

# JANUARY

GLC January 2025 Newsletter

*Happy New Year, to all our Grace Family!*

## Grace Lutheran Church

301 Forest Ave. E.  
Mora, MN 55051  
320.679.1062

Office Open-  
Monday - Thursday 8-4  
(Main handicap doors  
unlocked)  
Friday Office Closed

### CONTACT US:

Pastor Gary Guptill:

[Gguptill@aol.com](mailto:Gguptill@aol.com)

218.393.9234

Leah's Church Office Email:  
[moragrancelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:moragrancelutheran@gmail.com)

Krista's Email:  
[kristagrancelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:kristagrancelutheran@gmail.com)

Kelly's Email:  
[Kellykehr01@gmail.com](mailto:Kellykehr01@gmail.com)

Dear God,

our hearts sing with  
gladness for your  
grace and truth that  
blesses us each day  
through Jesus,  
the Word that became  
flesh and lives  
among us now.  
Amen.

## Grace Lutheran Church

### Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. FLC Service  
10:15 a.m. NICE 95.5 F.M. KBK

GLC Website:

[www.gracechurchmora.com](http://www.gracechurchmora.com)

Facebook: @moragrancelutheran

Grace Google Calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r?tab=mc>

ELCA website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Reminder for bad weather:

Mora Grace Lutheran Church  
follows the local school for  
closing and/or delayed starts!

Be careful out there! ❤️

*God is at work for our  
good pleasure.*

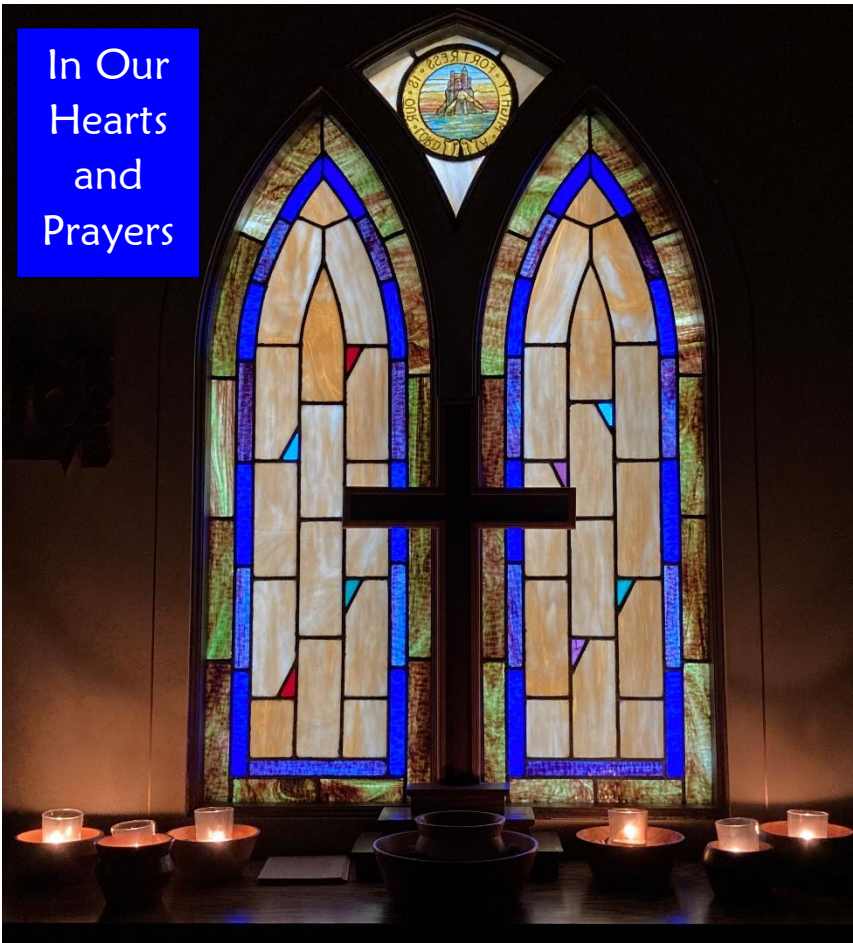
# Pastor Gary

## A new year and a new knee

I try to discourage people from making New Year's resolutions. Not that I don't think people should make life altering changes. In many areas, we should. But I am fully aware that they almost never last. Old habits die hard. Now that I said that, here I go, ready to make a life altering change. Since the day my senior year in High School when my knee buckled in wrestling a kid from Isle, I have had a small limp. An ACL repair when I was 28 helped to strengthen my knee, but through the years the limp increased. On January 28<sup>th</sup> I am having a total knee replacement. The surgeon said I will be cursing his name for the first three weeks. I will need to spend a good stretch of time in rehab. I will need some new habits. Working out daily will be important. So here it is, a new year, a new knee and hopefully there is a balm in Gilead. Here is what you need to know. Although I won't be around for much of February, I will be available and only a phone call away. Feel free to contact me for anything. Different folks will be covering preaching and worship leadership in February. And soon and very soon, the biblical image of the lame leaping hopefully will be mine. Blessing and healing for you in this New Year.

