

# January

## 2023



# Newsletter

### *A Prayer for the Month:*

*Everlasting God, give us peace and confidence to trust your work in our lives and our world that we may praise your name and love others through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*Beginning a  
new year  
confident in  
God's care.*

### **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:**  
[moragracelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:moragracelutheran@gmail.com)

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

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

#### **Sunday Worship**

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

\*Worship space subject to change

#### **GLC Website:**

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

**Facebook:** @moragracelutheran

#### **YouTube:**

<https://www.gracechurchmora.com/videos?wix-vod-comp-id=comp-k9dd0c2k>

#### **Grace Google Calendar:**

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

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

**NE MN website:**

[www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org)



2023

*Happy*

*New Year*

*Grace Family*



# Pastor's Page

## Epiphany: The Season of Light

Have you ever been lost in the dark? It can unnerve the most courageous amongst us. Bad things happen in the dark. They happen in the light too of course. But darkness brings a higher level of danger. A child's prayer at bedtime ends with, "watch me, guide me, through the night and wake me with the morning light." Into the darkness of the winter comes the church with a season we call "Epiphany." To have an epiphany is to have a new revelation. It is to see life in a new way.

The gospel lessons during the season of Epiphany tell stories and teach lessons where somebody has seen the world in a new way. Hank Williams once sang these powerful words, "I saw the light." To see the light is to have hope. To see the light is to understand the identity of another in a new way. I welcome and invite everyone into this season of Epiphany and I ask for all to open their hearts to new ways of learning to love and serve. In the light we discover the qualities of Jesus who is the Christ; the light of the world. The words of a great hymn say it best....."Come live in the light. Shine with the joy of the Lord."

See you in church,

Pastor Gary

# january

Birthdays 2023 GLC

1. Josh Dopp
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
9. Karl Deis, Landon McGrew
10. Laura Larson
11. Robert Jobe, David Backlund
12. Jason Donaghue, Mackenzie Belsheim
13. Jessica Olen
14. Anna Kehr
15. Lynette Skolte
16. Max Sampson, Paul Olson
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. Melissa Clough, 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!

# VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING! SCAN NOW



You may also mail in  
your offering to:

301 Forest Ave. E.  
Mora, MN 55051

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 below with a downloadable free QRC Scanner app on your electronic device and follow the onscreen instructions.

## *An additional way to donate!*

↓↓ *Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App*

### **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!

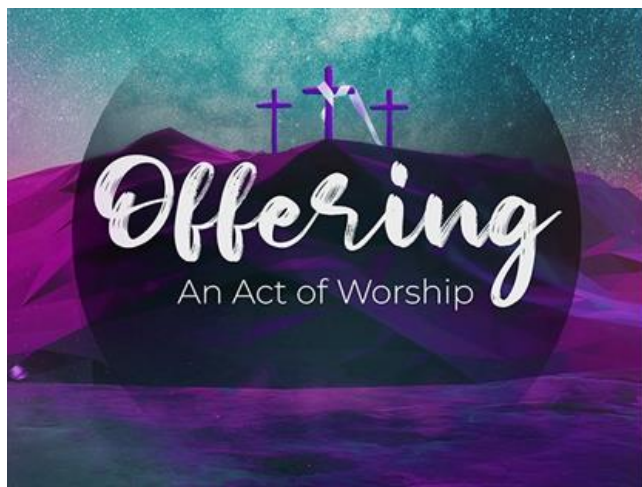
## To set up your electronic donation on our website:

- 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.

