

Grace Lutheran Church
is a caring community
of disciples, proclaiming
the good news of
Jesus Christ.

Grace Notes

December, 2018

Come, Immanuel, and be with us! Soon we will see the birth of our Savior. Soon we will see God is with us. I love the anticipation of Advent. The knowledge that God the Son is coming to be one of us overwhelms me in my heart and in my body. Jesus sets me free simply by being with me. His healing touch calms me and lifts me up from the darkness I fall into. Now, living my life by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, I worship and enjoy the gifts of family and friends and strangers, the little sacraments and signs of the presence of God. Advent is the promise of the God who comes to be with us, the God who is present in our sisters and brothers.

January is approaching quickly, and my family and I will be off to Japan. I will still be with you. You can write to me and I will respond. Also, I intend to keep up with my weekly reflections, which I will send to Katie to get them to you all. So we will not be far apart.

Come worship on Wednesday evenings through Advent, 5:30pm. We will sing Ray Makeever's Joyous Light as we await the birth of our God.

We will finish our series of volunteer opportunity events after church on December 9th. There are wonderful opportunities to assist with the liturgy and easy ways to contribute to the life of our community. Please join us to learn more about the ministries of the church. We would love to see you with us.

We will be collaborating with First Lutheran and Good Shepherd on a Quiet Christmas worship service. Many of us have experienced loss that can make the celebration of the holidays difficult. Our Quiet Christmas service is a chance to worship our God and acknowledge our hurt at the same time. The service is tentatively set for 6:30pm Sunday evening, December 23rd. We will gather at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Houghton.

We are looking for a few adults to supervise the nursery during our worship. The supervisors do not need to be in the room, but should be available to the kids who are volunteering to monitor the nursery if the monitors need guidance or assistance. Your assistance will help make it possible for our parents to share in worship with us. Let me know if you are interested in helping out or learning more.

Do you have dreams for our church? Have you had an idea you wish you could try out on our congregation? Talk to me. Grace is your church. Let's make it what you need it to be.

As always, I am here for you and want to hear from you. Drop by my office, grab me after church or stop me at Walmart... I look forward to talking with you.

With faith and hope and love,
Micah

Kiitos Paljon

Thank you to Tom Stimac and Tommy Savola
for setting up the church Christmas trees.

Notes from the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

Birthdays

Karen Johnson 3

Chloe Snell 6

Mac Raffaelli 8

Annette Mattfolk 9

Ethan Tormala 15

Nora Smith 17

Dominick Nettell 20

Allison Harma 26

Gary Raffaelli 6

Katie Bridgers 7

Delores Paavola 9

Dylan Nettell 12

Jordan Tormala 15

Jean Belkonen 18

Cara Wightman 22

Angela Harju 28



Anniversaries

Brian and Annette Mattfolk 14

Bill and Sandra Mannisto 21

Sunday's Sermons Now Posted on the Grace Lutheran Church Web Site

Sunday's sermons are now posted on our website.

The sermons are under the worship tab.

Find us at www.gracesoutherange.com.

If you miss worship, feel free to read the preached word from Vicar Micah.

Also, search our web site for more helpful information.

Quilters
Wednesday,
Dec. 5th & 19th

**Knit, Pray,
Crochet**

Every Tuesday,

1:00pm

All are welcome.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 20th

In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th.

December Services

Advent Services

5:30pm

Wed., the 5th, Wed., the 12th, Wed., the 19th

Sunday, December 16th

11:00am

Sunday School Christmas Program

7:00pm

Christmas Concert

Monday, December 24th,

4:00pm and 9:00pm

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 30th,

11:00am

Lessons and Carols

Birthday Anniversary Fellowship

Reminder the first Sunday of the month is our birthday and anniversary fellowship. We need someone (or tag team with another) to sign up to supply the cake or cupcakes, and one or more to do the clean-up. We are in need of more volunteers to sign up to help make this possible for 2019. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex.

December Worship Text

Sunday, Dec. 2

1st Sunday of Advent
Luke 21:25-36
Watch for the coming
of the Son of Man

Sunday, Dec. 9

2nd Sunday of Advent
Luke 3:1-6
Prepare the
way of the Lord

Sunday, Dec. 16

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday School
Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 23

4th Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:39-55
Blessed are you
among women

Monday, Dec. 24

Nativity of Our Lord
Luke 2:11-20
God with us

Sunday, Dec. 30

Lessons and Carols

Lutheran Dictionary

by: Walter Lieder
Concordia Publishing House
Saint Louis, Missouri

Advent: 1. 1. The “coming” of Christ, either His first (His advent into the flesh) or His second (at the end of the world). 2. The season including the four Sundays prior to Christmas.

Church Triumphant: The church in her state of glory, in heaven.

Frankincense: Fragrant and costly gum resin distilled from trees; it is burned into incense in religious ceremonies. (Matt. 2:11)

Paraments: Church vestments, coverings, and hangings, especially in the chancel.

Voluntary: An organ solo played before, during, or after divine services.

