



GRACE GLEANINGS

Grace Lutheran Newsletter
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December, 2020

Welcome to the New Youth and Family Director at Grace



Becky Sprouse has taken on the responsibilities of the Youth and Family Director at Grace Lutheran Church. Becky and her husband Tod have been longtime members of Grace Lutheran and have an inside advantage into the youth here as they have two children in high school, Wyatt and Riley. We are overjoyed and excited to welcome Becky to the Grace Lutheran staff.

Becky Sprouse has accepted the position of Youth and Family Director at Grace Lutheran. The half time position includes working with children pre-school age through high school and directly with the Sunday/Wednesday School, Youth and Family Events and Vacation Bible School Events.

Becky is well known at Grace as she has been a Sunday school teacher, music director and on the praise team to name a few activities and she often is song leader for our COVID worship services.

Becky has a degree in accounting and has worked for the Watertown Library for 25 years, a position she will continue in.

She began her duties in November working with the Sunday/Wednesday school children getting acquainted with the curriculum currently used. In general she will be available on Wednesday evening from 5 to 8 pm and Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11 am. Other office hours will be determined as needed.

Plans are in December to hold a ZOOM gathering with the high school youth to get to know them and their needs better.

Once it becomes possible, in-person events for youth and children will be held.

~ We Thank God for Our Volunteers ~



In mid-August Krisma DeWitt volunteered to oversee the Sunday/Wednesday School program at the request of Pastor Cheryl. The time was running out to get the program up and going for the young people of Grace Lutheran with an urgent need for help.

In her very capable hands, she contacted teachers, chose the study contents, organized the weekly curriculum and prepared the materials for the teachers weekly classes in a very short time and did an outstanding job.

We thank all our volunteers and especially our Sunday/Wednesday school teacher who generously give of their time each week for the proclamation of the gospel message to your youngest of followers. But I want to especially give a huge Thankyou to Kris for coming to my aid in a time of need.

Kris will be around as Becky gets familiar with her new position. We wish Kris well with her new endeavors. Blessings to you.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The lights are set. The trees are up. Black Friday is just around the corner. Hallmark Christmas movies have been running for a few weeks and Christmas music is available everywhere. It just seems a little early.

I'm not a Bah humbug. I get it.

The year 2020 has been depressing and a struggle with the loss of so many things. The bright sparkling lights of the Christmas tree in a youngster's eyes gives hope and excitement for what is to come under it. (And even for adults.)

This is the first year for over 30 years I am not putting up a Christmas lights display. It feels so good. Of course, I am one who has often been called a Griswold because I put up over 50,000 Christmas lights, huge structures and over 18 lighted reindeer (several flying), along with three controllers to make the lights blink in time with Christmas music.

I announced in December of 2018 that 2019 would be my last year since I had decorated on the same corner for over 30 years and it was time to quit. I generally started in October and spent every extra hour and minute working on lights until they were up, including Thanksgiving Day once the meal was over and everyone settled into the football game. I've looked out several time over my dark yard thinking what it will be like this year without the lights... With NO regrets!

I guess it is my hope and excitement of what is to come... doing something new and different this year. Going to see the Christmas light parade for the first time. Getting my inside decorations up at the beginning of Advent. Things I have not been able to do because of an extravagant crazy ridiculous annual tradition of the past 30 plus years.

In this year of COVID-19, there are a lot of traditions and annual customs we are not able to observe.

Isaiah speaks to us about this saying: ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. ¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. (Isa 42:9-10 NRS)

Jesus also spoke of how He has made all things new in Mark 7 when the Pharisees and Jews would not eat because of ceremonial washing customs, holding tradition of the elders over His teachings saying: ⁶... 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." (Mar 7:6-8 NRS)

Christmas traditions are the most special of all we hold. Families celebrate in various ways. Gifts exchanged or hidden under the tree because we develop ideas of how we want our children to remember this special time or how we remember our own Christmas traditions and want to carry those one.

Church communities have individual Christmas traditions as well and it's extremely difficult to let go of singing beautiful carols together at candlelight services, watching the little tikes in their new Christmas attire, or the excitement of a church filled with returned family members and visitors gathered together. Many things will be left out this year through social distancing, wearing mask, just staying home to be safe or to control the spread of a dangerous virus.

It is hard to understand why this has happened or lasted so long. We questions what God's purpose could possibly be allowing these losses or so much suffering. Paul writes to the Corinthians during a difficult time in their lives saying:

¹⁵ Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (2Co 4:15-1 NRS)

We cannot see what this momentary affliction is preparing us for, but we can know for certain, it is for our an eternal good. At times like this, when we do not understand and we realize we have no control over these events, our eyes turn back to God and His promise for us. In this season of Advent and as we look forward to Christmas, take time to prepare your hearts and mind for the baby in the manger and what His birth and life mean for you.

This year, as you are missing your annual traditions and celebrations, be creative. Look for new ways to prepare for that magnificent event by reading the story of Jesus birth together as family virtually. Develop new ways of gift giving like delivering meals on Christmas Day. Attend a new type of worship held for the many who are mourning their losses at a Blue Christmas service. Spend extra time in meditation on how you can renew your inner nature day by day.