### **31-October-22 General Checkbook:**

General Checkbook:	
Beginning balance	(4,457.34)
Deposits *	36,864.52
Checks written *	(31,212.26)
Ending balance	1,194.92

\* includes amount to and **FROM** savings



# Options for payments/donations for youth activities ~ALL WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE FOR ALL!~

Online Giving - Parents are able to pay online through our VANCO account by following these instructions:

1. Scan QR code at the bottom of this page
2. Follow the link to the VANCO website
3. If you don't have an account set up you will need to do that first. If you do have an account, log in.
4. Enter the amount that you are paying under the YOUTH option. Indicate in the text box what it is for (i.e. confirmation registration, Cragun's all youth retreat, VBS, etc. Please be specific - the text box is required.)
5. Follow the prompts through to the end.
6. You will get an email receipt of your payment

**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 on your phone through the app store:

1. Search Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App
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 YOUTH
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

**Cash** (the correct amount is appreciated as we usually won't have change)

**Check** - please make your check out to Grace Lutheran Youth and indicate what it is for in the memo line





## Catholic Charities Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels

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



## Blessing Box

(Free to ALL)

Take what you need.

Leave what you can.

Above all be blessed and help others to be blessed.

### Community IN ACTION

If you would like to help keep our blessing box filled, please do so, we greatly appreciate it!

Non-perishable food items please and really anything that you use, others could use as well.

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## Soup for the Soul Inc.

Monday's 4 P.M.- 6 P.M. @ Emmanuel Baptist-536 Union ST. S.



## The Mora Food Pantry

214 Railroad Ave- Mora (North entrance)  
679.5513 [morafoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:morafoodpantry@gmail.com)

Open for PICKUP and DROP-OFF  
Tuesday's & Friday's 9:00 am - Noon

### ~Mealtime Prayer~

Dear God, you who have crowned us with glory and honor, we thank you for blessing us with this gift of food through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

# BIBLE STUDIES

At Grace...



Grace Lutheran

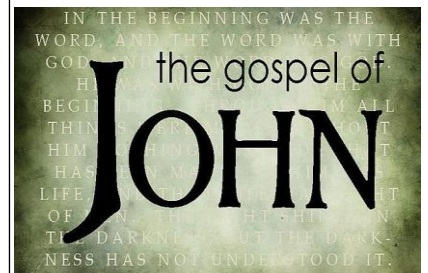
Grace Choir will resume on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023!  
Fun, Fellowship, Friends  
Wednesday's @ 6:00 p.m.  
Rehearsal in the FLC Music Room. New Members are SO welcomed!  
Any Questions please contact Richard @ 612-390-0991



We Hope to see you, we hope to hear you!

**The Gospel of John. Will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Every Wednesday at noon and at 7:15, 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 7:15. Pastor Gary will lead this and all questions and insights are welcomed. Start a new routine. Get in the groove. Come and learn and grow.



**Eve Circle**

We will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 A.M.  
We have a little snack first, and then Lynette Skolte leads the lesson each time. We would love to have you join us!



Sowing Grace Quilters



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M. West Narthex  
Come if you want to learn to knit or crochet! Come to work your craft alongside your sisters at Grace! Come to have your faith supported in fellowship and devotions!

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**Sowing Grace Quilters**

Quilters meet every Wednesday from 9:30 A.M to Noon. **All are welcome,** we come together each week with open hearts and willing hands to serve our Lord.

Quilters will meet again on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.





Ministry and Bible Study leaders, minute takers,  
February 2023 Newsletter deadline is  
January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please have all information turned into  
the office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of January or as soon as you  
have it ready! Thank you 😊



### RADIO SPONSORSHIP

Would you like to sponsor a Sunday Morning  
Church Service on NICE 95.5 F.M. KBK at 10:15  
A.M. on Sunday's?

If so, please send a check for \$150.00 to GLC  
301 Forest Ave. E. Mora, MN 55051

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



### ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up for Flowers on the  
Altar, please sign-up on the sheet in the Main  
Narthex.

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

Thank you, to those who sign up!



### **NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY**

*Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> –  
bring your change!*

### **WORLD HUNGER**



## 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*

The non-fiction area of the library (found on the shelves under the window near the checkout area) contains books on many subject including biography/autobiography, faith, family living, social issues, and others. Books labeled with 6 deal with death, dying and grief. An example of a book in this section is “Navigating Grief With Humor” by Melissa Mork. The author is a grief therapist, but she writes this book from the perspective of her own grief – the death of her parents and especially the death of her husband at a time when she was still left to raise her teenage children. She takes the reader through stages of grief and theories of the grieving process as she traveled through her own journey.