Attention Greeters and Ushers!!

Since you are the first people our visitors encounter when they come to worship, it is particularly important that you be friendly and welcoming. As we learned during our refresher training recently, you should be able to make visitors comfortable with our order of service and our communion practices. In order to make it easier for visitors to ask questions, we will be wearing name tags from now on. Name tags can be found in the library near the mailboxes. When you arrive for the service, please take a name tag, erase the name on it with the wipes available, write your first name on the tag, and clip it to your shirt.

Thanks!

Chis Davis, Greeter Coordinator

Pam Long, Usher Coordinator



Would you like to supply the church with a poinsettia or other winter flower in memory or honor of a loved one?

In memory/honor of:

From:

After the Christmas Season:

_____ I will take my plant

_____ Use it at the church



Grace Lutheran is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastoral Care and Visits

If you need pastoral care or would like to schedule a visit, please call Vicar Micah at 906-281-9558. You may also email Vicar Micah at vicar@gracesoutherange.com

Every day we are called to do small things with great love.

~ Mother Teresa

Our Hearts to Their Homes

Susan Koskela at home
Jean Simila at the Bluffs
Delores Paavola at home
Elaine Aro at Gardenview
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs
Jan Mikkola at the Bluffs
Amanda Mountjoy at home
Bill & Sandra Mannisto at home

Christmas Greetings

Would you like to send a Christmas greeting to all members at Grace Lutheran? If so, please sign your name on the Christmas Greetings sheet in the narthex. What you might save in not sending a card can be used as an offering given to 31 Backpacks. Please mark your offering envelope "Christmas Greetings."

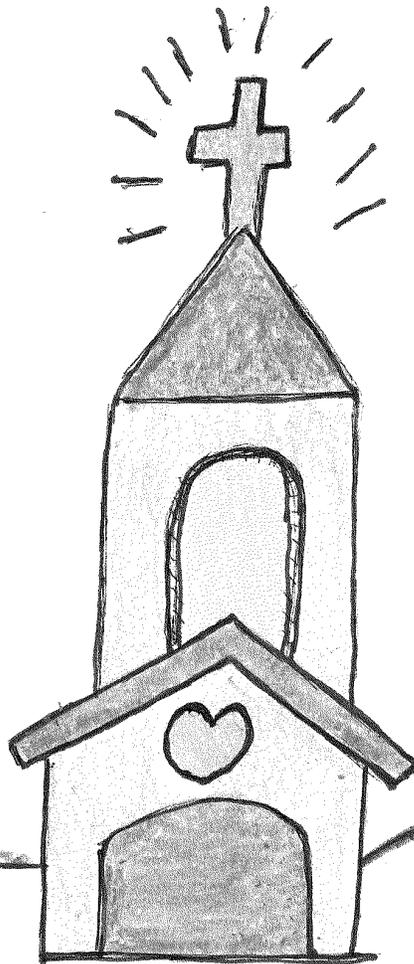
Gentle Reminder:

The office and financial staff do not work on Sunday mornings.

We appreciate your consideration for allowing us time to worship with our families on Sunday mornings.

Service Workers for December

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 30
Counters	Katie B Jean B	Marianne Karen H	Sue S Chris Davis	Pam L Heather A	Marianne	Karen J Annette M
Reader	Alice Kolehmainen	Annette Mattfolk	Sunday School Program	Chris DeForge	Jean B (4pm) Karl R (9pm)	Lessons and Carols
Ushers	Pam Long Tommy Savola				Bridgers (4pm)	
Acolyte & Bell Ringer	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth
Communion Assistant	Tommy Savola	Tammy Harju	None Needed	Pam Long	(4pm) (9pm)	None Needed
Fellowship	Birthday Anniversary	Volunteer Training Refresher	Christmas Program Fellowship	None	None	Christmas Cookie Fellowship
Sunday School Teacher	Lauri Janet	Program Practice	Program Practice	None	None	None



Thanks
to the Building
and Grounds
Maintenance
Committee!

November Council Highlights

Our Advent services will be at 5:30 pm on the first three Wednesdays in December.

The Budget and Finance Committee has met twice and submitted a proposed budget to the council.

Roof/Parking Lot maintenance was tabled. Joe used two different methods to get an idea of the price to have the roof replaced.

There has been no news from ReMax yet about finding another renter. Current tenants plan to move out in December. Building and Grounds will need to inspect the property for repairs and maintenance.

Janet mentioned that the Village of South Range is planning on having 4th of July festivities and mentioned to them that we may be interested in running the bounce house/concessions again like last year if they have it.

Annual Meeting will be January 20th. The alternate date will be January 27th. Committees need to get their annual report to Katie by December 10th.

Katie will distribute new Policy and Procedure Manuals to council next month.

Joe made a motion to approve the new brochure and directory as shown, Pam second, all approved.