Consider how God is giving you a new way to see the importance of our Savior's birth in light of what that means for your salvation. Today, if you are wandering in the wilderness, let God open your hearts to a new relationship with Him.

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isa 43:18-19 NRS)

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You! ~ Pastor Cheryl

Minutes of the November 12, 2020 Grace Lutheran Council meeting

The Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with James Goble presiding. Also, present were, Denise Biller, Rick Brownell, LeRoy Bullis, Paul Henrichs, Dylan Jordan, Rhonda Lorenz, Geri Mohror, Harley Petersen, Gary Rukstad, Roger Rust, Tod Sprouse, Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett and Cindy Vander Leest. Absent were Mark Briley, Sherry Starr and Gina Urevig.

Pastor Cheryl led the Council in devotions and prayer before the meeting began.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Geri Mohror and second by Gary Rukstad. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2020 meeting was made by Rhonda Lorenz and second by Tod Sprouse. Motion carried.

Items:

1. Financial Report— Cindy Vander Leest reported the monthly income to the general fund was \$26,697, the weekly average giving was 6,674 and the weekly worship attendance was 197 (includes drive-in service, views on Facebook and Youtube). A motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills was made by Rick Brownell and second by Denise Biller. Motion carried.

2. Pastor's Report – Pastor Cheryl reported she continues to meet with the Confirmation students, along with leading worship services, baptisms and funerals. She has been busy putting together the Gleanings, bulletins, attending Zoom meetings, leading a bible study, and does a Daily Reading w/Martin Luther video to upload to Facebook. She finished up with last year's First Communion students, along with some new students this year and held First Communion worship services. With the COVID situation making it hard for some to attend, she will hold First Communion classes again in the spring of 2021. On November 23rd the Confirmation class will serve the walk thru/drive up Monday Night Banquet.

Old Business:

Update on Jobs – I am so sad with the news I am about to share with you. The office girls, Kathy Kruiter and Liz Dunn have decided to resign. They both have enjoyed their suspended time off and feel this is a good time to do the things they enjoy. Kathy will keep busy with her kids and grandkids, along with her making and selling her crafts. Liz retired once from her full time job and never really got to enjoy retirement until now... and she found out she likes it. Kathy is willing to work until the end of November and Liz is willing to work until we find our replacement. It will not be easy to replace these 2 amazing coworkers and friends. A motion to accept the combined office jobs description for 3 days a week (20-24 hours) and to start advertising was made by Paul Henrichs and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried. A motion to have Rich Dunn return to work and Liz Dunn to return 2 days a week was made by Geri Mohror and second by Roger Rust. Motion carried.

Committee Report on updating Grace Lutheran Church Constitution - James Goble reported the committee has met several times and are ready to present their suggestions to the Council for approval. Here are the recommendations:

D. This congregation agrees to consider associates in ministry for appointment to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the S.D. Synod or the ELCA.

Chapter 6.03 d: ELCA Model; The Congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A motion to accept the change to Chapter 6.03d. was made by Geri Mohror and second by Paul Henrichs. Motion carried.

Chapter 9:

GLC 9.13:

GLC Constitution; Add C9.21 from ECLA model as 9.13 in GLC Constitution.

ELCA C9.21; Authority to call a deacon shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council, to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

Continued on page 4

COUNCIL MINUTES —Continued from page 3

A motion to accept the addition of Chapter 9.13 was made by Denise Biller and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried.

GLC C9.14: GLC Constitution; Add C9.27 from ELCA model as C9.14 in GLC Constitution. ELCA Model; C9.27 The Deacon is called to serve in the company with other rostered minister or other rostered ministers, the privileges and responsibilities of each rostered minister shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the rostered minister. The Congregational Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a constitution.

A motion to accept the addition of Chapter 9.14 was made by Rhonda Lorenz and second by Tod Sprouse. Motion carried.

GLC C9.15: GLC Constitution; Add C9.28 from ELCA model as C9.15 to GLC constitution. ELCA Model; The Deacon shall become a member of this congregation and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the deacon shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

A motion to accept the addition of Chapter 9.15 was made by Rick Brownell and second by Denise Biller. Motion carried.

C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

GLC C10.05; Change wording from: Voting by proxy or absentee ballot shall be permitted. To Voting by absentee shall be permitted by approval.

A motion to accept the change to Chapter 10.05 was made by Geri Mohror and second by Gary Rukstad. After discussion, it was decided to table the change to Chapter 10.05. The Constitution Committee will review Chapter 10.05 and bring back their suggestion to a Special Council meeting for approval.

GLC 10.08: Electronic Voting review.

The Constitution Committee would like the "Electronic Voting" to be discussed and reviewed at the Annual meeting.

c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to 1 ½% of the total current budget (Mission Plan) for items not included in the budget.

GLC 12.05C and 12.05d: Change the 1.5% to 3.0%

d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation and shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. The council may not incur obligations in excess of 1 ½% of the total, current budget (Mission Plan) without approval by a congregational meeting. The budget (Mission Plan) shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried out in partnership with the Synod and churchwide organization.