Another non-fiction book in our library is “Grace Lutheran Church – 100 Years, 1981-1991”. This could be a fun book for old time members of Grace to read with memories of past Confirmation classes, past Pastors, different organizations etc. and for newer members to understand the history of our church. An interesting fact is that the first three full time Pastors of Grace Lutheran Church in Mora, Minnesota were born in Sweden. We labeled this book with a 9 (social issues). Sometimes it’s just hard to find a proper category for a book.

**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.

# 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)



## Sunday School at Grace

Sunday School starts at 9:15 on Sundays. This gives parents a chance to get their kids downstairs and get themselves settled for worship, which starts at 9:30 in the Family Life Center.

You may have noticed that Sunday School is growing strong! We've had 30 plus kids attending every Sunday. This has created a GOOD problem! **We need more adults and older youth to help!** Please talk to Kelly Kehr about how you can help.

Sunday School will start up again on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> kicking off the 2023 Sunday School ELCA World Hunger Project **"God's Peace and Comfort for Ukraine"**

The war in Ukraine has caused horrific living conditions for the people of Ukraine. Food, supplies and shelter are greatly needed. The children will raise funds to be sent to the ELCA's "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" The funds raised will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict.

**A Space for Grace** – Don't forget that we have a quiet play area in the Family Life Center that is available for infants and toddlers. We also have a **Faith in Action Play Room** downstairs that is open for anyone to use. Feel free to use these spaces as needed!

**Thank you to all the kids for their hard work preparing for and performing The Grace Children's Christmas Program "The Holy Family" on DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>.** They did an amazing job sharing the message that Baby Jesus is a baby for ALL of us!



**The next Religious Release Time is Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> !**

Once a month on a Wednesday, we welcome the 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders to come for a morning of fun and learning. You **MUST** complete and turn in the registration form indicating Release Time participation so that the school can be informed. Drop off from 7am-8am. Activities start at 8, kids are bussed back to school at 10:45. Kids can join us any time as long as they have a registration form with Release Time checked on it.



**January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> is Camp Onomia's ELEMENTARY WINTER CHILL Retreat** for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Cost is \$120 for 2 nights and 4 meals. Camperships are available to cover 1/2 the cost. Kelly will be going if we get a group of kids so it's a great way to try camp! You can find more information on the Children, Youth and Family board at church. Please let Kelly know if your child is interested. You can also start checking out Summer Camp! Both Camp Onomia and Luther Point have their summer camp schedules available on line and early registration is open!



**Celebration Singers - Mondays after school 3:15-4:15 with pick up until 5.** Carpooling from school is available if needed. Please contact Kelly if your child(ren) would like to join us. We will only have 2 practice dates in January. (The 9<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> due to no school on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.) We will sing on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is only one service that day at 9:30, followed by the Annual Meeting. We will be

singing with kids from Release Time and Sunday School as part of the ELCA's World Hunger Project.

**Confirmation** – We will be back to regular Wednesday nights starting Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>! We have a special event planned on Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> with Immanuel Brunswick and Calvary Lutheran.

Grace is hosting the NE MN Synod's TOGETHER HERE Ministry. They will be leading us in the "Blanket Exercise". This is a powerful immersive experience that follows the history of the Indigenous Tribes of North America from the colonization by Europeans to present day. Parents are encouraged to attend with their youth! The program will start at 6:30. Confirmation meal at 6.



**Chat N Chow** – We have been serving 70- 90 juniors and seniors on Thursdays and it's been great to have them back! Thank you to the AWESOME team of volunteers for keeping this ministry going! If you have been curious about Chat N Chow, anyone is welcome to come check it out! We will need a few new helpers during the winter months when some of the crew flies south and we always need bars

to serve. Bars can be dropped at church – preferably Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. There will be no Chat N Chow on Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. We will start serving again on January 12<sup>th</sup>!

