

 **Grace Lutheran Church**  
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 **Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
 Fairmont, MN

# WAYS OF GRACE


*Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.*

## January 2024 HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Our Staff:**

- Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb** - Senior Pastor [cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org)
- Rev. Cheryl Indehar** - Interim Associate Pastor [indehar@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:indehar@gracelutheranchurch.org)
- Jane Reiman** - Finance Director [reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org)
- Nicole Kolbe** - Office Administrator [office@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@gracelutheranchurch.org)
- Brad Anderson**- Maintenance Emergency contact number: 507- 236-1123  
 Office: 507- 238- 4418




 Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org)

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU  
 THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU  
 AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU  
 THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU  
 AND GIVE YOU PEACE  
 NUMBERS 6:24-26



*Looking for an easier way to give your offering?*  
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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Pizza with the Pastors	The Gift of Final Wishes	Grace Annual Meeting
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**“Rejoice”**

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 4:4-7



Rejoice is a word that is not used very often today, but in the Bible rejoice is used 175 times. The dictionary describes the word rejoice as to be glad, to take delight and/or to make joyful. It is something we are to experience. Joy, by definition, is the emotions of great delight or happiness caused by something good or satisfying; a source of keen pleasure or delight; the expression of display or display of glad feelings; a state of happiness; to feel joy.

Paul writes this letter from prison to the Philippians. He is suffering but speaks of joy throughout this letter. What is bringing this joy is Jesus Christ. Paul's identity is tied to Jesus who is his savior and Lord. Paul who first persecuted the Christians, is now one and is being persecuted. He doesn't let his joy in the Lord be taken away from him because of his circumstances. He maintains his rejoicing in Jesus. When he is rejoicing in Jesus, he is joyful.

Paul states that the Lord is near. In a way that we cannot understand, Jesus has the ability to be near us. In another letter 1 Corinthians, Paul calls God's temple and that God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, lives and dwells inside of us. God is always close to us and is approachable. This all brings joy to Paul and allows him to rejoice.

One of the main things that can take our joy and rejoicing from us is worrying. Paul addresses that in this text. He boldly states, “Do not worry about anything.” If we worry about something, we are told to lift up our requests in prayer and supplication to God in thanksgiving. We give to God our concerns because He is the one who can do something with them.

When we give our worries to God, we will receive the peace of God. This peace surpasses all our understanding. This peace will also guard your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. God wants us to live in His peace, as well as, His love and joy. That is what he intends for us all the time.

Paul called the Philippians and us to be gentle so it is known to everyone. In Galatians, Paul talks about the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When we are led by the Spirit, we experience the fruits of the Spirit. These fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. When we are led by the Spirit we look to living God's ways and thinking of what God desires.

We, as Christians, are to live joyful lives and rejoice in the Lord always. This text tells us how to do it. Like Paul, our identity is in Christ. We have been claimed by God as his beloved children. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. God's peace protects and guards our hearts and minds to focus on Christ. All of these are gifts from God. We can give thanks with a grateful heart for all that God has done for us.

Pastor Cheryl Indehar

# JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Lessons and Carols Worship	1	2 9:00am - 3:00pm Common Threads Sewing Bee - Community 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	3 5:15pm - 6:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00am - 12:00pm Blue Earth River Conference Meeting	5 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	6
7 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am - 10:35am Gift of Final Wishes Funeral Planning 10:45am Contemporary Worship 10:45am Owen Miller Baptism 12:00PM Pizza With Pastors	8 7:00am Ranch Men's Breakfast 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary's Circle 5:30pm CYF Mtg 5:30pm Worship Team 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Celebration Choir Practice 6:30pm Shalom Circle	9 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 5:30pm Service Team Meeting 6:30pm Committee Meetings: Stewardship, Fellowship, & Outreach	10 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 4:45pm - 6:30pm Open Door Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - 6:30pm Adult BLAST 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:30pm Confirmation	11	12 9:00am Common Threads 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	13
14 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am - 10:35am Budget Meeting 10:45am Blakely Mae Anderson Baptism 10:45am Contemporary Worship	15 <b>Ways of Grace Submission Deadline</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Celebration Choir Practice	16 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 6:30pm Martin County 4-H	17 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 4:45pm - 6:30pm Open Door Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:30pm Confirmation	18	19 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	20
21 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am - 10:35am Annual Meeting 10:45am Contemporary Worship	22 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Celebration Choir Practice	23 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 6:00pm - 8:00pm 4-H	24 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 4:45pm - 6:30pm Open Door Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:30pm Confirmation	25 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	26 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	27 8:30am - 11:30am 4-H
28 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am - 10:35am Adult Bible Study 10:45am Contemporary Worship	29 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Celebration Choir Practice	30 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	31 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 4:45pm - 6:30pm Open Door Meal 5:15pm - 6:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:30pm Confirmation	1 9:00am - 10:00am Sarah's Circle 9:00am WOTC	2 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	3

