

GRACE GLEANINGS

Grace Lutheran Newsletter
202 2nd St SE ~ Watertown, SD 57201

Phone: (605) 886-5737 ~ E-mail: gracelc@midconetwork.com
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m Monday—Thursday
Website: www.glcwtn.org

January, 2021

We Thank God for ~ Our Volunteers ~

Members of Grace Lutheran Church

I am thanking all the volunteers that worked on keeping up the church grounds, members and staff who worked hard on making the outdoor services a success during the pandemic. Also thank you to all other committees and members at large that volunteered during the year to keep Grace Lutheran Grace Lutheran a safe place of worship for all.

The church is in need of volunteers to continue its Christian and community goals. In the past a good percentage of the Church funding came from events and activities supported and sponsored by the church's volunteer committees. Understanding we live in a different time and our members do not have the free time they did in year's past there is a need for more people to become involved to maintain the activities we expected in the past.

The committee members that work church funerals have an average age of 75 year of age or older. There will be a need for new volunteers to take their place near future. The Dorcus Quilters need and will need more volunteers to keep up the good work they do. The property committee is always in need of people to maintain the church and property. There is a need for a people to help every year to assure the Christmas dinner, Grace Lutheran Church has sponsored for many years is a success. There are many activities where volunteer help is needed from washing dish's after a banquet to decorating for holidays.

Volunteering is good way to get to know other members of the congregation.

Please volunteer when you can. Ask where help is needed.

James Goble

Council President

Grace Lutheran Church



The stained glass window at the top of the church is once again lit up. LeRoy Bullis has been replacing bulbs and fixing timers on the cross and window so they once again shine through the darkness.



Rick Brownell is a faithful volunteer from Grace Lutheran Church each Monday night to assist with the Banquet meal. On November 23, Rick was helping oversee the Confirmation students on their service project.

December 24, 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Winter finally hit. It is a cold day out there today as I write this.

I knew it was coming of course but I always hope for the best, like a long warm fall could possibly last into the middle of January. I know, I'm stretching it.

As you get this Gleanings, it will be nearly a year since I came to be your pastor. What a year it has been with COVID, unemployment, business closures, shutdowns, quarantines, and an upside-down political world to name just a few. It has been a very difficult year for many. Adding to it the suffering from loved ones lost to COVID or elderly parents

being shut away from seeing family.

I saw one post on Facebook with an image of an open door telling how an Irish tradition is to open the door on New Year's Eve to let the old year out and the new year in. The remark with it was they were going to open all the doors and windows and even the garage to let this year out.

I have a feeling many people would agree with that thought and I won't be surprise if on New Year's Eve I see doors and windows open. I'm considering it myself.

But in our times of trouble, we know that opening a door will do nothing to let bad times out or good things in...

Psalms tells us: ⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. ¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. (Psa 9:9-10 NIV)

To know the Lord's name is to put trust in God even in dark days or when you travel through troubled waters. God does not cause evil to happen or bring wickedness upon us to punish us. Evil came into the world as Satan brought sin to humans. The story of Job helps us to understand that message. Knowing we are human, and have free will to choose whether we turn to God in times of trouble, or to the world is also reflected in Paul's writings in the New Testament:

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Rom 5:3-5 NIV)

The one thing that does happen during difficult and trying times is we reflect on what we believe. Is there a God? Why does this happen? What is the meaning of this? What have I done to deserve this? Why are there no answers?

Answers do come. There is a play book for living life.

When you turn back to God's Word. When you dwell in scriptures and read the stories of God's people through time, there you will find understanding by hearing His Words spoken to people who had the same problems as you have.

For in the beginning God created everything, and it was good. Evil was not created but is the result of a fallen creatures... our humanness. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; (Jam 1:13 NIV)

But when bad things do happen in our lives, God can use them to bring about good. One of those good things is to bring us closer to God when we read scriptures and hear the Word. It's not always what we want to hear because we so often enjoy the pleasures of this world and made excuses for why we put those things first before God.

¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-- whatever they do prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (Psa 1:1-6 NIV)

The year has been difficult for so many. I want to remind you God has not put you through this, but He is standing there waiting for you to turn to Him, like the prodigal child who returns in Luke, Jesus is eagerly waiting for any who have drifted away, much like a loving Shepherd searches for the lost sheep. During difficult times, understanding does not always come and the answers we seek are not always clear. We are human and our thoughts are through human understanding, not as a God. But God tells us: ¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. (Jam 5:13 NIV)

And when we do put God first in our lives and take our troubles to Him, we receive peace beyond our human understanding. It is a peace that comes in knowing the difficulty, suffering, and loss of this world mean nothing as we live for the world that is yet to come, a new eternal life with Christ.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You! ~ Pastor Cheryl

The Happiest of all New Year's to You ~ May it be filled with God's Blessings!

Minutes of the December 10, 2020 Grace Lutheran Council meeting

The Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting was held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with James Goble presiding. Also, present were, Denise Biller, Mark Briley, Rick Brownell, LeRoy Bullis, Paul Henrichs, Geri Mohror, Harley Petersen, Gary Rukstad, Roger Rust, Gina Urevig, Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett and Cindy Vander Leest. Absent were Dylan Jordan, Rhonda Lorenz, Tod Sprouse and Sherry Starr.

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

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Denise Biller and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes for the November 12, 2020 meeting was made by LeRoy Bullis and second by Geri Mohror. Motion carried.

Items:

1.Financial Report— Cindy Vander Leest reported the monthly income to the general fund was \$22,794, the weekly average giving was \$4,559 and the weekly worship attendance was 200 (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 Roger Rust. 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 shared she would be taking vacation days December 26th through the 31st unless there is a funeral and then she would be available. On December 27th there will be one service at 8:30 and Darlene Bresson has graciously accepted to lead the worship. She is also planning a snowmobile vacation for January 14th through the 19th and will not be available on those days. She announced Becky Sprouse has started as the Youth and Family Director and will be sending postcards out to invite students to play the scavenger hunt followed by a treat at the church along with hosting the Monday Night Banquet on January 11th.

Old Business:

Update on Jobs – Cindy reported that Pastor Cheryl and I have decided to hold off on advertising for office help until after the new year. Liz has graciously accepted coming in and helping when needed and continue to sign checks.

Committee Report on updating Grace Lutheran Church Constitution - James Goble reported the committee was not able to meet to make adjustments to present to the Council. They are hoping to start back up in January to review.

New Business:

- 1. Nominating Committee 7 spots need to be filled- Nominees so far are Denise Biller, Gena Urevig, Kelly Evjen and others have said maybe. 2. Proposed 2021 Mission Plan The Financial Committee met and are recommending a 3% salary increase for 2021 Mission Plan. A discussion was held and items reviewed. A motion to increase salaries 3% and present the proposed 2021 Mission Plan at the Annual Meeting was made by Denise Biller and second by Geri Mohror. Motion carried.
- 3. Committee Reports for Annual Report are due by January 12, 2021 James Goble handed Council members a copy of his Annual Council report for suggestions, review and will vote for acceptance at the next Council meeting.
- **4. Items for January 24, 2021 Annual Meeting Time -** A motion was made to hold one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with the Annual Meeting following at 11:00 by Geri Mohror and second by Denise Biller. Motion carried.
- 5. **Nominating Committee** We are looking for people to be on the 2021 Nominating Committee and there can be up to 6 members.
- 6. **Transfer Youth Funds from Edward Jones** A motion to transfer \$2,000 from the Youth Fund at Edward Jones to the Youth Fund at Dacotah Bank was made by Rick Brownell and second by Roger Rust. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

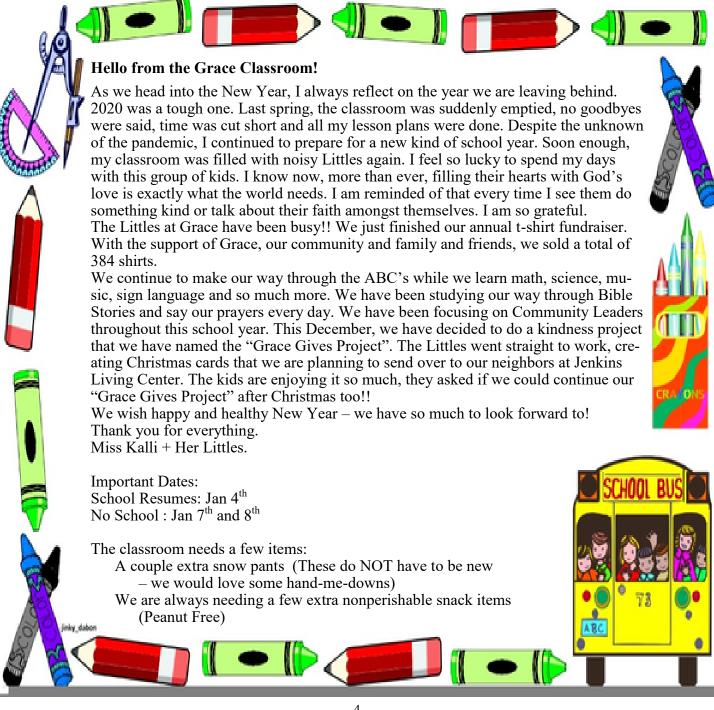
Property Committee - The Council "thanked" LeRoy Bullis for his continued efforts of fixing things around Continued on page 4