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)



# YOU ARE INVITED!!

On Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> we will kick off the 2023 Sunday School ELCA World Hunger Project  
“God’s Peace and Comfort for Ukraine”



The war in Ukraine has caused horrific living conditions for the people of Ukraine. Food, supplies and shelter are greatly needed. The children will raise funds to be sent to the ELCA’s “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” The funds raised will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by the conflict.

We invite you to join us in fundraising by donating at the Children’s special PEACE booth and collecting change for the Noisy Offering on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.



We also have a special event planned on Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> with Immanuel Brunswick and Calvary Lutheran. Grace is hosting the NE MN Synod’s TOGETHER HERE Ministry. They will be leading us in the “Blanket Exercise”. This is a powerful immersive experience that follows the history of the Indigenous Tribes of North America from the colonization by Europeans to present day. **ALL ARE WELCOME** to join us!! The program will start at 6:30.

(note: Some content may be difficult for younger children to process. Please talk to Kelly if you have questions)

# Acolyte Schedule – Jan-May 2023

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](tel:320-336-8028) / [kellykehr01@gmail.com](mailto: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. They will no longer be in the Family Life Center Sacristy so when you acolyte at 9:30, you'll still need to go to the Sanctuary first. Let me know if you have questions or concerns. THANK YOU!!!

<p><b><u>January 1<sup>st</sup> – One Service @ 9am in Sanctuary</u></b>            9am - Olivia Thompson/Izzy Graham  <b><u>January 8<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am- Jenna Lukenbill/Honor Schroeder            9:30am- Avery Ennis/Joe Sampson  <b><u>January 15<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am- Ian Schley/Caden Johnson            9:30am- Layla Berry/Natalie McGaw  <b><u>January 22<sup>nd</sup> -One Service @ 9:30 am followed by Annual Meeting</u></b>            9:30 am - Stratton Nelson/Raylan Sjoberg  <b><u>January 29<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Abby Donaghue/Greta Jensen            9:30am – Eddie Johnson/Uriah Chromey</p>	<p><b><u>March 19<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Ian Schley/Caden Johnson            9:30am - Avery Ennis/Joe Sampson  <b><u>March 26<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Stratton Nelson/Raylan Sjoberg            9:30am - Layla Berry/Natalie McGaw</p>
<p><b><u>February 5<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Kendall Brandt/Taliah Peterson            9:30am - Olivia Thompson/Izzy Graham  <b><u>February 12<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Avery Ennis/Joe Sampson            9:30 - Jenna Lukenbill/Honor Schroeder  <b><u>February 19<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am – Layla Berry/Natalie McGaw            9:30 am – Ian Schley/Caden Johnson  <b><u>February 26<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Eddie Johnson/Uriah Chromey            9:30am - Stratton Nelson/Raylan Sjoberg</p>	<p><b><u>April 2<sup>nd</sup></u></b>            8am - Kendall Brandt/Taliah Peterson            9:30am - Eddie Johnson/Uriah Chromey  <b><u>April 9<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Jenna Lukenbill/Honor Schroeder            9:30am - Abby Donaghue/Greta Jensen  <b><u>April 16<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Olivia Thompson/Izzy Graham            9:30am - Ian Schley/Caden Johnson  <b><u>April 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b>            8am - Avery Ennis/Joe Sampson            9:30am - Stratton Nelson/Raylan Sjoberg</p>
<p><b><u>March 5<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Abby Donaghue/Greta Jensen            9:30 am – Kendall Brandt/Taliah Peterson  <b><u>March 12<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Jenna Lukenbill/Honor Schroeder            9:30am – Olivia Thompson/Izzy Graham</p>	<p><b><u>May 7<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Layla Berry/Natalie McGaw            9:30am - Eddie Johnson/Uriah Chromey  <b><u>May 14<sup>th</sup></u></b>            8am - Abby Donaghue/Greta Jensen            9:30am - Kendall Brandt/Taliah Peterson  <b><u>May 21<sup>st</sup></u></b>            8am - Ian Schley/Caden Johnson            9:30am - Jenna Lukenbill/Honor Schroeder</p>
	<p><b><u>Summer Schedule starts May 28<sup>th</sup> - 1 service @ 9am</u></b>  <b><u>May 28<sup>th</sup></u></b> - Olivia Thompson/Izzy Graham</p>