A motion to accept the change to Chapter 12.05c. and Chapter 12.05d was made by Denise Biller and second by Paul Henrichs. Motion carried.

C14.01. All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregations life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

GLC C14.01: Correct spelling (fiances) to finances.

A motion to accept the change to Chapter 14.01 was made by Denise Biller and second by Rhonda Lorenz. Motion carried.

a. be approved at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting.

GLC C17.02 a: Add (2/3) majority vote.

A motion to accept the change to Chapter 17.02 a. was made by Dylan Jordan and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried.

**B2.04. COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL
Continued on page 5**

COUNCIL MINUTES —Continued from page 4

A.1. The Congregation Council shall establish the following committees:

Education	Finance & Stewardship	Property	Preschool
Memorial	Youth & Family	Missions	Visiting
Nominating	Fellowship & Outreach	Executive	Staff Support
	Worship & Music		

GLC B2.04A: A-1 Add safety committee and remove visiting committee.

A motion to accept the change to By-Law B2.04 A.1. was made by Dylan Jordan and second by Dense Biller. Motion carried.

B. There shall be from five to eight members on each committee. The members shall be appointed by the Congregation Council for a term of two years. Half of the members shall be appointed each successive year. The Congregation Council shall appoint one of its members as liaison to each committee.

**GLC B2.04B: Change from (five to eight) members on each committee’
To (Two to eight) members on each committee.**

A motion to accept the change to By-Law B2.04 B. was made by Geri Mohror and second by Rhonda Lorenz. Motion carried.

Call Committee for Youth and Family Director position Reminder- Pastor reported that the Synod had set up a Zoom meeting for Grace Lutheran and the ELCA Florence church to discuss the possibilities of sharing a Deacon/Word in Service position. The Grace Lutheran Executive Council and the possible Chair person on the Call committee felt even though it was a wonderful opportunity it was not the best fit for Grace at this time. There was too many things that both churches would need that person for at the same time. Meanwhile, a member, Becky Sprouse applied for the Youth and Family Director position. A motion to accept Becky Sprouse as the Youth and Family Director effective as of November 15, 2020 was made by Rhonda Lorenz and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried. The Council thanked the volunteer Call Committee; Denise Biller, Paul Henrichs, Kristi Herting, Ryle Koistinen, Rhonda Lorenz, Darcy Raethz, Becky Reeves and Adam Wientjes.

New Business:

- 1. Pennies for Mission GWB signature card** - It was brought to our attention that the Pennies for Mission signature card needed to be updated. A motion to have Gary Rukstad and one other committee member be on the GWB GLC Pennies for Mission account signature card was made by Dylan Jordan and second by Denise Biller. Motion carried.
- 2. Christmas services-** It was decided Christmas Eve services would be Thursday, December 24th at 3:00p.m. and 5p.m. and Christmas day service would be Friday, December 25th at 10a.m.
- 3. Blue Christmas** - Pastor Cheryl would also would like to lead a Blue Christmas service on Monday, December 21st at 6p.m. This service is generally held on the shortest day of the year. Grace invites you to a special holiday service designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult.
- 4. Audit GLC books** - A motion to accept Darlene Bresson, Geri Mohror and Bev Morrison as the 2020 end of year auditors was made by Rick Brownell and second by LeRoy Bullis. Motion carried.
- 5. Snow Removal** - A motion to have Stadheim Lawn Care for our snow removal was made by LeRoy Bullis and second by Paul Henrichs. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Education, Youth & Family – Dylan Jordan reported the Sun./Wed. classes will not be performing a Christmas program this year. They have decided they would do some service projects.

- Rick Brownell asked if the Monday Night Banquet could start letting people in for social coffee time. A motion to continue things as a walk thru or curbside for now and review again at a later time when COVID case numbers go down was made by LeRoy Bullis and second by Denise Biller. Motion carried.
- Denise Biller reminded everyone the Christmas lunch would be from 11:00 to 1:00 for curbside and delivery and they would need a lot of delivery drivers this year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Biller and second by Rhonda Lorenz. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vander Leest