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Chris Davis	482-5567
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship	Carolyn Rundman	482-6344
Ushers	Pam Long	482-4065
Greeters		
Ride Coordinator	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Office Volunteers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Tom Stimac 281-7910 Joe DeForge 482-8068
Heather Aro 482-0341 Katie Bridgers 482-2011

Grace Lutheran Council

Cheryl Stimac (President) 281-7909
Joe DeForge (Vice President) 482-8068
Laurie Aho (Treasurer) 482-0817
Vicar Micah Cavaleri 281-9558
Heather Aro (Secretary) 482-0341
Chris Bohjanen (482-8459)
Pam Long (482-4065)
Janet Kokko (482-2368)
Jan Maierle (482-2011)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10am to 12pm Church Decorating Day
2 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship 4:00pm Joint Council in Dollar Bay	3 6:30 LCW Christmas Party	4 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet	5 9:45 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Advent Service	6 12:30 Games at Grace	7 8:00 AA	8
9 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Volunteer Training/Refresher	10 Annual Reports Due	11 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet 1:00 Primetimers at Rockhouse	12 9:45 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Advent Service	13 12:30 Games at Grace	14 8:00 AA	15
16 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Christmas Program 12:00 Fellowship 7:00 Christmas Concert	17 4:00 Prayer Service	18 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet 6:30 Council	19 9:45 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Advent Service	20 12:30 Games at Grace	21 8:00 AA	22
23 9:45 Choir 11:00 Worship	24 4:00 & 9:00 Christmas Eve Services Office Closed	25 2:00 Little Brothers Christmas Meal Office Closed	26 9:45 Prayer Service 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study	27 12:30 Games at Grace	28 8:00 AA	29
30 9:45 Choir 11:00 Lessons and Carols	31					

Prayer Calendar – December 2018

1	Pray for the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Board of Directors as they gather with a candidate for Camp Director and discern God's call for the future.
2	First Sunday of Advent ... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice. Amen
3	Pray for pastors who celebrate the anniversary of their ordination this month: LaVonne Stephenson (12/3), Lisa Ubbelohde (12/6), Ander Plocher (12/17), and Bucky Beach (12/21).
4	Pray for all rostered leaders as they study worship texts today and during this season of anticipation, longing, and waiting for the return of our Lord.
5	Pray for pastors who celebrate their birthdays this month: David Johnson (12/18), and John Kuziej (12/20).
6	Pray for our Synod Staff as they meet together today to plan and coordinate events and activities throughout our Synod.
7	Pray for our Candidacy Committee as they meet in Appleton, WI, today and tomorrow, and for all candidates for rostered ministry as they continue their preparation for serving God's people.
8	Pray for the members of Journey of Faith Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Joy Reigns Lutheran Church, Edgewater, MD; Keysville Lutheran Church, Keymar, MD; and Lazarus Lutheran Church, Lineboro, MD.
9	Second Sunday of Advent ... Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation. Amen
10	Pray for all of our Seminary Students as they finish the Fall Semester, especially Kate Drefke.
11	Pray for those who are incarcerated and their families as they prepare for the holidays apart from those whom they love.
12	Pray for families who experience brokenness at a time when our culture shares images of happiness and wholeness.
13	Pray for our Licensed Lay Ministers who celebrate birthdays this month: Bill Wendorf (12/16).
14	Pray for all those with Alzheimer's Disease, for their families, and for their caregivers. Pray also for more research and possibly a cure for this devastating disease.
15	For those addicted to drugs, alcohol and other substances who may find this season of family celebration particularly troublesome. We pray that the light of Christ Jesus may shine into their darkness.

16	Third Sunday of Advent ... Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance. Amen
17	For all those who have lost loved ones and miss them especially during the holiday season.
18	Pray for all who are traveling to be with loved ones ... may they have safe travels and happy homecomings.
19	Pray for church choirs and musicians as they share their special gifts with us during this holy season.
20	Pray for the members of Light of Christ Lutheran Church, New Market, MD; Living Grace Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD; Living Water Lutheran Church, Stevensville, MD; and Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD.
21	Pray for Sunday School teachers and students as they prepare and share pageants that proclaim God's presence among us.
22	Pray for the members of Mbezi Beach Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and their NGLS partner congregation, Eden Lutheran Church, Munising (Pastor Donald Rasner).
23	Pray for the poor among us as they struggle to celebrate the Holy Days with few resources.
24	Fourth Sunday of Advent ... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always. Amen
25	Pray this day that the Prince of Peace may stir the hearts of people throughout the world that we may bring about justice, righteousness, and peace for all people. May Peace on Earth become a reality.
26	Pray for all who work at homeless shelters and food pantries, as they care for those in need.
27	For blessings on all those men and women in the armed forces defending our country who are away from their families this holiday season.
28	Pray for refugees and those who are displaced, as they grieve what they have lost and work to rebuild their lives.
29	For all those who are lonely and long for someone to talk to and help them celebrate during this otherwise festive season.
30	Pray for victims of violence, especially those who have been targeted by hate crimes. May our world be changed by the one who welcomed all without conditions.
31	Pray for world leaders as we look toward a new year. May we work together in new ways and care for the creation God has given to us.

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”