# Worship Assistants Schedule

## January 2023

### ONE SERVICE @ 9:00

#### Jan 1:

Usher: Arnie Barabash & Rollie Fredrickson

Lector: Rollie Fredrickson

Communion: Dale Hawkins

### 8:00 service

#### Jan 8:

Usher: John & Lynn Paulson

Lector: Lynn Paulson

#### Jan 15:

Usher: Bryan & Dianne Wachsmuth

Lector: Dianne Wachsmuth

Communion: Barb Ennis

#### Jan 22:

Usher: Not Needed

Lector: Not Needed

#### Jan 29:

Usher: Greg & Jane Myers

Lector: Greg Myers

### 9:30 Service

#### Jan 8:

Usher: Bruce & Jackie Thompson

Lector: Bruce Thompson

#### Jan 15:

Usher: Marshall & Jeanne McGrew

Lector: Carol Allman

Communion: Carol Allman

#### Jan 22: One Service @ 9:30

Usher: Don & Mary Olson

Lector: Mary Olson

#### Jan 29:

Usher: Guy & Peggy Groschek

Lector: Linda Johnson

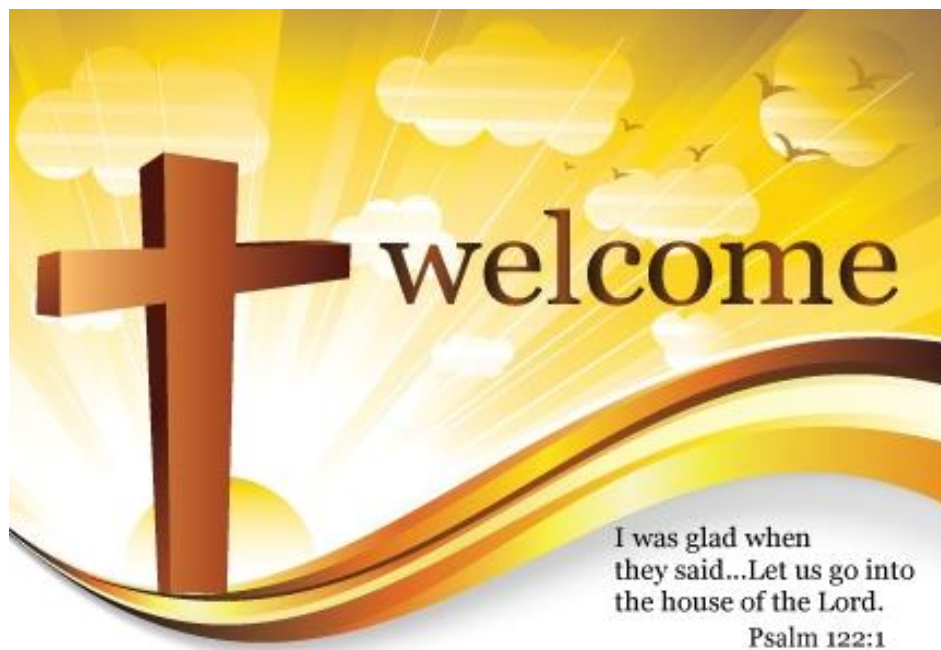


SERVANTS OF GOD

# GRACE HOSPITALITY TEAM

## Planned Hospitality Roster

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	8 a.m. Peggy/Guy Groshek	9:30a.m. Jodi/Craig Schultz
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Mary Brelie	9:30 a.m. Dave/Betsy VanBurkleo
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Dianne Fisher	9:30 a.m. Suzie Halverson
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8 a.m. Peggy/Guy Groshek	9:30 a.m. Mary/ Don Olson
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Marie/Rollie Fredrickson	9:30 a.m. Jeremy/Beth Schultz
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Dianne Fisher	9:30 a.m. Suzie Halverson
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Your Name Here ☺	9:30 a.m. Andy/Renee Crisman
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Mary Brelie	9:30 a.m. Jodi/Craig Schultz
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. Jill Kent	9:30 a.m. Mary/ Don Olson