Financial Report

Income	Budget	YTD		Debts:	Original amt	Balance
Offerings		\$ 219,543.83		Term Debt	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts		\$ 1,225.00		Line of Credit	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
PPP Cares Act forgivable loan		\$ 5,100.00				
Scrip Proceeds		\$ -				
Member donation		\$ -				
Portico (Bassetts)		\$ 11,687.65				
GLCW & Fndtn Sanctuary lights		\$ 7,324.00				
Foundation Grants		\$ 1,714.61				
Thrivent Choice \$\$		\$ 2,535.00				
Missions		\$ -				
Misc.		\$ 843.23				
Xfer Ed Jones/Grinnell ins ROOF		\$ 70,482.63				
Designated donations		\$ 16,865.50				
Total Income for General Fund		\$ 337,321.45				
Expenses						
ELCA & SD Synod Projects	\$ 2,546.05	\$ 1,913.40				
Staff						
Senior Pastor - Salary & Benefits	\$ 87,070.00	\$ 65,747.33				
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -				
Call process mileage & travel exp		\$ 57.10				
Youth & Family Director	\$ 19,516.33	\$ 5,879.08				
Business Adm Salary & Benefits	\$ 47,146.80	\$ 39,289.20				
Parish Education Assistant	\$ 2,674.99	\$ 668.76				
Office Asst & Custodians	\$ 56,350.49	\$ 20,235.18				
Payroll taxes	\$ 10,878.62	\$ 6,682.81				
Pastoral Materials	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00				
Total Staff	\$ 226,787.23	\$ 138,709.46				
				Other Outlays		
Program Expenses				Designated Gifts		\$ 1,225.00
Office Expenses	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 10,035.90		GLCW & Foundation		
Worship & Music	\$ 18,350.00	\$ 7,721.22		Basemt & Conf room		\$ 15,269.93
Altar Guild	\$ 750.00	\$ 517.21		Portico (Bassetts)		\$ 12,802.65
Youth Ministry	\$ 150.00	\$ 131.60		Hail damage (insured)		\$ 60,489.31
Fellowship	\$ 100.00	\$ -		Misc		\$ 178.23
Mission	\$ 325.00	\$ -		Fundraiser for General		\$ -
Outreach & Care Ministry	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,556.10		Foundation Grant exp		\$ 2,480.37
Stewardship Ministry	\$ 800.00	\$ 680.64		Hallway&FH floors		\$ 2,200.00
Debt Service	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -		Designated Donations		\$ 6,179.68
Insurance	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 9,080.79		Total Other Outlays		\$ 100,825.17
Utilities	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 18,489.60				
Synod Assembly Expense	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -		Total Expenses & Outlays		\$ 299,432.13
PC Conference Dues	\$ 300.00	\$ 279.00				
One time 2020 exp for year 2019	\$ 5,000.00			General Fund - 1/1/2020		\$ 67,395.52
Contingency	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 708.74		Plus Income		\$ 337,321.45
Property Ministry	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 8,783.30		Less Expenses & Outlays		\$ 299,432.13
Program Expenses	\$ 115,375.00	\$ 57,984.10		Loan Advances		\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 344,708.28	\$ 198,606.96		General Fund - 10/31/20		\$ 105,284.84

The next Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting will be at 6 pm Thursday, December 10th in the Fellowship Hall.



You are always welcome to come in to the office or call to review or discuss our church budget.

Thank you, Cindy 605-886-5737

Children's Christmas Program Cancelled

Due to the COVID pandemic the children's Christmas program has been cancelled this year. In place of it, the children will make cards and crafts to send to elderly in area assisted living, and care facilities similar to their project for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. If you receive a special card or craft from one of the children, they would LOVE to have you take a picture with it and send it back to share with them. If you know someone homebound and would like to ensure they get one, please contact the office with their names and contact information. Thank you!



Above, Children and teachers enjoy the Wednesday school opening activities. They are filled with stories and fun ways to learn about GLOW (God Loves Our World) even while social distancing.

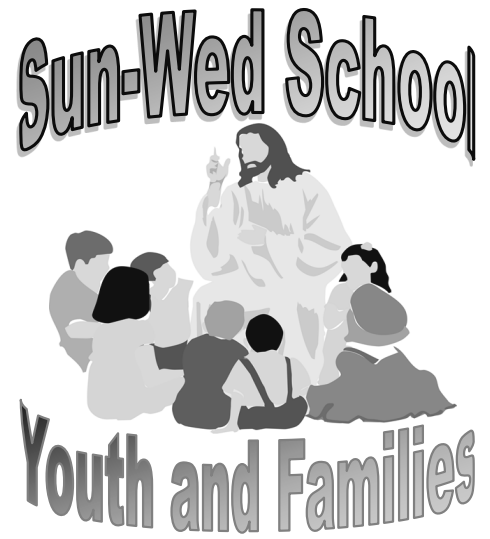


Youth skit tells the story of the Wilderness

Informal Family Worship Service on Wednesday nights includes "last minute" with "no practice" skits from the nights confirmation lessons, one of the favorite learning tools of the students each week. Here they tell the story of the people learning to trust God while wandering for 40 years in the Wilderness. Above l to r: Keisha Payne, Chloe Bauman, Grace Wickherst, Daniel Henrichs and Charlyee Williams.



Left, Rhonda Lorenz and Pastor Cheryl provide music for family worship services. Services are for the entire family, not just students. Please come in while you wait for you child and join us each week at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Fifteen participate in First Communion

Last winter several young people began their First Communion classes at Grace, and then the pandemic hit and classes were stopped while everything was shut down. As we learned new ways of worshiping together, finishing up confirmation classes and gathering, those who had taken the class waited.

This fall, those who had attended and any others who were interested were able to finish their class online using ZOOM and a learning management application called Canvas. Over two weeks and four worship services, the students were able to celebrate their First Communion, even though the celebration was very limited. Those completing the class were: Ollyver DeHaan, Charlyee Williams, Grace Wickherst. Carolann Clawan, Jace Peiker, Brooklyn Brown, Jayven McNamara, Harper Evjen, Kolbe Mohling, Abigail Reeves, Axton Hoppe, Adriene Schulz, Kyler Schulz, Aspyn Pahl, and Aryanna Pahl.