COUNCIL MINUTES —Continued from page 3

the church. He is working on getting the timer adjusted for tower cross lights and has replaced the light bulb on the stain glass rose window on the west side and working on that timer along with fixing the men's bathroom sink. The Committee met and reviewed the Pro-Tech Fellowship Hall and Hallway roofing project. The roof is in bad shape and need of replacing in the near future. The project estimate cost is around \$140,000. A motion to start a designated Roof Fund was made by Paul Henrichs and second by Mark Briley. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Biller and second by Gena Urevig. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Vander Leest



Financial Report

		i illaliciai	Report		
Income	Budget	YTD	Debts:	Original amt Balance	
Offerings		\$ 242,155.50	Term Debt	\$ - \$	
Designated Gifts		\$ 1,407.00	Line of Credit	\$ 20,000.00 \$	
PPP Cares Act forgiveable Ioan		\$ 5,100.00			
Scrip Proceeds		\$ -		The next Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting will be at 6 pm Thursday, January 14th in the Fellowship Hall.	
Member donation		\$ -	Council		
Portico (Bassetts)		\$ 13,037.19			
GLCW & Fndtn Sanctuary lights		\$ 7,324.00	uie F		
Foundation Grants		\$ 1,714.61			
Thrivent Choice \$\$		\$ 2,535.00			
Address -		A			
Missions		\$ -			
Misc.		\$ 843.23		YOU	
Xfer Ed Jones/Grinnell ins ROOF		\$ 70,482.63		100	
Designated donations		\$ 16,865.50		MAKE A	
Total Income for General Fund		\$ 361,464.66	The state of the s	DIFFEDENCE	
				DIFFERENCE	
Expenses					
ELCA & SD Synod Projects	\$ 2,546.05	\$ 2,354.74			
Staff					
Senior Pastor - Salary & Benefits	\$ 87,070.00	\$ 72,529.31			
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -			
Call process mileage & travel exp		\$ 57.10		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	
Youth & Family Director	\$ 19,516.33	\$ 6,455.85			
Business Adm Salary & Benefits	\$ 47,146.80	\$ 43,218.12	discuss our c		
Parish Education Assistant	\$ 2,674.99	\$ 668.76	Thank you C		
Office Asst & Custodians	\$ 56,350.49	\$ 22,860.13			
Payroll taxes	\$ 10,878.62	\$ 6,761.25			
Pastoral Materials	\$ 150.00				
Total Staff	\$ 226,787.23	\$ 152,700.52		T T	
			Other Outlays	Ć 4.407.00	
Program Expenses			Designated Gifts	\$ 1,407.00	
Office Expenses	\$ 18,500.00		GLCW & Foundation		
Worship & Music	\$ 18,350.00		Basemt & Conf room	\$ 15,269.93	
Altar Guild	\$ 750.00	\$ 517.21	Portico (Bassetts)	\$ 14,152.19	
Youth Ministry	\$ 150.00	\$ 131.60	Hail damage (insured)	\$ 60,489.33	
Fellowship	\$ 100.00	\$	Misc	\$ 178.23	
Mission	\$ 325.00	\$	Fundraiser for General	\$	
Outreach & Care Ministry	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,572.10	Foundation Grant exp	\$ 2,480.3	
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	\$ 9,721.86	Total Other Outlays	\$ 102,356.73	
Utilities	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 19,643.02			
Synod Assembly Expense	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	Total Expenses & Outlays	\$ 318,879.9	
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	\$ 818.03	Plus Income	\$ 361,464.6	
Property Ministry	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 8,995.80	Less Expenses & Outlays	\$ 318,879.93	
Program Expenses	\$ 115,375.00	\$ 61,467.96	Loan Advances	\$	
Total Expenses	\$ 344,708.28	\$ 216,523.22	General Fund - 11/30/20	\$ 109,980.2	

Sunday / Wednesday School

Thank you to all who sent in a picture of where you placed the craft you received.