*I was glad when they said...  
Let us go into the house of the Lord.*

*~ Psalm 122:1*



# Grace Lutheran Church

Council Members

## GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:** Laura Strand  
**Vice President:** Jessica Thomson  
**Secretary:** Robin Blegen  
**Treasurer:** Kristin Nelson

Chad Chromey, Ethan Elvehjem,  
Sarah Hanson, Linda Johnson,  
Josh Madson and Craig Schultz

*Thank you, for serving on council.*

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 11.20.2022 Minutes

Council Meeting called to order 11:01 by Laura Strand

### Opening

- Members present: Laura, Jes, Chad, Sarah, Pr Gary, Craig, Linda
- Members absent: Robin, Ethan, Josh

### Open Forum –

### Agenda –

### Staff Reports

- Pastor report:
  - o Performed personnel reviews for staff
  - o Used new format, seemed to work well
  - o Very strong staff, knows their job very well

### Approval of Last Month's Meeting Minutes

- Approved as printed (for September) Jes/Chad m/s/c
- No approval for Oct, no formal minutes

### Treasurer's Report

- Ended Oct positive; 5 Sundays, Confirmation Sunday, anonymous donation
- Prelim 2023 budget numbers include:
  - o Increase Pastor to guidelines
  - o Cost of Living increase for staff
  - o Includes flat amounts towards health insurance for staff
  - o Final review in January
- Going to just one offering envelope starting January 2023

### Ministry Reports

-

### Unfinished Business

- Deck has been tabled, coming up with cheaper alternative

### New Business

- Lights in the basement kitchen to be replaced, bad ballasts
- Annual Meeting set for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
  - o Council will provide lunch after Annual Meeting
  - o One church service at 9:30 that Sunday

Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

Motion to adjourn Jes/Sarah m/s/c

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Laura Strand, President

## Worship Meeting-12/5/22

Pastor Gary, Leah S., Linda J., Dick S., Kristin N., Krista E., Dianne W., Jacki P.

Linda shared a devotion-No matter the situation or circumstances, Jesus wants us to focus on positive thoughts

Leah put full page announcement of Christmas Eve in GOL and posted inside church that and the info about times for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Request those be put on doors. Announcements made each Sunday.

Christmas Eve-4:00 online(FB); played at 7:00 on KBEK

Christmas Day-service of lessons and carols

New Year's Day-communion

Epiphany-Season of Light; Worship team to research ideas...

Lent-Holden Evening; Pastor considering conversation(interview) of 5 interesting congregation/community people for services

Nursing home services-1/15

Pastor closed in prayer.

Next meeting- Monday, 1/9/23, 11:00



# 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.



Grace Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 23, 2022

2021 Congregational Meeting Minutes~ Call to Order: 10:42am by Dan Funk, Council Chair

Opening Devotions

- Pastor Gary spoke about the trials of the last two years. Followed with a prayer.

Certification of Quorum

- Certified by Laura Strand, Secretary, with 41 members signed in

Approve Agenda

- Approved as written Greg Myers / Deb Schultz m/s/c

Minutes from Jan 2021 meeting

- Approved as written Todd Sjoberg / Roger Peterson m/s/c

Old Business:

- Call process was completed
- Boiler and Roof issues mostly fixed, big thanks to Kim S for the roof repair. Some to do in Spring

New Business

- No new business

Nominating Committee:

- Committee members; Dan Funk, Betty Smith, Dianne Wachsmuth
- 3 council positions open and 3 candidates
  - o Chad Chromey (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - o Linda Johnson
  - o Craig Schultz
- Motion to approve white ballot for council members Todd Sjoberg / Roger Peterson m/s/c
- Committee for 2022; Dan Funk, Nick Schroeder, (Betty Smith was included after the meeting)