First Communion classes will be held later in Lent for 2nd grade on up who have not takes classes to learn about this important Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Due to COVID 19 and having the groups spread out, no group picture was taken.



Mission of the Month

A suggestion was made that we have a mission of the month at Grace Lutheran, something done in the past. Since we have so many great ministries in our South Dakota Synod under the umbrella called “Neighbors in Solidarity” who do excellent work for the proclamation of the gospel, I felt it was a great idea to give time and focus to each of them and other ministries we serve. Information on page 9 tells about the Storytellers Network where stories can be shared from local congregations.

Beginning in November, a video on “Church on the Street,” was shown during the third Sunday of the month, (my particular favorite mission ministry). A short video will be shown for the *Mission of the Month* on the third Sunday and a basket will be available to drop a donation in to be sent to them. If there are other needs, as the Church on the Street has a wish list, those items will be gathered as well. In this way, we can share in the mission and ministry to our “Neighbors in Solidarity” as Jesus taught us to do.

Church on the Street – Mission Project of the Month A Ministry with the Unhoused of Sioux Falls

You can help us spread the Good News:

PRAYERS: We ask for your prayers of love and support for all street ministries. Are you a part of a prayer chain or know any prayer warriors? Please make sure your name is added to our monthly prayer request list from the street by signing up [HERE](#).

Financial Donations and PRESENTS: Money is needed for ministry expenses. Please use our donate button on this page. Supplies and other items are often needed as well. Click [HERE](#) to find a list of our most current needs.

LAUNDRY WITH LOVE: Twice a month we gather together at a local laundromat to provide 3 free loads of laundry to anyone in need. You can help by donating quarters and/or volunteering at the laundromat. If you would like to donate or volunteer please email Harriet.

PARTNER with us: Join us in being church together in whatever capacity works for you. We are looking for Ministry Partners who share compassion for all of God’s people, whoever and wherever they are; to pray, sing, provide fellowship, reflect on the Gospel, and break bread.

If you have a gift for talking, writing, singing, cooking, baking, shopping, driving, counting, organizing, praying, imagining, playing, teaching, leading, trusting, listening, planning, encouraging, laughing, problem-solving, researching, or just plain being kind, we have a partnership for you. Please contact REBEL via email or complete this Mission Partner Covenant and return it to us.

WISH LIST

EVERY DAY NEEDS

Backpacks - Meat Sticks - Protein Bars - Pop-Tarts - Squeeze Applesauce - Instant Coffee Packets - Cocoa Packets - Coffee cups with Black lids - Underwear of all sizes (child-adult) - Full-size Shampoo and Conditioner - Full-size Towels - Handwarmers - Small/travel Umbrellas, Stamps, CROSSROADS GIFT CARDS (For communion and worship supplies), SIOUX FALLS TRANSIT BUS PASSES (To get to and from work.) GREAT CLIPS GIFT CARDS, MEAL GIFT CARDS (Hardees, McDonald's, Taco Johns, Subway, Starbucks)

For more information: <https://churchonthestreetsf.org/contact-us>

OFFICE—CHURCH ON THE STREET
327 S DAKOTA AVE
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104

To make a donation – you may also drop off at Grace Lutheran before December 15th.

The Storytellers Network

The Storytellers Network is a project developed by the SD Synod to share information with and between congregations in South Dakota. Each month, the Storytellers will share the story of a mission in South Dakota or in the ELCA.

There are several special missions in South Dakota – **Church on the Street**, which is a congregation of homeless people in Sioux Falls. **First Lutheran African Ministry** is a congregation made up of African people, also located in Sioux Falls. The third ministry in Sioux Falls is **Pueblo de Dios** (People of God) consisting of people from Mexico and Central America. **Woyaton** is a congregation in Rapid City that ministers to the Lakota people and the **Pine Ridge Retreat Center** works on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Each month, the Storytellers will share information about one mission so you can learn more about these special congregations and support them if you choose. But the Storytellers will also share stories from traditional congregations. For instance, a story about the Christmas supper that Grace Lutheran does every Christmas is a wonderful example of serving and supporting others. Or maybe we could tell about the Grace Lutheran Foundation that carefully grows their endowment and awards thousands of dollars each spring for special projects in our church and also supports many organizations in the community. Grace Lutheran has lots of stories to tell about our faith in action.

So be watching for the first story that will come in January, but also let Ps. Cheryl know if you have a story to tell!

Darlene Bresson
Synod's Multiculture Committee.

Thank You!

Thank you to all our friends at Grace Lutheran Church for the wonderful farewell on October 11. We appreciated so many showing for the reception and all the kind words and messages given to us that day. We do miss everyone and hope to return from time to time to keep in touch. Presently we are enjoying our new home and spending time with our girls and grandchildren. God's blessings to all of you.

