

December 1, 2024

Grace Lutheran Ministry Minutes

Care Bag Assembly can use You!



A new church year begins today! We will be assembling care bags between worship services today. All items will be laid out in the chapel, so pick up items to add to the bag as you walk through, cinch up the bag, and place it on the shelf in the hallway. We will be assembling approximately 50 bags. Total Time: 2 minutes. Doing God's Work: **Amazing!**

Adult Education:

Come join the discussion on Sunday mornings about the miracles of Jesus. This year, we will be talking about *Christmas Gifts That Won't Break* by Rev. Jacob Armstrong and Rev. James Moore. These gifts are hope, love, joy, peace, and Christ. Invite a friend and come for a time of faith formation together. Hope to see you there!



You are invited to:
"The True Christmas Story"
Presented By Grace Lutheran BLAST Children

When: Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 10:45 a.m.
Where: Grace Lutheran Church Sanctuary
Why: To experience the true Christmas Story through the children of Grace Lutheran Church.
Refreshments will be served following the program.

Readings for Sunday, December 1: First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36



Men's Breakfast Tomorrow!

Next Men's Breakfast is tomorrow Monday, Dec 2. Join the guys at Grace for a devotion and breakfast at the Ranch, 7:00AM, and invite your friends. Come for a time of fellowship and discussion.

Grace Mission Team Christmas Tree Sale!

Tree sales began November 27 and will be for sale until all are gone, in the Fairmont Fleet & Farm Parking lot! MANY volunteers are still needed to cover shifts at the lot, especially the first week in December. Please follow the link provided to sign up today! Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4DA9AA28A6F94-52467495-2024>



Christmas Star Tree



Each year Grace has a Star Tree in the gathering area where our members can take a star to purchase gifts for those less fortunate in our community. Each Star lists the gender, age, and gift request and whether your package should be wrapped or unwrapped. Gifts should be returned on or before December 8.

Please be sure to sign out your Star with your name and phone number. If you know of someone that you would like added to our giving list or if you have any questions or if you would like to pick a star but shopping is inconvenient for you, please contact Cindy Wohlhuter 507-236-4403. Thank you!

The Sock Tree Returns

You are invited to bring NEW socks for all ages to keep the feet of God's beloved warm and toasty. Good quality new socks are needed which will be given locally to our schools for children needing socks, Options Pregnancy Center for women and children, the Salvation Army, and Grace Care Bags for our guests this winter. Decorate the bare trees in the Gathering Space with new socks as Grace Lutheran prepares for Christ's coming at Christmas!





Year End Reminder!

A reminder to please have any year end givings into the church office prior to 12PM on Monday, December 30th. Thank you!

Mid-week Advent Worship

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1 as we await the coming of Emmanuel God with Us. Each week in worship, we will be lighting one candle of the Advent wreath and sing hymns proclaiming the coming of Jesus. On Wednesdays, we will be offering Holden Evening Prayer at Noon and Joyous Light at 6:30PM. This peaceful and contemplative worship service speaks to Christ's coming at Christmas. The Noon service will be held in the chapel and the evening service in the sanctuary. **Confirmation students are asked to invite their mentor to join them for worship at 6:30 and discussion which conclude at 7:15pm.**



Community Carols Sing-A-Long!



Invite a friend and come to the first annual Community Carols Sing-A-Long hosted by our ecumenical partner churches: Grace Lutheran, First United Methodist, First Congregational, and St. John's Congregational churches!

This free hour-long event will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2PM, at the Red Rock Center for the Arts. Molly Brees will be playing, and treats will be provided. Come for a fun time to sing Christmas carols of all kinds, from Away in a Manager to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. From the young to young-at-heart, let's enjoy this festive and special season together. Hope to see you there!



Upcoming Meals for Open Door:

Dec 4: Soup/ Chili

Dec 11: Tacos



OUTREACH

2024 Stewardship Stats	
\$507,915	2024 Annual Budget
\$404,617	Year to Date Income, P&L report: Jan 1– Nov 25
\$12,915	Collected November 19 - November 25
\$17,216	Needed Weekly to meet 2024 budget

Please only FAIRMONT receipts



\$200,000 #45



\$52,600 on #14

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

The Week of December 1, 2024

Sunday, December 1st - Advent Begins

8:30AM Traditional Worship
9:45AM Adult Education
10:45AM Contemporary Worship

12:00PM Noon Worship
4:45PM Open Door
5:15PM Chancel Choir
5:30PM BLAST/Christmas Program Rehearsal
6:30PM Confirmation
6:30PM Advent Worship

Monday, December 2nd

9:00AM Staff Meeting
1:00PM Mary's Circle
5:30PM CYF Team Meeting
6:00PM Evening CBS
6:30PM Worship Team Meeting

Thursday, December 5th

9:00AM Women of the Cloth Sewing

Tuesday, December 3rd

9:00AM Sewing Circle
9:00AM Common Threads - Christmas Party
1:00PM Weekly Prayer Meeting
1:30PM Women's Bible Study
2:00PM Worship Service Aired

Friday, December 6th

1:00PM Worship Service Aired

Saturday, December 7th

12:00PM Kinship Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 4th

9:00AM Women's CBS

Sunday, December 8th - Blue Christmas

8:30AM Traditional Worship
9:45AM Adult Education
10:45AM Contemporary Worship - Baptism

PRAYERS

Members and Loved Ones: Linda Vlieger, Jeanette Nelson, Harley Jordan (*Ben Jordan's brother*), Weston (*Lisa Fritz's great nephew*), Dawn Potthoff (*Deb DeBoer's sister*), Gladys Peterson, Carol Myhre, Carolyn Kryzer, Pat Witty, Steph Johnson, Parker Lintelman, Karen Meier, LeRoy and Bernice Sandberg, Ben Hamilton, Susie, Mike Swanson, Eli, Phyllis Niehaus, Kathleen Ferguson, Mary Ann Kehrberg, Jean Nimz, John Bisbee family, Nathan Marks, Karen, Connie Donnelly, Stan Sundberg, Jon VonBank, Doug Lyle, Leah Edward, Elayne Hested, Mark Morris.

Sympathy for the family and friends of: Karen Hertzke

Ongoing Concerns: For people to see Jesus in the face of their neighbor, those affected by the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land, for a revitalization of our faith community and re-connecting with one another as we enter into more familiar times, for our pastors and church staff that they may hear and bear witness to the Holy Spirit at work in our midst, for the Spirit's leading in our ministries within and outside the walls of the church, for continued generosity of people during these difficult economic times as prices of food and gas rise and cupboards are bare, for an end to racial injustice, for peace in our cities, and for our military and police officers who put their own lives on the line every day, and healing for our communities and world from the anger, division, and war that so many people are experiencing.