



Turning points, New Chapters and Waiting

The Hebrew and Christian Bibles number their verses differently than one another. Most of the time, it doesn't matter very much. But in Isaiah chapter 9, what is verse one in the Christian Bible is the last verse of the prior chapter in the Hebrew Bible. This verse speaks of gloom, darkness, despair, war and while verse two moves onto hope. For Jewish readers, that gloomy verse is the end of the last chapter, not a continuation into the next. The Thursday morning Zoom Bible Study talked about this for a while. We wondered together about what it means when we get to start a new chapter, and how we know when we have turned the page. We also pondered what carries over and comes with us as we start a new chapter.

I am writing this reflection the Friday before our big congregational vote on moving ahead with the building project and beginning our capital appeal. This building project is in many ways, a new chapter in the life of Grace Lutheran Church. It is a time to move into our identity and live into our values. I will confess, I feel like I have already started. My brain, heart and mind already feel as though we are moving forward. But there is still uncertainty. Have we finished the last chapter, and are we ready to start a new one? What will we carry with us? Decisions will be determined by the vote this weekend, and perhaps we will be asked to return to the starting line and try again, or perhaps we will realize that God turned the page for us long ago and we are ready.

In the Church, Advent is the new year. It is when liturgically we begin again. In other words, we turn the page on the past year, and start a new chapter. In Advent, God brings us all the way back to the beginning. There is uncertainty, and darkness in our world, pregnancy, waiting and at long last, birth. A son born for the world. We don't get to jump ahead to the good news without the waiting. We must sit in the darkness for a while. We stop to take a pregnant pause as we contemplate, yet again, what this gift means for us and for our world. This after all is faith: the anticipation, the anxiety, the hope, the promise, the trust. It is how God works in and through us.

Turning points, and new chapters can be hard for many of us. The past is comfortable and safe. We know what to expect. However, in Advent, God invites us to expect the unexpected. To dare to listen to the voices of messengers or angels who tell us "Do not be afraid." For God is in our world. Born into our hearts, and our lives, inviting us to bring our whole selves before God, who comes in hope to lead us forward.

As I wait today for this weekend, I do so, not in fear, but instead trusting in the promises of our generous God who has already poured out eternal love for all of us, through Jesus.

Blessings,
Pastor Joanna Mitchell

*Update: The congregation voted overwhelmingly in favor of moving forward with the capital appeal. The plans for our church expansion will largely be decided by the amount of money raised during the appeal. Our capital appeal will kick off in January 2022 and will wrap up in March. Please pray for a fruitful and successful campaign!



Associate Pastor's Message



The Year in Review A Reflection from Pastor Maria Markman

The Christmas narratives in the four gospels are full of surprises. Matthew is a genealogy that traces Jesus' lineage. Surprisingly, we find a few women in the list! Mark is surprising because there is no birth narrative. Then we get to Luke where we find the most recognizable story, but it is an unexpected story where God shows up as a vulnerable baby to a young unwed woman, is born in a barn and the first people to hear about it aren't kings

or rulers or religious leaders, but shepherds. Reading a little further you might begin to wonder where the kings are who visit Jesus and then realize they are not in Luke, but all the way back in Matthew??? And last but certainly not least the Gospel of John is an ethereal poem that harkens back to the creation narratives of our faith... And all of these stories tell us something about how God works, often in surprising ways. As you reflect on the past year, what has been surprising and unexpected, and how have you experienced God in it all?