Sincerely, Art and Marcia Jelsma

SCHOOL REMINDERS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Lutheran uses a "remind" app for our school reminders. To sign up for text announcements, text the message:

Wednesday school reminders: **@gracewed to 81010**

Sunday school reminders: **@9aeb84 to 81010**

Confirmation class reminders: **@289928 to 81010**

You will then receive an acceptance to the group.

To stop getting messages. Text @LEAVE to unsubscribe.



Emersyn Carmon Williams
Daughter of Joseph Williams
& Ashley Vander Leest
November 1, 2020

Remembering

Patrick
"Pat"
Hurkes



November 3, 2020

Memorials and Gifts

TO RADIO FUND

From Ed and Sharon Morrison in memory of Pat Hurkes; From Darlene Oslon as a thank you to David and Debbie for all your loving support and care.

TO FLOWER FUND

From Sylvia Larson in memory of Jeanette Swanson & LouAnn Caulfield; From Dick & Judy Everson in honor of their wedding anniversary; From Fred & Gwen Pechman in loving memory of Mathew Kuttner; From Will Morlock in loving memory of his wife Pat Marlock; From Darcy Raethz in loving memory of parents Dave & Sharon Johnson.

TO SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY SCHOOL

From Carol Schutt in memory of Floyd Kittelson

TO MEMORIAL FUND

From Dolores V Ness in memory of Doris Knadle; From Robbyn & Ronald Givens in memory of Doris Knadle; From Richard & JoAnn Deberg in memory of Pat Hurkes;

TO GLC GENERAL

From Lynette Anderson in memory of Pat Hurkes

If you are unable to attend worship

To watch the Sunday 8:30 am

Worship Service go to:

Our Youtube Channel at:

<http://glcwtm.org/Youtube.htm>

OR

Facebook at: [http://](http://glcwtm.org/Facebook.htm)

glcwtm.org/Facebook.htm

Join us at Grace for a Blue Christmas Service December 21st



During the holidays many who have lost a loved one struggle with their emotions. Grieving someone you have shared past Christmases with is especially difficult when apart for the first time causing intense feelings of loss, loneliness and sadness. It can be a very painful time of year for those who suffer due to death, divorce, health issues, unemployment, business loss, broken relationship, life altering operations, family trauma or any type of loss. It is even more traumatic this year from COVID-19 with the loss of just having a normal life as we knew it.

The long nights with extra hours of darkness add to the difficult feelings increasing the sense of hopelessness and sorrow. Everyone else appears to feel joy and celebrates this festive time of year, while many feel life is not wonderful at all. The happiness and joyful activities bear down on those who grieve more deeply at this time of year.

A Blue Christmas service creates a safe place for those who struggle with loss or mourn a loved one. It is a time to join together with others burdened by grief for emotional encouragement and receive spiritual support.

Pastor Cheryl and Grace Lutheran Church invited you to a special Blue Christmas service at 6 pm on Monday, December 21st. All are welcome to this nondenominational service.

Any who have suffered this past year or continue to suffer from years gone by are welcome to come and hear God's word of hope and healing shine through the darkness calling you forward to the bright shining light of spring when new life will come again.



Hello from the Grace Classroom!

I want to start off this note with a big thank you to everyone for your prayers, support, and donations! This year has brought so many unknowns and I am grateful to have the constant support through our church family and friends. We have been able to hold classes in a relatively "normal" fashion – taking temperatures each morning and really vamping up our cleaning and sanitizing efforts! Your donations of cleaning supplies, classroom supplies and snacks have been a great help – We could not do this without you!

We have been busy learning about everything from our ABCs to farming and animals to Math and community leaders. Our weekly Bible study has been flying along as well as our Wonder series. We have been trying to take a daily walk (as long as the weather allows) to go wave into the windows at Jenkins! Our classroom mission for this school year is to bring JOY and KINDNESS and God's Love to the world around us! We are hoping to really spread that love this Christmas season with a few fun projects! We have been lucky enough to continue our partnership with the LATC Early Education program to have student teachers observe in our classroom monthly, the kids have loved meeting them and I appreciate the extra help from time to time.

DON'T FORGET: We have our annual T-shirt Fundraiser is going on. I will be putting in our FINAL ORDER on December 4th. Orders and Payments must be complete on this day!

Christmas Vacation: NO SCHOOL December 23rd – January 1st.

School will resume on Monday, January 4th.

I am wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season!

Miss Kalli + The Littles





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

December 2020 Newsletter Inserts

From the Bishop's Desk

Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod, Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

I am a woman of many lists, I have a running grocery list, I have a weekend to do list and a list of tasks to be completed at work. Lists keep me focused and organized; but they also give me reason to celebrate my small achievements when I check a completed item off my list. I work in a field where the work is never done, but most days more things get added than crossed off. So, I learned to celebrate the little victories of even the smallest of tasks being completed. You, the people of the South Dakota Synod are on my December ministry list. As we near the end of the year, I would like to take the opportunity to share a few things with you. So in a good old list fashion here it goes:

1. THANK YOU! Thank you for your continued support, whether it is through your financial participation in the ministry we undertake together, or the gift of giving of self to a South Dakota Synod ministry or event. Thank you for showing up to strengthen the proclamation of the Gospel among the people of South Dakota.