# WORDS FOR WORSHIP

## Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

## Sunday, January 14 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 Gospel: John 1:43-51

## Sunday, January 21 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

## Sunday, January 28 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

## Sunday, February 4 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus’ healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon’s mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
 Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sundays:** 8:30AM Traditional  
10:45AM Contemporary
- Tuesdays:** 2:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12 (pre-recorded)
- Wednesdays:** 6:30PM WOW, Worship on Wednesday!
- Fridays:** 1:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12 (pre-recorded)



\*Communion is offered each Sunday and Wednesday.

\*Sunday services will be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and our webpage.

**Goldfinch Senior Living Worship Service** is the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10AM on Assisted Living side with Communion. Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10AM, at Lakeview Methodist home, with communion. Please come and worship with our friends and members of Grace!

## Want to Fund a Buildings & Grounds Project???

(Project estimates are subject to change)

Women’s Toilets in main floor restrooms:	\$1,150
Bathroom light switches with auto shut off:	\$1,050
Paint and supplies for misc. areas:	\$1,500



For more project information, please contact the office or see our maintenance worker, Brad. Thank you!



**On behalf of the staff at Grace Lutheran Church: Pastor Allison, Pastor Cheryl, Brad, Nicole, Jane, & Kathy, we would like to thank you for the gifts and treats that you have gifted us this Holiday season. Your kindness is a blessing that has brightened our days!**

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to our Grace Lutheran Congregation for your support of the Star Tree. Your generosity and open hearts fulfilled 300 requests for gifts. Thank you to Jane Reiman and her Weigh Tronix team for helping us every year and this year taking 60 stars. We wish you all a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas.



# BUSINESS OF GRACE

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 15, 2023

**Members present:** Pete Odgren, Carolyn Bird, Jane Reiman, Ilene Reiter, Troy Nemmers, Kris Boerner, Ardell Prescott, Pastor Cheryl Indehar, and Pastor Allison Cobb.

**Members absent:** Joice Forster, and Josh Ensrud

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Council President, Pete Odgren.

**Devotional:** Carolyn shared a devotional titled "Uniquely Made" from David Jeramiah Ministries. Approval of Meeting Minutes of September was done online.

### Financial Report

Jane Reiman reviewed the financial reports. We have an estimated negative balance of \$10,000. We are making strides. However, we haven't paid any to the synod at this time. It was discussed having a temple talk first week of November regarding the finances of the church.

The financial report was approved by Carolyn Bird and seconded by Kris Boerner. Motion carried.

### Team Reports

#### Worship

Worship team shared lots of important dates on the calendar to be aware of. There is continued work in progress about different ideas for contemporary services.

#### CYF Team

A HUGE thank you to the CYF team for doing a fantastic job. We are still looking for an adult to organize the youth summer trip.

#### Outreach Team

The finishing touches are being completed for the Octoberfest on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The team will be serving pumpkin bars and cider, November 19<sup>th</sup> and the Glows parade is coming Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Thanksgiving Food Drive is starting November

5<sup>th</sup> thru November 19<sup>th</sup>. 10 % will go to the food shelf and the rest will be for the Grace Food shelf. The Sock tree and the Star tree will be in the near future as well.

#### Service Team

The cracks in the parking lot will be fixed by the company that completed the parking lot and should be happening soon. The stained glassed windows are ¾ completed and are almost paid for but still \$11,000 short yet to be paid.

#### Stewardship Team

The team is narrowing ideas toward helping the stewardship for the church and looking at smaller tasks to take on first. It was discussed putting together a new church directory. Also, the team is talking about ways of recognizing people who donate their time in various ways to the church as well as welcoming new people to our church.

#### Personnel

The team met and discussed the budget for the next year, 2024. The team recommended continuing at this time with the staffing the same. However, the committee will review the budget for a new pastor and the necessary benefits for this position.