Pastor Gary

In Our  
Hearts  
and  
Prayers



## Grace Lutheran Church PRAYER CONCERNS

Galen Brelie, Bella Rogne,  
Marian Walsh, Pam Bastie,  
Dar Wicklund, Nancy Nygaard,  
Sylvia Nelson, Dave Franko,  
Marlow Geyer, Beverly Fore,  
Gerri Teich, David Ulstrom,  
Meagan Barrett Isom and  
Jody Burton.

### Service Personnel:

Owen Marohn, Sam Marohn,  
Adam Herwig, Noah Wicklund,  
Christopher Unger, Chris  
Garbacz, Emmie Otto and all  
other active members

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is  
God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ~ **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## PRAYER WARRIORS.



# January and February Worship Schedule 2025

## 8:00 Service

### Jan 5th:

Ushers: Dan Funk & Gerald Funk  
Lector: Roger Peterson  
Communion: Mike Harris

### Jan 12th:

Ushers: John & Lynn Paulson  
Lector: Lynn Paulson

### Jan 19th:

Ushers: Galen & Mary Brelie  
Lector: Mary Brelie  
Communion: Andrea Hams

### Jan 26th: 9:00 ANNUAL MEETING

Ushers: Don & Mary Olson  
Lector: Kim Saulsbury  
Communion: Kim Saulsbury

### Feb 2nd:

Ushers: Art & Lurette Kottke  
Lector: Laura Strand

### Feb 9th:

Ushers: Guy & Peggy Groshek  
Lector: Peggy Groshek  
Communion: Barb Ennis

### Feb 16th:

Ushers: Gene & Eunice Weckwerth  
Lector: Gene Weckwerth

### Feb 23rd:

Ushers: Dale Hawkins & Rollie Fredrickson  
Lector: Deb Schultz

## 9:30 Service

### Jan 5th:

Ushers: Ray & Diane Knutson  
Lector: Steve Denzine  
Communion: Steve Denzine

### Jan 12th:

Ushers: Mark & Verona Gravich  
Lector: Mark Gravich

### Jan 19th:

Ushers: Craig & Jodi Schultz  
Lector: Craig Schultz  
Communion: Judy Roeschlein

### Jan 26th: 9:00 ANNUAL MEETING

### Feb 2nd:

Ushers: Harry & Robin Blegen  
Lector: Harry Blegen

### Feb 9th:

Ushers: Tim & Natalie Matthewson  
Lector: Natalie Matthewson  
Communion: Jeremy Schultz

### Feb 16th:

Ushers: Bruce & Jackie Thompson  
Lector: Bruce Thompson

### Feb 23rd:

Ushers: Dianne Fisher & Suzy Halverson  
Lector: Diane Runquist

# january

Birthdays 2025 GLC



2. Kathy Menze
3. Kelly Linder, Adam Herwig, Aubry Brasch
4. John Skillicorn, Judy Morgenweck
5. Ray Fore, Stratton Nelson
7. Kathy Hallauer
8. Elaine VanDriel, Don Semelhack, Josie Brasch
10. Laura Larson
11. David Backlund
12. Jason Donaghue, Mackenzie Belsheim
13. Jessica Olen
14. Anna Kehr
15. Lynette Skolte
16. Max Sampson, Paul Olson, Susan Loosmore
18. Bev Deis, Landon Donaghue
19. Eric Marohn, Kyle Wicklund, Nicole Pancake
20. Barb Herwig
21. Heidi Johnson
22. Ashley Thompson

23. Thomas Mulford
24. Simon Larsen
28. Todd Sjoberg, Reed Olson
29. MaryEtta Schwartz, Barb Sjoberg,  
Julie Mulford, Joe Sampson
30. Jacob Tetnowski

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office at 320.679.1062 or email [moragrancelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:moragrancelutheran@gmail.com) with your correct information. We don't want to forget anyone!



## Mission Statement:

The Grace Lutheran Library Mission will support all the members of Grace using the library resources to help them interpret what they read, see, and experience within the context of the Christian Gospel.

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” -John 1:14*

### Children’s Books

The library has a selection of children’s books ranging from board books for the very youngest up to books geared toward early teens. Of course, teens could also enjoy many of the books in the adult’s sections of the library. One example of a chapter book for young readers is *“Sun & Spoon”* by Kevin Henkes. The main character in this story is a ten-year old boy named Fredrick (nicknamed Spoon). Spoon’s grandma died two months earlier and he was worried that he would forget her. He begins to search around in his grandfather’s (Pa’s) house to find something to have that had been special to his grandma. What did he find and how did this affect Pa? Plus, Spoon’s younger sister Joanie keeps tagging along and pestering him while he tries to find that something special.