Our last adult education team meeting of the year is held in November. December is always so busy; we decide all matters can rest until the new year. In our meeting, team member Frances Fernandez invited our team to reflect on all we had accomplished in the last year. Sitting and listening to her reflection, I was amazed, maybe pleasantly surprised at all the things we offered, especially in the midst of a global pandemic -Conversations on Race and Culture, small groups on topics ranging from immigrants and the Bible to centering prayer, mental health, and the popular streaming series The Chosen. So many were invited to engage in conversations and studies that encouraged us to live out Grace's mission to listen, grow, and serve, so all might experience grace. My heart is both filled with gratitude for all the people who engaged in this work, and our volunteer leaders, and on the other hand overwhelmed. As one member of our team pointed out, maybe we offered too many things at once! A good problem to have when so many wanted to join in, but simply couldn't make it to everything! God is doing BIG things here at Grace and I encourage you, if you haven't noticed, to take a moment to reflect. It might surprise you all the things we experienced in 2021. Then give thanks for the opportunities, and for a God who continues to provide them! While on a home pastoral visit, a woman exclaimed something to the effect of "change is the only real constant." God is working, changing, and transforming us! And in this new year you might be surprised at where God is leading you. Challenge yourself to get involved, see where God is leading you to listen, grow, and serve. God's blessings to you and a very Merry Christmas to you all!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Maria Markman



To better align with accounting practices, dedicated revenues and expenses have been separated from operating revenue and expenses to give a more accurate picture of our financial standing.

Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2021

Current & Capital Offerings-\$675,938.20
Expenses—\$675,461.83
Mortgage Balance \$415,181.68
Dedicated Offerings—\$64,884.66
Dedicated Fund Totals -\$78,306.54

Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2020

Current & Capital Offerings-\$640,741.11
Expenses—\$658,165.10
Mortgage Balance \$503,950.93
Dedicated Offerings-\$28,341.58
Dedicated Fund Totals-\$76,877.47

Thank You



Thank You!

The Sand Creek ESL students and teachers have expressed their thanks to Grace Lutheran Church for the gift donations they received at their ESL Breakfast. The gifts given by Grace for this event were Target gift cards, books, puppets, and 10 small quilts made by the Grace Quilters. Thank you all!

Thank You!

Thank you, Grace Lutheran Church!

What a blessing you have been to me and my family. You were all so helpful during a difficult time, as we planned the celebration of life for our husband, father, and grandpa, Ken Howard.

A special thank you to Pastor Joanna, David Phelps, Johnna Hirt, Phil Knutson, John Peterson, Kris Miller and the wonderful men and women who prepared and served the refreshments, and for the many who donated bars, cookies, and treats. Thank you for blessing our family in this way.

Bonnie Howard & family

Thank you to Grace for prayers for our nephew, Luke Galland (New York City), who was severely burned in early August, and in a Burn ICU for three months, undergoing numerous operations. After a few days in transitional hospital care, on Nov 9th Luke walked free of the hospital! He will be receiving physical therapy for many months, and he's in a time of huge adjustment. Continued prayers very appreciated. Thanks be to God for his miraculous progress. In Christ - *John & Barb Anderson*



Administrator's Corner

Administrator's Corner



I can't believe the year is coming to an end! As we work on updating our Realm system to prepare for the New Year, one of the things we are developing is a new informational brochure to help guide you with stock/funds gifts. We are able to receive these gifts and can provide you with a form for your bank/brokerage firm to help facilitate this. Please contact me or Marie if you would like more information. We are so grateful for the generosity of our Grace families and friends! Please let us know if you have questions regarding your last giving statement. We found that Realm has yet to program all giving accounts into one pledge, meaning some statements might have come out not reflecting all your giving against your pledge. We have since made some enhancements to the pledge/giving format in hopes of correcting this. Let us know if you have any questions/concerns. As we continue to move into a more "green" way of life, please consider electronic giving. If you are currently giving electronically, but still receive the giving envelopes, please call Kris and let her know so we can update the list in order for you to not continue to receive envelopes. I am so happy to hear so many voices and see so many people in our building! We continue to promote safe distancing and our custodians have been diligent in disinfecting areas to provide as safe an environment as possible. Please don't feel inclined to put away tables and chairs after your participating in events/meetings. Staff will gladly do this. Lastly, I am so grateful for all your prayers for my family. May God bless you during this holiday season and always!

In Christ, *Frances*

Wednesday Evenings at Grace Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm-Family Pizza

6:30-7:30pm-Children, Catechism, High School, Adult Large and Small Groups

7:30-8:00pm-Intergenerational Worship

8:00-9:00pm-High School Fellowship

Wednesday
Night
Worship

Vision Board

Generosity in Advent



During the time of Advent, we reflect on God's generosity in sending us the Son and joyfully anticipate His imminent return. Advent is the time we focus ourselves, individually and collectively, on the Light of the World and take stock of how we have lived up to our own Christian values.