2. Have you had a chance to listen to the Synod's Advent podcast? We joined forces with Joel and Aimee Pakan, Tangled Blue to celebrate the Advent of Christ with #reluctanthope. The podcasts air every Wednesday through Advent and are available to you to enjoy and share with others who may also enjoy them. They are based on the daily lectionary and have a focus on a current event. These podcasts include music, scripture and a faithful conversation based on the scripture of the day. Check it out. Share it widely. May it help you to celebrate the season of Advent as we await the Savior's birth.

3. You may have been able to join us for Synod Day on November 7th, where we celebrated and learned about synod ministries and the vision for our "Journey together in Christ", based on Luke 24:13-35. If you didn't have an opportunity to join, please know that a recording of the day's events is available to you. You may access the Synod Day resources here: sdsynod.org/synodday.

4. Last but not least, please remember that I had promised you to "show up." Your synod staff is committed to accompany you in your congregation's needs. Please, reach out to us, if you would like to be in conversation with us, to bounce of an idea or if you have questions. Our numbers and email addresses can be found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org. I would like to close by saying thank you again for your trust, support and continuing to show up. Now, let's

#JourneyTogetherinChrist.
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Blue Christmas

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

For my first nine years of ministry, I served as pastor of a congregation who worshipped with incarcerated youth at a correctional center. What do you think it might be like to be a teenager locked up during Christmas? Lit up in a sea of flickering candlelight, I saw many tears when I looked out at my congregation on Christmas eve. These were not tears of joy, but tears of great sadness. Family and friends were far away. There would be no gift giving or receiving with loved ones. The stark reality of incarceration hit hard during the "most wonderful time of the year."

It's not just those who are incarcerated who have grief on the holidays. For many, Christmas triggers a deep awareness of loss. Instead of primarily thinking about the incarnate Word of God coming into the world, people cannot help but think about their first Christmas without their loved one who has died. They are thinking about how there is no money for Christmas presents this year. Some are recently separated or divorced, or lack employment. Many have a family member imprisoned*. This year families are weighing the risks of exposure to illness as they wrestle with whether or not to gather with loved ones.

There is much to lament. On Monday, December 21st at 7pm, your synod bishop and her associates will conduct a Facebook live "Blue Christmas" worship service at: [facebook.com/sdsynod](https://www.facebook.com/sdsynod). Blue Christmas worship services create space where people can lament, pray, weep, remember, and hear a word of hope. We know Christmas can be the most difficult time of the year for many.

We believe in a God who is present in suffering, who has entered into our lives with all of its joys and sorrows. Christ is found even in the darkest places of our lives. Therefore, we will come together on-line as the body of Christ on December 21st, to name life's burdens and pain. We will also "gather" to proclaim that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Whatever we lack this Christmas, we never lack the light that is Christ.

*As of 2013, 2.7 million children in the U.S. have a parent who is incarcerated. That is 1 in every 28 children! [<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/06/21/sesame-street-reaches-out-to-2-7-million-american-children-with-an-incarcerated-parent/>]

Waiting

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

I don't know about you, but I don't know how much more waiting I can take. For months now, we have been waiting for an end to the pandemic, an end to
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

political fighting, an end to not knowing what tomorrow will hold, and end to my fears and anxieties. I've been waiting.

So now to be turning into the season of Advent, this season of once again waiting for Christ to break into our world, feels like an extension of what we've already been doing. We're waiting for God to make everything right again.

But here's the secret. Being a person of faith means holding onto that hope for a better future, no matter how long it takes. Being a Christian means that we believe God is with us, here and now in the mess of the world. Being a beloved child of God means that we aren't alone as we wait.

The promise of the Christmas story is that as we wait for Jesus to return, we know that God has already broken into our lives. As we wait for all the promises of God to come true, know that you don't wait alone, for God is with us, Emmanuel!

Generosity X 10.5

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Or is it? For some, it's the absolute worst time of the year. Wherever we fall in the Christmas Joy-ometer, there are ways to give and receive that honor our faith and the Greatest Gift of All. Here are 10.5 ideas for you:

1. **A gift of time:** Make a phone call to 1 or 2 or 5 seniors who have lived the past several months in isolation. The sound of a caring voice is a priceless, beautiful gift that costs nothing.
2. **A gift of skill:** Think about a single parent who might need an oil change or a door hinge repaired. In this time of COVID, is there a safe way for you to show up with a hammer or screwdriver for an hour?
3. **A gift of grain or livestock:** As you think about year-end giving, consider a gift measured in bushels or head rather than dollars and cents. Your effort to be more tax-efficient means there are more dollars to give and less sent to the IRS.
4. **A gift of life:** The need for blood donations is very real. Roll up your sleeve—this gift can save the lives of three people.
5. **A gift of stock:** If you own stocks that are worth far more today than when you made the investment, you can hold onto them until you die, or sell the stock and pay the capital gains tax, or gift the stock through Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD to your favorite ministry(ies) and pay zero tax. Thinking you should still own that company? Just buy it back the same day and reset your basis at today's price!
6. **A gift of words:** Send a letter to a military person stationed away from family this year in thanks for their service and sacrifice. While you're at it, remember that a note to their family waiting at home would be a welcome gift as well.
7. **A gift of hope:** There are no Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA in 2020 because of the CARES Act, but an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribu-

tion is still allowed, and an efficient way to make a gift of cash through the ELCA Good Gifts program. Maybe it's a cow, or chickens, or an entire farm. Whatever you choose, the opportunity to hope for a better future that comes from your generosity is priceless.