### Adult Series Books

The adult fiction section of the library contains many books that are a part of a series. In most cases the books in a series are labeled with numbers (1, 2, 3...) with little circle stickers on the spines of the books. One series on the library shelves is the Denise Hunter *“A Chapel Springs Romance”* series set in Chapel Springs, Maine. The characters in all these books wrestle with what God wants them to do in their relationships and life choices. In Book 1, *“Barefoot Summer”* Madison McKinley struggles to deal with her twin brothers drowning death and wants to fulfill her brother’s dream of winning the local sailing regatta – but first she has to learn how to sail with the help of sailing expert Beckett O’Reilly who has secrets of his own. In Book 3, *“The Wishing Season”*, a Chapel Hills resident offers her ancestral home to the applicant with the best plan. PJ McKinley thinks the house would be a perfect place for her dream of owning a restaurant. Cole Evens, who is a former foster kid, thinks the house would be a perfect place for foster kids in transition. Who does the homeowner choose? In Book 4, *“Married on a Monday”* a divorced couple Abby and Ryan have been invited to Abby’s parent’s big anniversary party. Abby had not exactly told her parents that she was divorced because of the strained relationship that she had with her parents. What could go wrong on a one-week road trip with this divorced couple?

### Stand Alone Adult Fiction

Most of the books in the adult fiction section of the library are “stand alone” books. One example is *“Driftwood Tides”* by Gina Holmes. In this story a driftwood artist Holten Creary had lost his wife a few years ago in a terrible accident. He now spends his days creating art and his nights drinking himself into forgetfulness. Libby Slater has learned through genetic testing that her parents were not her biological parents and begins to search for who she really is which brings her to the home of Holten who she believes is married to her biological mother. Libby finds out that the person she believes is her biological mother has died. Colton won’t talk about her so Libby takes a job as an intern for Colton to attempt find the truth along with Colton’s friend and assistant, Tess.

**Come in and explore the church library - Lots of good reading awaits.**

**Living Grace Library is open whenever the church is open. Come in anytime.**

Please remember to return your finished books. The book you may have forgotten to return may be just the book someone else is patiently waiting to read. Thank you.

# Grace Lutheran Church

## 2024 Council Minutes

### GLC Council Meeting 12/08/24 Minutes

Called to order at 10:26 am by Sarah.

#### Opening

- Members Present: Andrea, Sarah, Linda, Shaun, John, Ethan, and Craig
- Members Absent: Lacey and Mary
- Devotions done by Linda

Agenda Approval- Ethan/Linda

Approval of Meeting Minutes- Andrea/John

#### Treasurer's Report

- Ethan and Kristin reviewed Budget worksheet/payroll/salaries
- Approval of 2025 Budget

#### Ministry Reports

#### Unfinished Business

- New Pathways- Expenses: new bedding
- Wartburg Seminary- expenses/scholarship

#### New Business

- Wartburg Seminary- discussed additional expenses

Next Meeting Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Andrea H.

### 2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**President:**

**Vice President:**

**Secretary:**

**Treasurer:** Kristin Nelson

Lacey Danelski, Ethan Elvehjem,  
Andrea Hams, Sarah Hanson,  
Linda Johnson, Shaun Joy,  
John Paulson, Mary Olson and  
Craig Schultz

*Thank you, for serving on council.*

## ATTENTION MINISTRY LEADERS:

Annual Reports are due Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please email to [moragrancelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:moragrancelutheran@gmail.com) Thank you!

# Worship and Music Minutes 12.02.2024

**Members Present:** Krista Elvehjem, Pastor Gary, Kelly Kehr, Leah Smith, Richard Schultz and Jacki Peterson

**Absent:** Judy Radeke, Linda Johnson, Dianne Wachsmuth and Todd Sjoberg

Devotions ~ First Sunday of Advent – Great service- opening song is great for consistency.

## Choir

- Ready for the Christmas Concert

## Altar

- January 2025 has a change for Holy Communion
  - January 26<sup>th</sup>- Annual Meeting **One Service @ 9:00 A.M.- WITH** Holy Communion
- February 2025 has a few changes
  - Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>~ **NO** Communion – Kelly preaching
  - Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>~ **With Communion – BLENDED SERVICE –** Kathryn Preaching
  - Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> ~ **NO** Communion – Linda preaching
  - Sunday February 23 ~ No communion as of right now, this could change last minute.

## Advent

- December Schedule one service 9:00 A.M.:
  - December 1<sup>st</sup> ~ FLC Worship~ Advent Decorating – **GREAT FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT!**
  - December 8<sup>th</sup> ~ FLC Worship~ Children's Christmas Program
  - December 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Sanctuary Worship~ Choir Christmas Concert
  - December 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Sanctuary Worship
  - December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Eve~ 4:00 P.M. FLC Worship and 9:00 P.M. Sanctuary Worship
  - December 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Sanctuary Worship~ Lessons and Carols

Pastor Gary closed us in prayer.