Generosity is one of the key elements to leading a Christian life. In Luke 12 we read about Jesus' teaching to refrain from worrying about worldly goods; to sell what we have and give generously to the poor. Proverbs 11:25 says, "The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." And there is nothing more generous than God's ultimate act of love - Jesus' humble human life and his life-saving death on the cross. Generosity and sacrifice is at the heart of the Gospel.

I admit, I get a little nervous when I read instructions from Jesus to sell all I own and give to the poor. I am an emergency fund kind of guy; I find security in knowing I have what I need should something unforeseen happen. However, I know there is a balance between being responsible with money and generous with my funds at the same time. Giving of ourselves can be uncomfortable at best and downright hard at times, but we are called to love generously through word and deed in order to glorify God. In turn, we trust God will provide.

Grace Lutheran Church feels so strongly about generosity that we worked it into our congregational values - accept everyone; care compassionately; deepen connections; share God's love. We strive to give locally and around the world in order to spread God's love. We, the people of Grace, have consistently been generous with our time, talents, finances, and prayers. Our collective desire to give generously in service of God has brought us the opportunity to make our physical space reflect our collective values. Over the next few months, you will hear about the capital campaign to help fund the changes our building needs to continue and expand our mission of generosity. I pray you will consider how you can give generously this Advent season, and beyond; to show love to your fellow humans, the earth, and our church as we continue to work toward fulfilling our mission

Chad Hadler

Tax Saving Gifts to Grace



Please Consider Tax Saving Gifts to Grace, of Stock and/or IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD).

The end of the year is coming and it's the time that some are meeting with tax and/or financial advisers. The stock markets are near all-time highs and have been good to many of us and it may be time to re-balance your portfolio and take some of the gains that have accumulated. It is also the perfect time to consider charitable donations of stock and IRA assets and save on this year's taxes.

Gifts of Stock: Your gift of stock will help Grace and at the same time, gifts of appreciated stock and securities that have been held for at least one year provide a double tax benefit. You may be able to take a charitable income tax deduction for the market value of the appreciated shares you're giving to Grace and at the same time avoid any capital gains taxes that would have been due had you sold the security. In short, you can make a gift that costs you less. If your stock is held with a brokerage firm or bank trust department, you can make a direct transfer of the securities to Grace's account at TD Ameritrade by instructing the holding institution to make a direct transfer, or "DTC".

IRA Rollovers: If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to give to Grace and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Grace without having to pay income taxes on the money or stock. You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. If you are 72 and have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can also satisfy all or part of that requirement.

Making either of these tax-free gifts is easy, simply contact Frances Fernandez, Church Administrator, who can provide specific instructions on how to do this. Contact Frances Fernandez by email francesf@graceandover.org or by phone (763)421-6520 Ext. 102. Please keep in mind, to be tax-free, the stock donation must transfer directly from your brokerage account or your IRA account to us without passing through your hands.

***Disclaimer: We do not provide tax advice. This is informational only. Please speak to a tax professional.**

Ministries

Grace To Haiti

Things have been pretty rough in Haiti for a while now. Grace Lutheran Church's last mission trip to Haiti was April 2019. We planned to go in 2020, but the pandemic derailed those plans. On July 7th of this year, the Haitian President, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated in his home, and since then, the unrest and violence has only gotten worse. On October 16th a group of 17 missionaries from the United States and Canada were kidnapped and are still being held for ransom. Even long-term Haitian missionaries are saying they have never seen things this bad in Haiti. There are several gangs basically running the country. The 400 Mawozo Gang is kidnapping people; the G9 Gang is controlling the fuel depots and kidnapping or shooting any drivers trying to deliver fuel. Other smaller gangs are causing general chaos.



Thank God that several World Wide Village (WWV) donors put solar panels on the community wells we dug and on the guesthouse. The Haitian staff of WWV are able to use the guesthouse to run the programs. Prices are astronomical with gas or diesel being about \$15 per gallon, if you can even find it. With the average daily wage of a Haitian being around \$2, that means that 1 gallon of gas costs over 1 week's income. Food and material costs have increased as well.