8. **A gift of pride:** Talk with your local social services agency and offer to buy Christmas gifts for a parent who can't bring Christmas to their children this year. Let them make the list, and wrap the gifts and put their name on the tags.

9. **A gift of love:** Who do you know, but don't really like? Who has a way of rubbing you the wrong way at every turn? Make a cake, bake a loaf of bread, buy a box of shiny apples, and stop by with a smile and "Merry Christmas!"

10. **A gift of faith:** Who have you been meaning to ask to worship with you? Can you invite them to share a Christmas Eve service together via Zoom or Facebook? If your congregation worships in person, can you share a socially distanced pew?

10.5. **A gift of legacy:** What will your estate plan teach your children? How will it tell the story of your faith? How will your life's work have made a difference? Wrap a box containing a note that shares the gift of knowing that your will is current, your powers of attorney are in place, and your living will is written. For those you love, this is peace of mind tied up with a bow.

If you'd like more ideas about how to make generosity a part of your Christmas, contact Kathy McHenry at Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota at 605.274.5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org.

Companion Synod News

As we might imagine, 2020 has been a challenging year for our companion synods as well. In addition to the pandemic, Nicaragua experienced Hurricane ETA in late October. The devastating effects of this natural disaster include not only damages to infrastructure but also the destruction of bean and corn plantations, which the people of Nicaragua rely on for subsistence. It is estimated that there will be a 70% reduction in their harvest.

Thank You:

In January 2020, the Lutheran Church of Nicaragua held its Youth Gathering. This gathering was funded mostly by our Synod. This is yet another way our member congregations are able to accompany our sister church in Nicaragua. Through our synod, we are able to journey together in Christ with our companions without being physically present with them during these times.

An Introduction to Reluctant Hope A Weekly Podcast for Advent

Joel and Aimee Pakan from Tangled Blue and the South Dakota Synod invite you into the season of Advent — a season of #ReluctantHope. Journey with us throughout Advent. Each Wednesday in Advent a new podcast episode will be released. You will hear conversations and music as we pause, breathe, and wait in the hope of Christ. Check it out at The SD Synod Site.



Grace Lutheran Church's
Annual Community Christmas Lunch
can be picked up on Christmas Day
between 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
 in our south parking lot.

Community Christmas Supper

We will be doing delivery to shut ins between 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

We are anticipating serving 500-600 meals this year/served between shut-ins, pickups, and the volunteers. We need your wonderful donations of food and WORKERS to make this a successful event.

Below is what we still need.

(Please fill in the quantity you will provide)

_____ **Pies** (75 needed)

_____ **Cans of Corn** (20 one gallon cans needed)

_____ **Butter** (15# needed for potatoes, buns, dressing, etc.)

_____ **Money donations** (are needed and appreciated)

Name: _____ *Phone:* _____

_____ **Work Christmas day (Please see times below)** I will be here to help _____ to _____.

Name: _____ *Phone:* _____

_____ **Deliver meals to Shut-ins** I can be here for delivery at _____ to _____

Name: _____ *Phone:* _____

9:00 a.m. Meal Prep -10 people needed

Includes: Make mashed potatoes, stuffing, dish up salads, cut pies, prepare delivery meals, etc.

10:45 a.m. Deliveries will start - 20 to 30 cars needed (get instructions and route ready)

11:00 a.m. Ready to serve (curbside)

1:00 Cleanup (dishes, delivery room, pie cutting room, etc.)



If you would like a meal delivered, please call the church office @ 886-5737 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Grace Lutheran Church
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Watertown, SD 57201-4308

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Merry Christmas
December

Christmas Worship Services

3 & 5 pm December 24th & 10 am December 25th

Important Dates on the Calendar

December —

- Sundays 8:30 am—Worship service in the sanctuary broadcast on KWAT at 10:05 am
9:45 am—Sunday school
11:00 am—In-person worship in the Fellowship Hall transmitted for Drive-up Worship
- Monday—December 21—6 pm Blue Christmas Service
- Thursday—December 24 3 pm Christmas Eve Service
5 pm Christmas Eve Service
- Friday—December 25—10 am Christmas Day Service
11 am Pick-up begins for Annual Community Christmas Lunch
- December 26—31st Pastor Cheryl Vacation Time Off



NOTICE: December 27—only ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 8:30 am
No Sunday school on December 27 OR January 3rd
No Wednesday school December 23 OR 30th.
Confirmation Christmas Break December 23rd and 30th.

Grace Lutheran Church: God's Grace Experienced Daily