**NEXT MEETING** will be on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 A.M.





Grace Lutheran Church  
2024 Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Grace Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting 01-21-2024 Minutes

**Meeting called to order** 10:45 A.M. by: Sarah Hanson  
**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Gary Guptill -- Opening Liturgy & Son of God, Eternal Savior song  
**Certification of the Quorum:** Sarah Hanson

62 Congregation members / we have a Quorum.

**Approve Agenda / or Additions:** motion by: Roger Peterson & Greg Myers  
Vote: yes – pass No -- none

**Approval of Minutes: 2023 Annual Meeting:** motion by: Greg Myers & Jacki Peterson  
Vote: Yes – pass No – none

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** 1. Grace Lutheran Church Constitution

This document summarizes changes between the existing 2003 and the proposed 2024 updated Model version by Ethan Elvehjem, Craig Schultz and Mary Olson. Presented by: Craig S. Pointed out changes in red. One change is: Chapter 12. C12.05,c. The Congregation Council may enter contracts of up to \$10,000 or 2% of approved annual budget, whichever is greater, for items not included in the budget. Questions: None Motion: Linda Johnson & Dianne Fischer

Vote: Yes – pass No – none

2. Family Life Center ( FLC ) Tech area

Sarah Hanson presented to Congregation the need to build in the back of FLC, an area to protect equipment we have and any future equipment. Two of the proposed suggestions are 1. Tech area booth 2. Loft above entrance.

Question by: Harry – Building code for Loft & handicap accessibility.

Todd – Something needs to be done. Equipment has been getting damaged. Wires all over, needs protection.

Kim – Is it about getting better sound?

Mike – Question about the electronics we have

Harry – Having a loft better. Has seen it at another church.

Linda – Would both area be safe

Pastor Gary -- Create committee to study and present. **The cost would have to be approved by GLC Congregation.**

**Nominating Committee Report:** Two members on council doing another 3-year term, Ethan Elvehjem and Lacey Danelski. Third position name: Shaun Joy. 2025 Nominating Committee will be Laura Strand, Jessica Thomson and Robin Blegen.

**Nominating Committee Election:** Motion to approve by: Todd Sjoberg & Roger Peterson Vote: Yes – pass No – none

**Election of Synod Assembly Delegates and Church Council Members:** May 2024 will be done via/ZOOM meeting. Need two people to take part of Synod Gathering.

**Presentation of the 2023 Financial Statement for Approval:** Motion: Roger Peterson & Greg Myers Vote: Yes – pass No – none

**Presentation of 2024 Budget:** By Ethan Elvehjem

**Proposed Budget 2024:** Motion by Roger Peterson & Greg Myers Vote: Yes – pass No – none

**Recess of Annual Congregational Meeting for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation Meeting:**

Motion to Adjourn for Grace Lutheran Church Foundation, Inc. meeting

by: Greg Myers & Gene Weckwerth Vote: Yes – pass No – none

**Grace Lutheran Church Foundation:**

By Sarah Berry & Ethan Elvehjem. 2023 Thrivent Investment Account	\$62,729.84
Checking Account	\$24.28
Interest Income	\$2,877.50

**Date & Time for next Annual Meeting:**

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Adjourn:** Harry Blegen & Linda Johnson Vote: Yes – pass No – none

# TITHING

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35



Thank you kindly, for your continued generosity to GLC. Your offering helps our ministries grow.

Happy New Year to all.

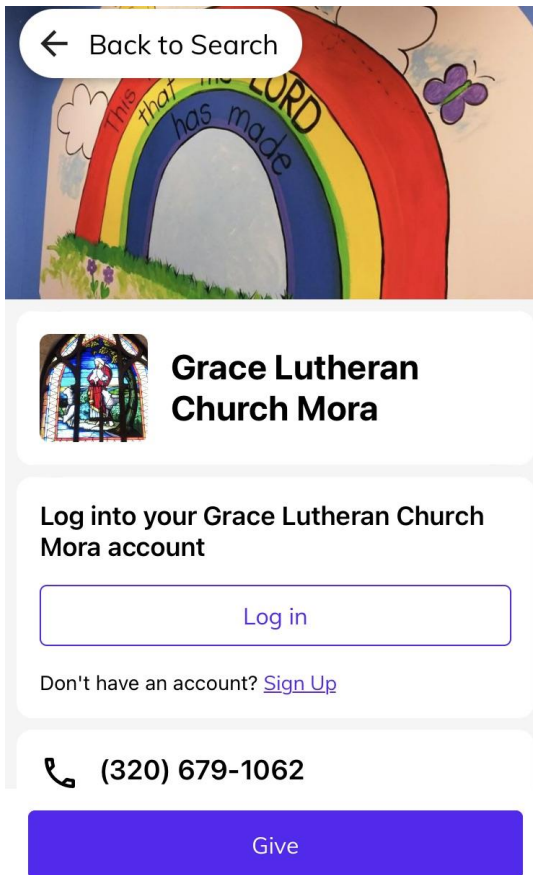
# WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE

## VANCO MOBILE FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP OPTION:

If you would like to have the app right on your phone for easy use please follow these steps under your app store on your phone:

1. Search Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement
2. Download app onto phone
3. Open the app.
4. Set up an account or sign in if you already have an account
5. The first time you use it, you'll need to search **Grace Lutheran Church Mora**. It should show our Icon (stained glass window) and address. Choose as your church. You should only need to do this once.
6. Click GIVE
7. Click the down arrow to see the options
8. Choose whatever you would like to give to.
9. Enter amount, select frequency, type in the designation (what it's for) and click Give now
10. Review the summary and submit
11. You will receive an email receipt of your payment

**Thank you for your continued support of Grace Lutheran Church and our ministries!  
We are the church together; and together we are strong and faithful!**



←

When you search **Grace Lutheran Church Mora**, this is what you should see on the Vanco Mobile Faith App.

APP ICON for:  
Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement



Offering envelopes are available to use as well, at both usher podiums.

# SCAN to DONATE VANCO ONLINE GIVING



You may also put offering  
in offering plate or mail to:

301 Forest Ave. E.  
Mora, MN 55051

## 31-OCTOBER-2024 General Checkbook:

### General Checkbook:

Beginning balance	(4,582.46)
Deposits	35,051.42
Checks written	<u>(34,457.57)</u>
Ending balance	(3,988.61)

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the finance committee.

Bonnie Boyer, Ethan Elvehjem, Matt Felger, Kristin Nelson, Roger Peterson or Betty Smith

Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. You can set up your donations on our website, [www.gracechurchmora.com](http://www.gracechurchmora.com) or scan the QR code above with a downloadable free QRC Scanner app on your electronic device and follow the onscreen instructions.

## To set up your electronic donation on our website:

- 1) Go to [www.gracechurchmora.com](http://www.gracechurchmora.com)
- 2) Click on the More tab, then click the Give tab, then scroll down to click on Give online, once you click Give online, it brings you to Vanco a Secure Site.
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one time or recurring contribution.

*Thank you, kindly, for all the ways you give to Grace.*

# Social Justice

Our Mission Statement:  
Empowered by Christ, we will minister to the world by extending a hand to those in need.



It is always such a nice touch to the service when there are flowers on the Altar.

If you would like to sign up for Flowers on the Altar, please sign-up in the main Narthex. Please bring your flowers to church on Sunday Morning by 7:45 for the first service at 8:00 A.M. or you may bring your flowers to church on Thursday afternoon, by 3:00 P.M. Please let us know if you will be providing flower on the Altar! Many Thanks!!



Would you like to sponsor a NICE 95.5 F.M. KBK Church Service Radio Broadcast on Sunday Morning @ 10:15 A.M.? If so, please send a check for **\$150.00** to GLC 301 Forest Ave. E. Mora, MN 55051 or drop one in the offering plate- and sign-up in the Main Narthex for the Sunday you would like to sponsor!

Please include any special occasion you would like to celebrate (birthday, graduation, wedding or anniversary) or a special someone you would like to honor.

Or stop in the office and talk with Leah. ☺ Many Thanks!!



## January Noisy Offering is going to the World Hunger

The second week of each month, coins and loose offering are collected to donate to a different local ministry, specifically addressing needs in Mora and Kanabec County. For a full list of where your donations go please check out our website @ <https://www.gracechurchmora.com/social-justice>



If you are interested in helping serve at Grace, please stop by the office and we will be happy to help guide you in the right direction. Thank you, to all of our Ushers, Lectors, Psalmists, Communion Assistants, Sound Techs, the behind-the-scenes folks and anyone that I am missing!

Thank you, kindly ☺



## Blessing BOX

(Free to ALL)

Take what you need.  
Leave what you can.  
Above all be blessed and help others to be blessed.

If you would like to help keep our blessing box filled, please do, we greatly appreciate it! Non-perishable food items please and really anything that you use, others could use as well.



## EMERGENCY FOOD BAGS

These bags contain peanut butter, crackers, tuna, instant mac and cheese, protein bars, soup, and other non-perishable items. These bags are not to feed someone for a long period of time, they are to help a person in need. We are always looking for donations for these bags, as there are many people in this community who are in need.



There is a donation bin for the Mora Food Pantry, Blessing Box and Emergency Food Bags in the Main Narthex under the bulletin board at Grace. We also except gas cards and Coborn's cards, for those in need.