World Wide Village has been able to continue running their programs, serving the Haitians.

- 450 kids are sponsored and are attending school
- WWV is providing food for 800 kids at least 3 times a week.
- 150 women enrolled in the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies program.
- People are continuing to receive blood pressure medications.
- Three community wells that WWV dug are all in operation because of the solar panels

Things in Haiti are not good but GOD IS!! We are trusting in him to make things better. We have decided that while He is at work in Haiti, we need to find a new way to serve our Haitian brothers and sisters. We cannot take a team back to Haiti while things are as they are. This breaks our hearts. Many people from Grace have built relationships with people in Williamson and Luly. Some of them have become like family to us.....

Rather than sit back, do nothing, and watch things unfold, we have decided we need to continue serving our Haitian brothers and sisters. We are exploring serving Haitians in the Dominican Republic. There are roughly 200,000 Haitians who live on sugar plantations, many second or third generation workers. Their grandparents came to the Dominican Republic (DR) to pursue better opportunities. Their parents were born in the DR and they were born in the DR, but they still do not have citizenship. They are paid between \$3 and \$9 per day, depending on how much sugar cane they can cut. With no birth certificate, no citizenship, and no ability to work anywhere but the sugar cane fields, they are effectively indentured servants with little to no opportunity to improve their lives.

We have found a charity that has a presence in the Dominican Republic and a ministry to the Haitians who are working in the sugar fields. On Nov 30th, a very small group of us are going with that charity for a short trip to the DR to learn more about what they are doing, what the Haitian's needs are, and what we might be able to do to serve them. If that goes well, we are planning a mission trip from Saturday January 22nd through Friday January 28th. If you would like information regarding the January 2022 mission trip to the DR, please contact Greg Ackerson.

Ministries



Kids 4

Kids 4 is an organization that promotes the four Ls of local love, literacy, and service learning. Each month, we feature a children's book, often by a Minnesota and/or BIPOC author, and then use the theme of that book to promote a service learning activity to benefit local organizations. **We'd like to invite you and your family to join us from 11:30-1:00pm on Saturday, December 4th for our event: Kids 4 Community!** We will read the book *May We Have Enough to Share* and explore how areas of our community are supporting people experiencing homelessness. As part of the service learning activities, we will be making emergency kits and gift bags to assist women and children in crisis at Haven Housing. If you're able to bring personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, body wash, lotion, chapstick, socks, etc., those items will be greatly appreciated and included in the gift bags. At our event, there will be many opportunities for building community through stories, crafts, and treats, and we may also have a speaker from Haven Housing. Our group typically reaches out to families and children ages 3-10, but we extend a warm welcome to all ages. We hope to see you soon!



Thank you from Grace Quilters and Important Dates

Thank you to those who have donated cotton and flannel fabric and cotton/polyester/flannel sheets to our mission work. We have been making many quilts and donating them to Anoka Foster Care, Haven for Heroes, Sand Creek Elementary and Alexander House. We meet on Monday mornings from 9AM to Noon and welcome newcomers to join us. During the Christmas season, we will NOT be meeting on Dec. 20th and 27th.



Would you like to share God's grace in a very tangible and REAL way this Christmas? If so, 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, individuals, or groups from Grace Lutheran with local student families in need.

If you choose to adopt a family, you will receive a list of family members, with genders and ages, but no names. Historically, adopters have shopped for gifts and added gift cards at their discretion. But this year, because of COVID-19, distributing gifts will be difficult. **Therefore, we are asking adopters to purchase ONLY gift cards to whatever vendors and in whatever amount the adopter chooses.** If you are interested in adopting a local family this Christmas, please contact Jan Margotto at 763-434-4617.

Ladies Weekend Retreat



LADIES OF GRACE— Come and join us for our wonderful Women's Retreat on February 18-20, 2022 at Luther Point Bible Camp. Our theme this year is all about "My Faith Journey" where we will uncover and share how God is working in our lives and leading us on a journey to be closer to him. During this Retreat, we'll savor good food, experience supportive friendships, laugh a lot and together, grow in faith. I can't wait to relax and enjoy this fun-filled weekend with you!