Synod Assembly

- Robin Blegen volunteered to attend

Presentation of 2021 Financial Statement:

- Finished year with 32,026 income
- Moved amount of old mortgage payment to savings
- Motion to accept the 2021 Financial Statements Roger Peterson / Dick Schultz m/s/c

Presentation of 2022 Budget

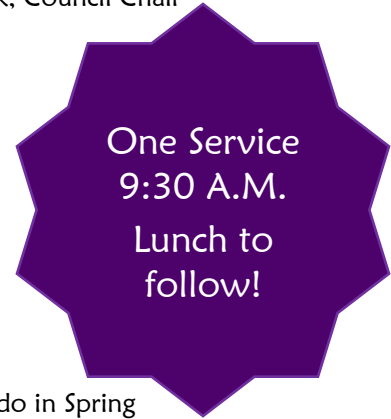
- Increased staff salaries to Synod guidelines per Personnel and Finance recommendations
- Pastor increase was moved to other line items per his request
- Fairly flat budget to last year, mortgage amount will still go to savings
- Motion to approve the 2022 Budget Greg Myers / Deb Schultz m/s/c

Recessed Annual Meeting for Foundation Meeting

- Motion to approve Ethan Elvehjem / Deb Schultz m/s/c

Date and Time for Next Meeting

- Sunday, January 22, 2023
- Motion to Adjourn Betty Smith / Pam Isom m/s/c



# Friday, January 6, 2023 The Epiphany of Our Lord

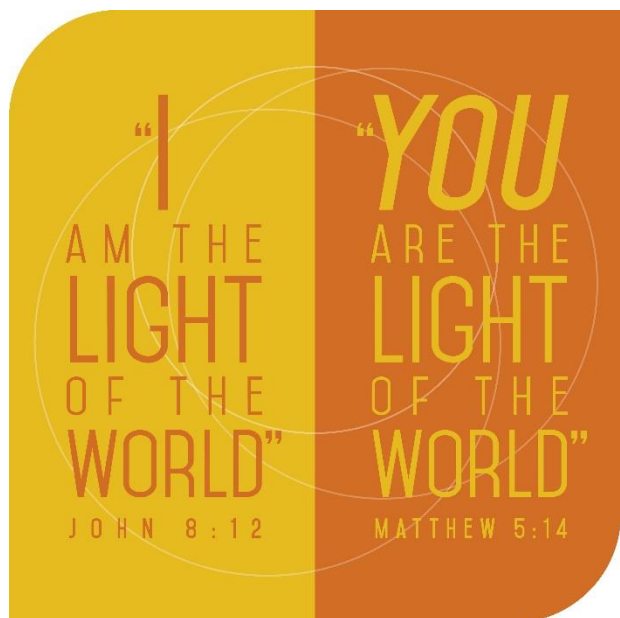
The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ 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.**

## Treasured by God

A newborn baby often elicits “oohs” and “ahs” from its admirers and yet developmentally, may be doing nothing incredibly remarkable—only able to focus on objects only about 18 inches in front of its face and prone to stare at any shiny object. Nevertheless, a newborn is a miracle to behold, filled with wonder for the world around it and desiring nothing more than to be fed, held, rocked, nurtured, and loved.

The gifts of the magi direct us away from the cute, cuddly, cooing baby Jesus by pointing us to who Jesus really has come to be. The magi offer gold, a possession of kings; frankincense, used in ritual to indicate the presence of the deity; and myrrh, an oil used at the time of death as well as for anointing priests. By their gifts, the wise men reveal the identity of this child: the king before whom nations will bow, the anointed high priest of God, and the suffering servant who will die for the ones he has come to serve.

The “oohs” and “ahs” we offer as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord are not simply for a cooing and cuddly baby Jesus but for a God who chooses to reveal God’s love and mercy by taking human form. On this day, we celebrate that God’s mercy is wider and deeper than we imagined and includes all people and all nations. All people—rich or poor, Gentile or Jew, straight or gay, male or female—are God’s treasure, the precious ones for whom God is willing to die. What do we bring to honor our Lord before whom we bow? We bring the treasure of our lives poured out in praise of God and in service to others.