## The Mora Food Pantry

214 Railroad Ave- Mora (North entrance) 679.5513  
Donations may be dropped off on Tuesday and Friday mornings 9:00 A.M.- noon. Special arrangements can also be made. The phone is answered during open hours and their email is constantly monitored [morafoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:morafoodpantry@gmail.com)



## Soup for the Soul

Monday's 4 P.M.- 6 P.M.  
Volunteers are needed to help from 4:15 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.

Emmanuel Baptist- 536 Union ST. S.



## Catholic Charities Meals on Wheels

If you are interested in being a driver for Meals on Wheels- Please contact LaShaun - Meals on Wheels Coordinator with any questions 320-679-4029 THIS IS Community in Action- YOU are needed!

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**FRIENDS of GRACE ~ The Mora Food Pantry IS IN NEED!** Let's come together and help fill their shelves!

Below is a very small list of their greatest needs.

Thank you, for loving thy neighbor ☺

\*Donations can be dropped off in the Main Narthex under the bulletin board. Thank you for all your support!

ITEMS needed for the Mora Food Pantry:

- Shampoo
- ANY Hygiene items
- Butter/Margarine
- Eggs
- Baking Mixes
- Crackers

**Mealtme Prayer:** Dear God, we thank you for this meal filled with food and drink that comes as a gift of your love for us through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.

# WEEKLY, MONTHLY, AND HERE AND THERE ACTIVITIES!



## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship and Music meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 11:00 A.M.  
\*Date subject to change.



## PROPERTY

Property meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. Main Narthex



## NEWSLETTER

GLC newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month @ NOON.



## EVE CIRCLE

Eve Circle meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 A.M. in the West Narthex.

We would love to have you join us!



## AL-ANON

A small group meets Monday's at 6:00 P.M. in the Main Narthex.

\*unless noted



## NOISY OFFERING

Second week of each month, coins and loose offerings are collected to donate to a different local ministry.

## GLC CHOIR

Wednesdays 6:00 P.M. GLC Choir Room (Left side of FLC- the doors by the piano)  
All are welcome!

*Fun, Friends and Fellowship*  
Choir on HOLD until January 29<sup>th</sup>



## SOWING GRACE QUILTERS AND PRAYER SHAWL

Quilters and Prayer Shawl meet every Wednesday from 9:30 A.M to Noon in the West Narthex.

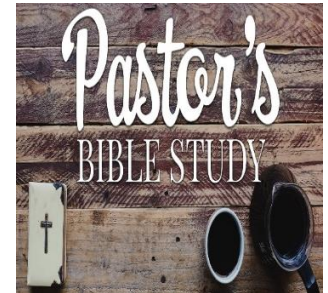
All are welcome, we come together each week with open hearts and willing hands to serve our Lord.

*The best kind of sleep beneath Heaven above, is under a quilt, handmade with love.*



## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY~GOSPEL OF MARK

Every Wednesday at noon and at 7:00, for 1 hour, a bible study will be an on-going event. Come when you can. Take a break from work and come at noon or go out for dinner and come to Grace at 7:00. Pastor Gary leads this, and all questions and insights are welcomed. **Start a new routine. Get in the groove. Come and learn and grow.**

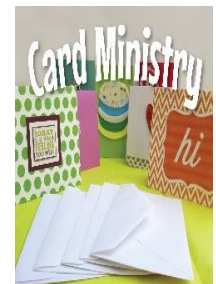


## CARD MAKERS

Card makers meet the last Tuesday of the month : 1:00 P.M. in the West Narthex.

All are welcome!

Card Makers will **NOT MEET** in: January or February.  
We look forward to March!



# Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 The Epiphany of Our Lord

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: **children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.**

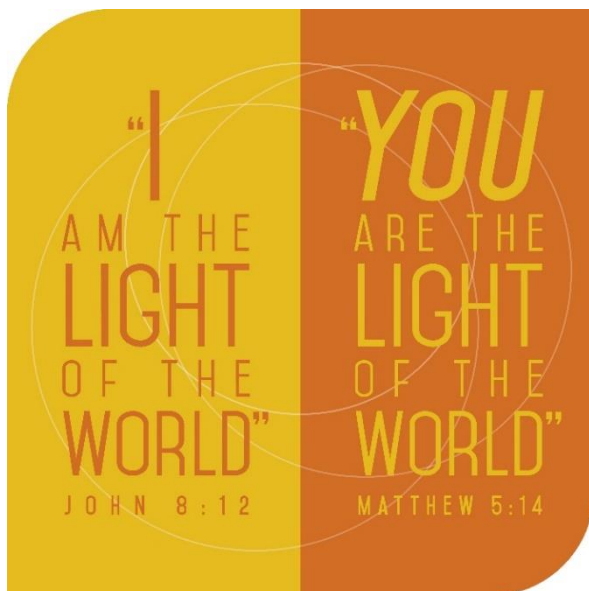
## *This Little Light of Mine*

Today is Epiphany. Today and in the Sundays following we celebrate the in-breaking of God’s light. The readings help us understand that the manifestation of God is for all people everywhere. This is a message of radical inclusivity. The magi are drawn from the east to come to pay homage to the Christ child. They who were once far off are now embraced by the one true God, who has sent a Savior into the world. Likewise, Paul reports in Ephesians that he has been given grace to “bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8). Just as Isaiah had foretold, nations shall come to God’s light (Isa. 60:3).