Sign up NOW on Realm or call the church office today—**SPOTS ARE LIMITED!** If you have any questions regarding this women's retreat – email Stacy Surratt at stacysurratt@yahoo.com.

Date: Fri., Feb. 18 – Sun., Feb. 20, 2022

Time: GLC parking lot at 5:30pm Friday night. Depart at 12pm Sunday, arrive back at about 2 pm

Place: Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI.

Cost: EARLY BIRD SPECIAL- \$120 UNTIL DEC 31 - Includes lodging for 2 nights & All meals (PRICE WILL INCREASE ON JANUARY 1, 2022)

Ministries



Stepping Stone

Grace will once again be providing Christmas gifts to the residents of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in

Anoka. In the past you have known this outreach as the red Target recycle bags with personal care items, last year we did only gift cards due to Covid. This year is again a bit different - we will be providing needs to Stepping Stone's Santa Shoppe. You will be supplied a hand out at the door and it will be in our communications with all the details and a list of items you can choose to shop for. Or you can find the link to the list on Grace At A Glance. Gift items should be returned to Grace and placed in the tote labeled **"Stepping Stone Homeless Santa Shoppe"** by the weekend of **December 11-12**.

Graceful Seniors

Graceful Seniors is a group of mostly retired folks who meet the second Tuesday of each month (December 7th) in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and a brief study (8:30-10:00 am). In November, we discussed funeral planning. If you have finished your worksheet and would like us to add it to our files, please drop it by the office anytime. If you missed it and would like to meet with Pastor Maria or would like the handouts, call the office at anytime. Our December meeting will be a joyous occasion for all! Just bring yourselves and a ready and willing Christmas season spirit! For more information please contact Pastor Maria.



Men's Ministry

Grace Guys,
I wanted to invite all of you to join us for breakfast at Bakers Square the third Saturday (December 18th) of each month at 8:00 am. Please let me know if you think you will be able to make it so I can reserve a table. I can be reached at 612-850-8815.
Stephen Hirt



Reflections on "Conversations on Race and Culture" Series

Held at Grace By Jan Anderson

Ben Franklin once said, "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." How do we come to understand the outrage – and other emotions -- of those affected? By opening our eyes to see others' perspectives and by listening to their stories through conversations. That was the wonderful opportunity afforded by Grace during this past year with a thoughtful study called "Conversations on Race and Culture." We need to be aware of how we treat others, even though we may not initially be aware of our biases. Raising our awareness is great, but it's just a first step in understanding our neighbors. In order to show compassion, we need to educate ourselves about the problems affecting relationships.

The following were topics addressed in the study:

- A. Being Black in America
- B. Asian American and Pacific Islander people
- C. Hispanic Heritage and Influence
- D. LGBTQ
- E. Indigenous Impact
- F. Intersectionality --- a coming together of all the factors that comprise the way we see others and how others see us

We are all created in God's image, and there are far more things that unite us than divide us, so **let's talk**. For more information and for presentation content see "Conversations on Race and Culture" on Grace's web page. (The path to our content can be found by following this path: on the Grace home page click more on the top of the page, scroll to racism and click, then scroll and click on conversations on race and culture.)

Ministries



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle is a group of mostly retired women who meet the first Monday of each month following quilters (12-12:30pm lunch, 12:30-1:30pm study) Bring your lunch and join Pastor Joanna and others as we engage the Gather magazine monthly Bible Study. Our next gathering is December 6th for a Christmas Tea. The office has extra copies of the study for those who don't have a subscription or who would like to try it out.

Do you have an idea for a bible study or small group session?