Wednesday school will resume on January 6th. / Sunday School will resume on January 10th.



High School Youth Group

January 11 - Serving the Monday Night Banquet

Please arrive after school. Serving starts between 4:30 and 5:00. Meals are prepared to go. We should be done by 6:30. Parents are also welcome to come and help out.

January 13 - Youth Group @ 7:30pm

Youth group will resume at 7:30 in the youth room.

Looking for a couple of Parent volunteers to also attend.

Confirmation Blankets:

Were you confirmed in the last 4 years? Never got your blanket? I have them in the office, you can come and get them.

<u>Join Youth Group Remind by texting 34c2a7 to 81010.</u>

_Announcements will be coming out through this as needed.



Above, the youth presented "The Best Gift Ever!" as Mrs. Jenkins, a Sunday school teacher helps her students realize the real meaning behind exchanging gifts at Christmas. Participating this week were (L to R) Abigail Reeves, Nathan Briggs, Grace Wickherst (# 19), Sam Anderson (behind Grace), Daniel Henrichs, and Brooke Henrichs. Everyone is welcome at Wednesday night worship which is held each week at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Skits are the favor for the youth at Wednesday night Family Worship Services. In the Delivinator above, (I to r) Abigail Reeves, Keisha Payne, Kaydence DeHaan, Chloe Bauman, Grace Wickherst, Daniel Henrichs, Brooke Henrichs, Allison Henrichs, and Ollyver DeHaan call on the Delivinator to eliminate evil, temptations and greed from the city of Uberopolis. Skits are impromptu and students learn from an activity that they can participate in more than just listening to.

Reeves, Rick Brownell, Keisha Payne and

Above are Micheal Berg, Abigale Reeves, Keisha Payne, and Banquet Coordinator

Sam Anderson.

Heidi Hoekman.





Mission of the Month

Lutheran Disaster Response helps to bring God's comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters. And when the dust settles and the headlines change, they *stay* to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Their response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

Hurricane Response

The situation: On Nov. 2, Hurricane Eta, a powerful Category 4 storm, hit Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. Throughout Central America, at least 171 people died. Winds as high as 150 mph caused power outages and structural damage while heavy rains caused catastrophic flooding and landslides, damaging homes,

crops, roads and bridges. Just two weeks later, Hurricane lota made landfall in Nicaragua, 15 miles from where Hurricane Eta had made landfall. lota was the first Category 5 hurricane of the 2020 season, but it weakened to a Category 4 hurricane as it made landfall. It brought strong winds and rains to areas already devastated by Hurricane Eta, hampering any ongoing recovery. More information can be found of the ELCA main site or through the SD Synod: https://sdsynod.org/disaster-response/

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.

Memorials and Gifts

TO RADIO FUND

From Juliane Stianson in loving memory of Farol & Jeremy Hendrickson by their families; From Jerry Bossen & family in loving memory of Peter & Marjorie Bossen by their family; From Juliane Stianson in special celebration for Christmas Eve.

TO FLOWER FUND

From Jerry Bossen & family in loving memory of Peter & Marjorie Bossen by their family; From Fred & Gwen Peshman in loving memory of Matthew Kuttner; From Linda Williams in loving memory of Roy & Doris Schmeling from Linda, Larry, Lana and families; From David & Jackie Abel for Erin Abel's Birthday; From Cal & Nyra Brown in celebration of Christmas.

TO YOUTH

From Perry & Shelly Forst in memory of Doris Knadle.

TO MEMORIAL FUND

From John & Patricia Sneden in memory of Doris Knadle; From Art & Marcia Jelsma in memory of Dennis Schult and Pat & Lori Hurkes.