In this inclusive reality, everyone is welcome, and so are their gifts. Just as the magi showed their respect for Christ with gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we can offer our gifts and talents to further the brightness of God’s dawn. Whatever we bring—no matter how simple—is accepted and used for a mighty purpose.

There is also a sense of joy at this Epiphany. When the magi saw that the star they were following had stopped over the place where the Christ child lay, they were overwhelmed with joy (Matt. 2:10). The angel had declared to the shepherds that the newborn child would bring good news of great joy for all the people (Luke 2:10). Now again, Christ brings joy to all. Christianity is a truly joyful religion.

Through word and sacrament we too are invited to rise and shine, for our light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon us. Fed and nourished in worship, we are sent forth to bear witness, to let our little lights shine.



*We are sent out to be  
beacons of the light of Christ.  
sharing the good news of  
God's love to all people.*

# Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Baptism of Our Lord

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

## The Voice of God

Are you longing to hear God's voice? What would it be like to hear God call you by name? For many it seems that God spoke to people long ago and far away, but now in this time and place God's voice is much less clear and less audible. Perhaps we cannot hear the voice of God because our world is full of noise? Perhaps we are not open to the particular frequency in which God chooses to call us? Perhaps we continually tune out this heavenly summons with our daily rush, not taking the time to quiet ourselves, our minds, our inner voices. We can use this time after Epiphany to clear out a corner of our lives for quiet prayer, meditation, or centering. Maybe then we will be able to hear . . . to sense . . . to listen.

Listen! God's voice comes from heaven to call us by name, speak to the earth, shake the wilderness, and to anoint "the Beloved." Listen! God's people speak words of covenant, commitment, and community in the liturgy of baptism. Listen! God's word surrounds this day with power and majesty and "in the temple of the LORD all are crying, 'Glory!'" (Ps. 29:9). In this season of epiphanies, today's miraculous encounter with the living God immerses us in the sound of God's voice and bathes us in God's baptismal promise. All who are splashed by this water gasp, cry, exclaim, sigh, and sing. Let all who have breath, praise the Lord!





# Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Check out CYF Ministry on FACEBOOK! Grace Lutheran Children Youth and Family (private group)  
or on-line: [www.gracechurchmora.com](http://www.gracechurchmora.com)

**Thank you** to all who purchased poinsettias! The Family Life Center was all decked out for the Children's program. The money raised supports CYF activities.

Our focus for **Sunday School** in January will be the Annual World Hunger Campaign! See more info in this newsletter about what the kids will be doing to support this ministry and celebrate 50 years of working to end world hunger!



We will start back up with regular Sunday School on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>!



**Grace Time** will begin again on January 15<sup>th</sup>! There will only be 2 Grace Time Wednesdays in January on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. NO Grace Time on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## No Religious Release till the spring!

We will be offering Religious Release 2 more times this year.  
March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2.



## Confirmation

### January Discipleship Activities

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 service. Help prepare the rooms for our 2<sup>nd</sup> hosting of New Pathway families!

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – Provide childcare for parents of younger children who will be staying for the annual meeting - about 10:30-12.

Correction for January Schedule! NO Confirmation on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>! We will start back up on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

January Confirmation Dates: Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.

# Winter Camp Retreats!!

Luther Point 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Camp Feb. 7-9.

Go to [lutherpoint.org](http://lutherpoint.org) for more information



## Camp Onomia

Family Winter Weekend Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> and Middle School Winter BLAST Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>.

Go to [camponomia.org](http://camponomia.org) for more information.



Grace Lutheran's Children Youth and Family Ministry is a Christ centered program with the purpose of building disciples for Jesus by supporting and partnering with parents in fulfilling their baptismal promises. By God's Grace we seek to provide meaningful faith formation experiences for all ages. For more information regarding Children, Youth and Family Ministry please contact Kelly Kehr (320-336-8028) or [kellykehr01@gmail.com](mailto:kellykehr01@gmail.com)





ELCA World Hunger

2024 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!  
Together we continue to celebrate!

# Until All Are Fed!

## 50 Year Celebration of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal

*Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” —1 John 3:18*



### Fish Farms for Our Neighbors

**Fish farm** Give your neighbors a fish, and they'll eat for a day.

Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for a lifetime. A fish farm starts with a pond, training and a few fast growing fish such as tilapia. Soon the pond can provide the community with a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals and protein. **\$250 Community fish farm**

This January, the children and youth at Grace Lutheran Church will be supporting the **50 year celebration of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal!** We are excited to be part of the movement to end hunger and to help make a lasting change in the world.