The Adult Education Team would like to hear from you. Is there a book you enjoyed, a video series or a specific topic you would like to see used in a small group? We are here to help you bring it to reality. The Adult Education Team is a diverse group of individuals who have a desire to expand the opportunities for you to grow in your faith. We are here to assist with promoting and hosting in-person or remote learning opportunities. Please reach out to Pastor Maria at MariaM@graceandover.org



Self-Care for the Caregiver

Monthly virtual sessions: begins January 27th at 6pm; offered the last Thursday of each month. A virtual monthly drop in group, **Care/Support for the Caregiver**. Each of these groups would provide community, support and an education topic. There will be a MHC Navigator, a therapist and our educator (Drew Brooks) at the meeting each month. Many of you are searching for help for a loved one, but you also need support too.

Below is the link for people to register for these free MH Connect events:

<https://www.mhconnect.org/events>

Deep Listening: Care and Concern or Listening First Aid



**6 sessions beginning Monday,
January 17 to March 28 at 6pm**

Offered every other Monday, virtually (it's okay if you can't make them all; attend what you can!)

Deep listening training is for people who want to be great listeners and improve their tools to help others, leaders and you. Drew Brooks, Executive Director of Faith Partners will be presenting on tools to help us enter into challenging conversations, like mental health. Each session will focus on a different listening practice or skill. The mental health pandemic is increasing and we can learn how to help each other. We'll build on what we know with a 6 week training for anyone that wants to be a better listener, have the tools to support others and feel confident.

Family Table Sunday, Dec. 19th



Grace will be serving another Family Table "take-out" meal on Sunday, December 19th.

There are plenty of opportunities for you to help, whether it's making food, or donating bottled water! We also need assistance packing meals and bringing the meals out to our guests in the parking lot. If you can help, please sign up! If you can help, contact Lynda Wilde at lrwilde@comcast.net or visit www.graceandover.org/outreach ministries.



Christmas Cantata "The Wonder of Christmas"

We are collaborating with Lord of Life in Ramsey to present David Hamilton's "The Wonder of Christmas." There are two performance dates. December 12th will be at Grace during the worship services. December 19th will be at Lord of Life in the afternoon.

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Schedule 2021-22

Wed., Dec. 1 | Wed. Night Programming 6-8PM

Sun., Dec. 5 | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am),
Christmas program rehearsal 12:00-2:00pm

Wed., Dec. 8 | Wed. Night Programming 6-8PM

Sat., Dec. 11 | Blue Christmas Service @ 5pm

Sun., Dec. 12 | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)
Grace Choir Christmas Cantata, Christmas program rehearsal 12:00-2:00pm

Wed., Dec. 15 | Wednesday Night Programming 6-8PM *Last Wednesday until January.*

Sat., Dec. 18 | Christmas program Dress rehearsal @ 12pm; Holden Evening prayer service with communion @ 5 PM

Sun., Dec. 19 | *NO Sunday School*; Christmas program at both services. Cookies and Hot Cocoa during fellowship time.

Fri., Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Worship 2:00, 3:30, 7:00, & 9:00 PM

Sat., Dec. 25 | Christmas Day Worship 10:00 AM
(*No Saturday Evening Worship*)

Sun., Dec. 26 | *No Sunday School*; ONLY one worship @ 9:00 AM

Sun., Jan. 2 | *No Sunday School*; regular worship 8:45 and 10:30 am

Wed., Jan. 6 | Wednesday Nights at Grace for the Whole Family! Epiphany Party 6:30-8pm

Sun., Jan. 9 | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am);
Baptism Party for all kids baptized in the last year @ Noon

Wed., Jan. 12 | Wed. Night Programming 6-8PM

Sun., Jan. 16 | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)

Wed., Jan. 19 | Wed. Night Programming 6-8PM

Sun., Jan. 23 | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)
New member class following 10:30am service

Wed., Jan. 26 | Wed. Night Programming 6-8PM

Sun., Jan. 30 | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)
Annual meeting, New members received in worship



SAVE THE DATES Children's Ministry

Feb. 11th-6-7:30PM Valentine's Celebration

March 13th and 20th No Sunday School
Anoka Hennepin Spring Break

April 6th-5-7 PM 1st Communion Education

April 10th and 17th No Sunday School
Eggstravaganza and Easter Celebrations

May 8th Mother's Day and Last Day of Sunday School

Tentative VBS Dates June 12-17 and VBS celebration Sunday, June 19th

Looking for Acolytes

An acolyte is someone who assists in worship and often lights the candles on the altar. Have you noticed, with the dove there are more candles to be lit each week at worship? This is a GREAT way for your kids to get involved with worship. We are looking for elementary and middle school aged youth 3rd grade and above to help with lighting and extinguishing candles in worship as well as helping assist with communion serving. If your child is interested in assisting in this way and sharing their gifts by serving the Grace Community in Worship please contact Kris Miller in the church office!