*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 8, 2023 Baptism of Our Lord

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

## The Power of a God Who Is Humble

From the time Jesus first presented himself for baptism by John until today, Christians have puzzled over why Jesus had to be baptized. The act of baptism was understood to be an act of repentance and the cleansing of one's sins. John does not understand why Jesus, whose sandals John is "not worthy to carry" (Matt. 3:11) should seek to be baptized. Instead, John declares to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you" (Matt. 3:14). Why should the Son of God, who is without sin, need to be baptized?

Frederick Dale Bruner, in *Matthew: A Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), says that he considers Jesus' first miracle to have occurred at his baptism. The miracle is that Jesus was humble. The divine Son of God humbles himself by allowing John to baptize him. This act of humility is an act of obedience to God and solidarity with all humankind. Jesus has no sins to be forgiven. However, for us, he goes down to the river of repentance with all the other sinners to be baptized. Jesus' baptism, his first adult act as recorded in Matthew's gospel, gives us a clear indication of how Jesus will act for his entire life. The Son of God will come down with us, on our level, identifying with our needs. His baptism, then, foreshadows how his life will end, on the cross. In his death, Jesus experiences the worst we could ever experience as mortal humans. But, because Jesus united with us in baptism, we are united with him in both his death and resurrection. The barriers that separate us from God, including the barriers of sinfulness, mortality, and death, are broken by Jesus' obedience to God, through his humility to come down to us in the depths of our humanity.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>New Year's Day</b> 9am - Sanctuary Service</p>	<p><b>New Year's Day (Fastidious)</b> 8am - Office Closed 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel</p>	<p>8am - Office Open</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 8am - Release Time 9:30am - Quilters 12pm - Gospel of John 7:15pm - Gospel of John</p>	<p>8am - Office Open</p>	<p>Office Closed 9:30am - Kam-Downstairs</p>	
<p><b>ROSY OFFERING</b> 8am - Sanctuary Service 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 10am - Staff Check In 11am - Worship and Music 3:15pm - Celebration Singers 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel 6pm - Al Anon</p>	<p>8am - Office Open</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters 12pm - Gospel of John 5pm - Council 6pm - Confirmation Meal 6:30pm - Confirmation 7:15pm - Gospel of John</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 9:30am - Eve Circle 11:35am - Chat-N-Chow 12:30pm - Chat-N-Chow</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	
<p>8am - Sanctuary Service 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service 2pm - St. Clare's Worship 3pm - Eastwood Worship</p>	<p><b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> 8am - Office Closed 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel</p>	<p>8am - Office Open</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters 6pm - Choir 6pm - Confirmation Meal 6:30pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 11:35am - Chat-N-Chow 12:30pm - Chat-N-Chow</p>	<p>Office Closed 12pm - Newsletter Deadline</p>	
<p><b>Celebration Singers</b> 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service 10:45am - Annual Meeting 11:30am - Lunch- Following Annual</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 10am - Staff Check In 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel 6pm - Al Anon</p>	<p>8am - Office Open</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 9:30am - Quilters 6pm - Choir 6pm - Confirmation Meal 6:30pm - Together Here Ministry- Blanket</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 11:35am - Chat-N-Chow 12:30pm - Chat-N-Chow</p>	<p><b>Emmanuel Winter Chill Retreat Camp Ordina</b> Office Closed 9:30am - Kam-Downstairs</p>	
<p><b>Emmanuel Winter Chill Retreat Camp</b> 8am - Sanctuary Service 9:15am - Sunday School 9:30am - FLC Service</p>	<p>8am - Office Open 10am - Staff Check In 3:15pm - Celebration Singers 4pm - Soup for the Soul @ Emmanuel 6pm - Al Anon</p>	<p>8am - Office Open</p>				

**Grace Lutheran Church**

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**Return Service Requested**