The direct project that we will be supporting is FISH FARMS!

A fish farm begins with a pond, training and a few fast growing fish. The entire community benefits from a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals and protein.

Every \$50 raised is a share for a family to start a fish farm. Our goal is to raise 15 shares – enough for 3 full fish farms!

The students will be decorating a World Hunger booth in the narthex of the church. They will be creating fish mobiles to give as gifts to everyone making a donation.

Let's warm our hearts in January through giving to ELCA WORLD HUNGER!

*“Give your neighbors a fish and they'll eat for a day.  
Give them a fish farm and they'll eat for a lifetime!”*

Thank you, Thrivent Action Team grants for supporting our students with a grant to help with the cost of our project. If you are a Thrivent member and want to learn more about Thrivent Action Team grants, please contact Leah Smith or Kelly Kehr.

# Acolyte Schedule

## January - March 2025

If you cannot acolyte on the scheduled day/time please switch with someone else. If you need help contacting people, let me know.

Kelly Kehr 320-336-8028 / kellykehr01@gmail.com

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts.

The acolyte procedures include lighting the altar candles, helping with offering and helping with Holy Communion. Pastor Gary will give special instructions for anything else (i.e. baptisms/Advent candle). The procedures, robes, cinctures and candle lighters are located in the Sanctuary sacristy. A copy of the procedures is also in the front pew/chairs. Let me know if you have questions or concerns. **THANK YOU!!!**

<p><b>Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b> 8 – Sawyer S. / Boone S. 9:30 – Marek N./ Hunter R.</p>	<p><b>Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 8 – Honor S/ Gretta J. 9:30 - Josie B / Autumn L.</p>	<p><b>Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 8 - Izzy G. / Hailee B 9:30 – Ayva D. / Maggie B</p>
<p><b>Jan. 12<sup>th</sup></b> 8 – Raylan S./ Kole J. 9:30 – Izzy G. / Hailee B</p>	<p><b>Feb. 9<sup>th</sup></b> 8am – Presley M. / Bryce E. 9:30 – Keaton B./ Allyson O.</p>	<p><b>Mar. 9<sup>th</sup></b> 8 - Easton H. /Brayden H. 9:30 - Ethan H./Andy F.</p>
<p><b>Jan. 19<sup>th</sup></b> 8 – Ayva D. / Maggie B 9:30 – Easton H. /Brayden H.</p>	<p><b>Feb. 16<sup>th</sup></b> 8 – Noah D./Caiden F. 9:30 – Sawyer S. / Boone S.</p>	<p><b>Mar. 16<sup>th</sup></b> 8 – Josie B / Autumn L. 9:30 - Honor S/ Gretta J.</p>
<p><b>Jan. 26<sup>th</sup></b> 1 service only – <b>9am!!!</b> Ethan H./Andy F. Annual meeting to follow the service.</p>	<p><b>Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 8 - Marek N./ Hunter R. 9:30 - Raylan S./ Kole J.</p>	<p><b>Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 8 - Keaton B./ Allyson O. 9:30 - Presley M. / Bryce E.</p>
		<p><b>Mar. 30<sup>th</sup></b> 8 - Sawyer S. / Boone S. 9:30 - Noah D./Caiden F.</p>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		<b>New Year's Day</b> 8am - Office Closed	8am - Office Open 8am - Office Closed	8am - Office Open	Office Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Baptism for Elyse and Andrew Peterson Holy Communion Sunday 8am - Sanctuary Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service	8am - Office Open 10:30am - Staff Check In 11am - Worship and Music 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel 6pm - AI Anon	8am - Office Open 10am - Property	8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters & Prayer Shawl	8am - Office Open 8:30am - Eve Circle	Office Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Baptism of Our Lord ROSY OFFERING 8am - Sanctuary Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service 10:30am - Church Council	8am - Office Open 10:30am - Staff Check In 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel 6pm - AI Anon	8am - Office Open	8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters & Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Grace Time 6pm - Confirmation Meal 6:30pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Open	Office Closed	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Holy Communion Sunday 8am - Sanctuary Worship 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service	Indaguration Day (Regional Holiday) WASH LUTHERS RING THE LUSY 8am - Office CLOSED 12pm - Newsletter Deadline	8am - Office Open	8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters & Prayer Shawl 6pm - Confirmation Meal 6:30pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Open	Office Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Annual Meeting 9am - FLC Service - ONE SERVICE 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Annual Meeting	8am - Office Open 10:30am - Staff Check In 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel 6pm - AI Anon	8am - Office Open	8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters & Prayer Shawl 3:15pm - Grace Time 6pm - Choir 6pm - Confirmation Meal 6:30pm - Confirmation	8am - Office Open	Office Closed	

**Grace Lutheran Church**

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**Return Service Requested**