Give something
unexpected
this Christmas.



December Children's Ministry Offering

As we think about the wonderful gifts that God has given us for our families we want to help give that to families around the world! This November and December, the offering for the Children's Ministry will go towards buying goats for families in need. These goats provide milk that nourishes them as well as financial stability! Thank you for supporting this ministry with us this season!



Children's Ministry



Advent Children's Christmas Program

As the Christmas season approaches the Children's Ministry Team is excited to announce Rejoice: Hymns of Praise, a program filled with children sharing the stories, songs, and prayers that lead up to the birth of Jesus Christ! Rehearsals are Sundays 12-1:30 PM. Dress Rehearsal is Saturday, December 18th 9:30-11AM. If you have any questions, you can email Bekah Hirt rebekah.hirt@ahschools.us. The Children's Program will be performed in worship Sunday December 19th at both 8:45 and 10:30 am.



Christmas Cookie Fellowship After Children's Christmas Programs

Families will be asked to bring Christmas cookies and hot chocolate for Fellowship time after both services on Dec. 19th. If you can provide cookies or hot cocoa packets, or can help plate cookies on Dec. 19th beginning at 8:15AM please sign up on the sign up genius or by contacting the church office.



Youth Ministry



Cooking with Kristi Dec. 7th-6:30pm

Fun fact about Kristi—she loves to cook and loves TEACHING kids how to cook simple, but delicious meals that they can make themselves now, or as they emerge into adulthood. December Cooking with Kristi is December 7th at 6:00pm! This month we are making Peanut Chicken Stir Fry with noodles! So delicious! To RSVP text Kristi at 651.230.6057 or email her at kristil@graceandover.org

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Middle School Christmas Party

Middle School is Friday December 10th - 7:00-9:00pm at Church! Games, snack, art project and the always exciting white elephant exchange! Cost is \$5 and one wrapped white elephant gift. Friends are always welcome! Sign up on Realm.



Youth Ministry



High School Christmas Party

High School Christmas Party on Friday December 17th 8:00 – 11:00pm! We will have a fun creative Christmas challenge, snacks and lots of games including night games around the church! The cost is \$10! Bring a friend and sign up on Realm!



Wednesday Night Youth Group

9th-12th Grade Students meet every Wednesday after 7:30pm worship until 9:00pm for time to hang out, snacks, and more!



Reminder!

No Catechism or Youth Night
December 22nd and 29th
for Christmas Break.

Christmas Worship



Advent Worship

Nov. 27/28th—First Sunday of Advent

11/27@5pm & 11/28@8:45am and 10:30am

Dec. 4/5th—Second Sunday of Advent

12/4@5pm & 12/5@8:45am and 10:30am

Dec. 11/12th—Third Sunday of Advent

12/11@5pm - *Blue Christmas Worship*
12/12@8:45am and 10:30am-*Choir Cantata*

Dec. 18/19th—Fourth Sunday of Advent

12/18@5pm - *Holden Evening Prayer*
12/19@8:45am and 10:30am-*Children's Christmas Program*



Christmas Eve Worship Services

2:00pm Worship Service
3:30pm Worship Service
7:00pm Worship Service
9:00pm Worship Service

Christmas Day Worship Service

10:00am Worship Service (No 5pm Worship)

Sunday, December 26th

9:00am *Only One* Worship Service

New Year's Day, January 1st

No 5pm Worship Service

Sunday, January 2nd

8:45am Worship Service
10:30am Worship Service



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PAID
Anoka, MN 55303
PERMIT No. 118

Address Service Requested

Grace Lutheran Church

Worship Times

Saturdays at 5pm

Sundays at 8:45am and 10:30am

All are Welcome!