TO PRESCHOOL

From Fran Schaefer in loving memory of Doris Knadle, Juden Howell, Bill Hoff, Wendy Dunn, Pat Mahowald, Patti Lingren, Jona Rohde, Elmer Compaan. From Fran Schaefer in loving memory of Pat & Lori Hurkes, Leonard & LaVonne Splinter, Linda Ritz, Ruth Skoglund, Evelyn Bass, Donald Hoftiezer.

TO ROOF FUND

From Richard & JoAnn Deberg in memory of Leonard Splinter..

Fund Set Up for Needed Roof Project Of Fellowship Hall and other Roofs

A designated fund has been set up at Grace Lutheran to raise money for the needed replacement of the Roofs on the Fellowship Hall, Education Wing, Kitchen, Office, Classrooms, and Bell Tower.

According to the history, the Fellowship Fall and Education wing were dedicated in 1958. The New Narthex was added in 1975. Then in 1992, major repairs were done to the roof, the sanctuary, the bell tower, the parish education unit and the addition of an elevator to access the church.

The main sanctuary received a new roof this past summer due to hail damage two years ago.

The project includes: the removal of the existing ballast and membrane, metal cap (and save it),;the installation of h" wood fiber board over roof surface area, and Carlisle 60 mil EPDM; a Ballast Roof System Seal with the installation of walkway pads around 2 large rooftop units, reinstallation of the metal cap and new ballast.

The roofs have served their purpose and the time has come to do the necessary work of a new roof for these areas.

A commercial roofing company has provided a quote with an estimate of \$140,000. The council approved setting up a designated fund for the project so moneys could be donated to it from memorials or just as gifts.

Grants will be sought, Fund raisers will need to be held going forward. But everyone's help will be necessary to raise the funds and complete the project.

The present sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church was dedicated on July 10, 1921 and plan are to celebrate this 100 year anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Grace Lutheran this summer. Your help is needed in holding fund raisers, planning this celebration, writing history, and praying for the continued mission and ministry of this beautiful structure.

If you are thinking of giving to an organization, please consider this need of Grace Lutheran Church and give generously.



We bid goodbye to Office Staff Kathy Kruiter (L) and Liz Dunn (R) last month as both decided retirement look good to them. We want to say Thank you for their service to the Grace Lutheran family and best wishes in their future.

Remembering Lorraine "Lori" K Hurkes December 9, 2020

Linda Mae Ritz December 10, 2020



"Follow the Star" Scavenger Hunt Held

During the week of Christmas, clues for a scavenger hunter were put out as a fun family activities during this time of COVID. Clue for 15 addresses were given with clues for an items of the Nativity at each address. The High School Youth Group gathered together on Tuesday evening, December 22nd and made the rounds followed by pizza. Other have taken and found the items, filled out their forms and handed them in at the office. One of the corrected entries will be drawn and given a prize.

SCHOOL REMINDERS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Lutheran uses a <u>"remind"</u> 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.

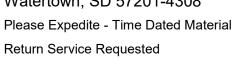
<u>To stop getting messages. Text **@LEAVE** to unsubscribe.</u>

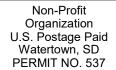
If you are unable to attend worship
To watch the Sunday 8:30 am
Worship Service go to:

Our Youtube Channel at: http://glcwtn.org/Youtube.htm
OR

Facebook at: http://glcwtn.org/Facebook.htm

Grace Lutheran Church 202 2nd St. SE Watertown, SD 57201-4308







January 24 at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall



2021

Important Dates on the Calendar

January 4 —5:30 pm—Grace Foundation Meeting

January 11—High School Youth Group Serves the Banquet

January 12—Annual Report are Due in the office.

January 13—7:30 pm High School Youth meeting after Family Worship

January 24—Annual Meeting of Grace Lutheran Congregation at 11 am with One worship service at 10 am

We Gather for in-person Worship Each week with precautions:

Wear your mask—Seating in every other pew—No singing

Communion packets and bulletins are in the pews when you come.

Sundays 8:30 am—Worship service in the sanctuary broadcast on KWAT at 10:05 am

9:45 am—Sunday school (Not January 3)

11:00 am—Worship in the Fellowship Hall & transmitted for Drive-up Worshipers

Sunday, January 24th there is only ONE worship service at 10 am due to the Annual meeting at 11. **Come! Let us Worship our Lord.**

Grace Lutheran Church: God's Grace Experienced Daily