lenten study, March/April, a “Theology on Tap” off-site.

Look for more information on these opportunities coming soon, and more educational opportunities toward “being neighbor – extending grace” this spring!

*John Anderson, Grace SALT (Seek, Abide, Love, Trust)
Adult Education and Prayer Ministry Team Member*

Financial Information



Church Budget Meeting

Budget Meeting January 22 at 6:30pm

We have a budget meeting on January 22 at 6:30. We will talk about the upcoming budget. We will touch on how we ended 2018 and how we are preparing for 2019. There will be time for questions as well.

If you have questions in the meantime about finances, Kate (or Beth) is always willing to answer them.



Scan the QR Code
for a direct link to
Giving Online

Finances as of November 30

YTD Noisy Offering = \$12,035.64
YTD Benevolence paid = \$47,128.83
YTD Mortgage paid = \$97,306.00
Remaining Mortgage = \$665,076.23

For updated financials for the end of 2018, please call the church office.

	2018 YTD
General Offerings	\$ 606,145.65
Other Receipts (registrations, activity fees, facility usage)	\$ 79,046.60
Total Receipts	\$ 685,192.25
Total Expenses	\$ 720,469.44
	\$ (35,277.19)

2018 Contribution Statements will be mailed to you in January.

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



Annual Meeting

January 26 & 27

Immediately following each worship

The purpose of the annual meeting is to vote on the 2019 proposed operational budget. Members of congregation is asked to vote on the budget at the conclusion of all the worship services on January 26/27. For more information, contact the church office.



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.



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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Highlighted Calendar Events

January

January 2Catechism & KNO resumes
January 7Green Ribbon Parents
January 12C3 Saturday Potluck
January 13Baptism Class
January 17The Wired Word
January 20.....Bishop Ann Svennungsen is here
January 22Budget Meeting
January 24The Wired Word
January 26Annual Meeting
January 27Annual Meeting
January 27 - Feb 2 ...Family Promise Host Week
January 27Chili Cook-off & Bingo
January 31The Wired Word

Family Pizza Every Wednesday at 6pm
See inside this issue for all the details

February

February 1Middle School Lockin
February 3Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
February 4Green Ribbon Parents
February 5Men at Buffalo Wild Wings
February 7The Wired Word
February 8-10.....Women's Retreat
February 9Mystery Bus Tour
February 11.....Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
February 14.....Lifeline Screening
February 14.....The Wired Word
February 21.....The Wired Word
February 22Special Person Dance
February 23.....Feed My Starving Children
February 24 ...Grace 4 Rakai Celebration Dinner
February 28.....The Wired Word