#### Old Business

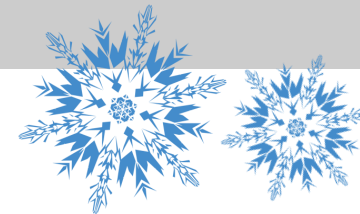
#### New Business

The 2024 Budget for the various teams will need to be approved by the beginning of November.

We have openings for a one year term for one council person, and three openings for three year terms for the church council for 2024. We are looking for recommendations of these positions.

#### Pastors' Reports

Pastor Cheryl shared her main note is the start of confirmation. She continues her pastoral care visits and that is going well. She has agreed to stay at Grace through Memorial Day. She is happy being here at Grace with us.



## "The True Christmas Story" A Christmas Program Presented By Grace Lutheran



## WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



**Open Door Meal:** 4:45PM - 6:30PM - All are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a meal.

**BLAST, PreK - 6th Grade:** 5:30PM - 6:30PM - This includes Cherub & Alleluia Choir, learning lessons, and fun!

**Wednesday Worship:** 6:30PM - 7:00PM

**Confirmation, 7th-9th Grade:** 7:00PM - 8:00PM

*First Day  
Back is  
January 3!*



**Youth Trip Coordinator Volunteer Needed!** CYF is looking for a lead volunteer to plan future youth trips for students! Some duties would include coordinating details of location and lodging, finding volunteer chaperones, assist with fundraising events for donations, and work with the CYF Team and Pastors on trip details and itinerary. Please contact the office if interested!



**A Migrant Journey:** On Wednesday, January 24, 2023, from 7-8:30 pm the confirmation students will learn about a Migrant Journey. Kathy Chatelaine, assistant to the bishop of SEMN Synod, will lead a discussion on what it is like for the thousands of Central American youth to leave their families and begin a dangerous journey to the United States. She will talk about what causes young people to flee their communities; what are the dangers along their journey; and how these vulnerable youth are received at the US/Mexico border. She will present how our church accompany migrant children and families in the US. Please note to confirmation students that confirmation will be from 7-8:30 that night.

### Pastor Allison

Pastor Allison shared she is thinking ahead to the annual meeting that was last year in between services and we had served rolls/bars with coffee. Pastor Allison shared she would like to have people from the congregation share stories about ministry minutes with all the congregation. The annual retreat for the council will be in February 2024 and it was decided to contact Pastor Emily to return as well. Tharan Leopald will be meeting with the Stewardship Team in January via Zoom. She mentioned a special thank you to Joan Syverson who will be stitching crosses into lace hankies for Baptisms, which are a part of the welcome bags. She mentioned one parent attended the Adult BLAST class and will see next month. Also Pastor Allison mentioned more men are welcome to attend the men's breakfast, next time is Monday, Nov 6, 2023 at 6:30 am. All guys all ages are encouraged to attend at the Ranch.

For next council meeting please read the rest of our book, Spirituality of Fundraising Book for discussion.

### Upcoming Dates:

Monday, November 6 at 5:30pm. Worship

Monday, November 13th at 5:30pm CYF

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Outreach/ fellowship and Stewardship team meetings

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm Service team meeting

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am Church Council meeting in the Laurel Lounge.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Ilene Reiter.

Approval of Secretary's Report

### Memorials:

#### Joan Engquist Memorial

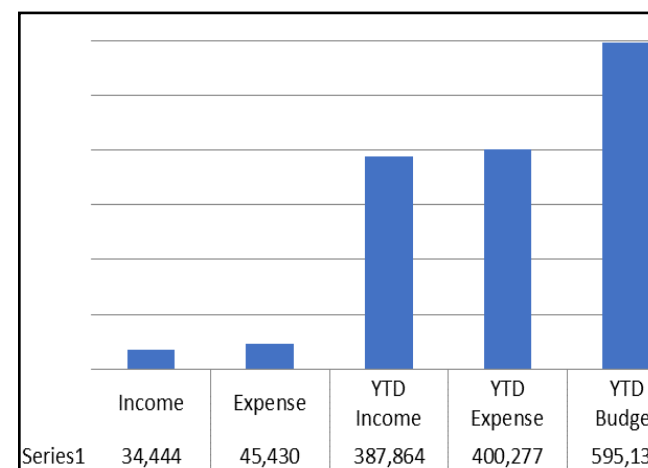
Carol Nasby Missions  
Velma Vickerman Missions

#### Brad Gerhardt Memorial

Harlan & Laraine Gorath Grace Food Pantry  
Carolyn Bird Undesignated  
Lynn & Lyn Johnson Building



### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR NOVEMBER



### January Open Door Meal Menu

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on  
Wednesday evenings from  
4:45 - 6:30 PM

Jan 3: NO MEAL

Jan 10: Chicken Fried Steak

Jan 17: Chicken Breast/Nuggets

Jan 24: Spaghetti

Jan 31: Scalloped Potatoes  
& Ham

## ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDERS:

- ✦ **Chancel Choir:** Practice Wednesdays at 5:15PM, Sing at 8:30AM worship services.
- ✦ **Celebration Choir:** Practice Mondays at 6:30PM, Sing at 10:45AM worship services.
- ✦ **Care Callers:** Call and visit with a homebound member! Contact office for more information.
- ✦ **Service Team:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30PM monthly to discuss budgets, assets, and more!
- ✦ **Stewardship/ Fellowship/Outreach Teams:** Meet the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30PM monthly to oversee year round stewardship of time, talents, and measures; Grace pantry, fellowship hour, and special events.
- ✦ **CYF Team:** Meets the 2nd Monday at 5:30PM monthly to discuss youth ministry & events.
- ✦ **Common Threads:** 9AM on the first & third Tuesday of each month in Laurel Lounge.
- ✦ **Meal Ministry Team:** Deliver a meal to someone struggling or in need! Contact Nancy Backer at nurse\_nancyb@hotmail.com



**Old Favorites!** Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to sing at our 8:30AM Traditional Service? If so, please drop your suggestion by the office this month, and it will be added to the list. We hope to include more favorites in 2024!

**Adult Bible Study:** Invite a friend, grab your coffee and donut holes, and come to adult Sunday School between the worship services. We meet at 9:35am for a variety of topics throughout the program year. Each week will include a brief video lesson from a Bible scholar or preacher and discussion with one another. Come for light-hearted conversation and faith education.



**Men's Breakfast on Monday:** Men of all ages are invited to a monthly breakfast at The Ranch restaurant on the first Monday of the month at 7:00AM. Come for a devotion, fellowship, and good breakfast food.  
**When: Monday January 8at 7:00AM Where: The Ranch Restaurant**  
**Why: Because Jesus says that when a few are gathered in his name, he's there too!**



**Adult BLAST:** You are invited to something new!!! As the kids learn in BLAST, we hope you will join us as we Belong | Learn | Apply | Serve | Tell. We have heard from you that the hour of BLAST time can be a great time to run errands or grocery shop. At the same time, many have shared a deep desire to get to know more adults here at Grace. We welcome adults of all ages for a once-a-month time of faith formation and community building. We will have a different topic each month from the *Animate: Faith* series. This month we will discuss "Salvation: Abundant Life Now". Come and eat, enjoy study and fellowship from 5:30pm-6:30pm while kids are in their BLAST classes, and then stay for worship from 6:30pm-7pm. We will meet the 10th of January in the Lounge. The pastors will rotate facilitating this class and we hope to see you there!

**The Gift of Final Wishes:** During this time of giving, one of the most helpful gifts we can give our loved ones is to have our final wishes written down. Join the pastors on Sunday, January 7 between the services and talk about what questions are typically asked when planning a funeral. What are your chosen scripture readings, hymns, organ or piano, special music, military honors, favorite memories, and so much more. The best gift we can give our loved ones is to take the stress away in planning our church service. Come to learn more, walk through Grace's funeral planning guide, and take it home to make selections and talk with your family. When you are finished, please bring a copy of your wishes to Grace and we will keep it on file for you. Funeral guides can be found on our Care Table in the gathering space as well as under the *Resources* tab on our webpage. For more information, please see Pastor Allison.



**Pizza with the Pastors:** For everyone who is new to Grace, who have recently joined the church and those who may want to join in the future, come for a fun lunch with the pastors! Join us for a time of getting to know one another, learning about the ways to plug into Grace, and answering any questions you might have. We will meet at Noon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 7. Please let the office know if you plan to attend so we can order the right amount of pizza. Hope to see you there!

**Mark Your Calendars:** The Annual Meeting at Grace is on Sunday, January 21 between the services. We will meet in the fellowship hall for discussion, and over donuts and coffee, talk about the wonderful ways God is at work at Grace through our ministries. This is a great opportunity to discern together about where the Spirit is leading us in the new year. A pre-budget meeting will be held the prior Sunday, January 14 between the services to answer questions and discuss the financial picture of Grace. We need a quorum for the annual meeting so please plan to attend!

