

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Vol. 24, No. 12

December 1, 2013

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

Advent, a distinctly churchy word, whispers truth;

Within each heart is an ache only God can soothe.

Storms, accidents and illness cannot be the last word;

"Light shines most brightly in the darkness," I've heard.

"The people who've walked in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah 9:2 proclaims. But, we live in a world where many have not heard of Isaiah, much less read his words of hope. However, at the center of our faith is a flesh-and-blood truth. God chose to bring light into the darkness through a human being. There is no greater light in darkness than a person who shows loving care. There is no greater comfort than a human being who is willing to step into the darkness, ask to take the hand of one who is struggling, and walk with that person until the light shines again. **God still calls human beings to be light in the darkness for others.** God still knows our needs even before we ask and still knows the most powerful answer to our deepest needs is seeing God's light shine through another human being. This Advent and Christmas, I am inviting us to let God's light shine through. If you're suddenly singing, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine," fantastic. If God has ever helped you on your journey through another follower of Jesus, let this be your year to help another, to invite another, to befriend another.

This year Grace has door hangers—NOT to hang on doors. I'm cutting the door-hanger part off! Instead, I invite you **to hand people 'postcards' and personally invite people to Christmas Eve** worship. On each 'postcard' is Grace UMCs address, phone number,

Christmas Eve worship time, an image of a candle light and the words **"A Silent Night that Stills the Chaos, That's Church. That's Christmas."** Think of a person who might need a little peace in life. (Don't start a list; you'll never finish. Everyone needs peace).

Do look at December's list—the Church calendar. Hanging the greens, an Advent Luncheon with a High School choir singing, a Christmas Cantata Sunday (perhaps with caramel rolls after), a Church School Program Sunday, a Sunday where we

create a living Nativity—and hear the story Salvation History. December is full of special services meant to touch the heart and restore hope. Any December Sunday would be perfect for inviting a guest. **You and I can be a 'light' to lead another to "THE LIGHT."** "The light shined in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

I've seen Grace become light in the darkness this past year—from battling malaria on the African continent, to providing flood relief buck-

ets for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Grace has given prayer shawls, quilts, paper products, food, time, and prayers beyond counting for those in need. Grace has welcomed the stranger and made her a friend. My heart is always lifted when I hear another ask, "how is (name) doing? I've been praying." My prayer for each of you this Advent and Christmas is this:

May star-light and manger-light, candle-light and silent-night, still the chaos and bring you peace.

**In Christ's Love and Service,
Pastor Roger**





Ministry TEAM Program.. A New Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to provide ushers, greeters, opening welcome and readers to our congregation.

TEAM # 3 (Dec/June)

N. Grow, Ministry TEAM Coordinator

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
Elouise Brendemuhl (4 Seasons)
Mabel Burkhardt (Bethany)
Lois Ferguson (Eventide)
Hyacinth Kronbeck (Park View)
Marjorie Ladwig (Eventide)
Tom Collins (Eventide)
Mabel Johnson (Fairmont)
Clara Krook (Bethany)
Delores Dronen (Fairmont)
Ruth Ann Krutz (Eilm)
Jim Johnson (Golden Living)
Mary Jane Phillips (Eventide)
Jeanne Schwager (Sheyenne Crossing)
Vi Williams (Bethany on 42nd)

701-297-5983—L. Anadel
 701-297-5983—L. Gibson
 701-866-0686—C. & D. Burkhardt & Family
 218-329-6750—J. Burkhardt
 M. Burkhardt
 701-293-9270—R. & L. Burkhardt
 218-236-9453—B. Hopkins
 701-540-8155—A. Horn & Family
 218-233-3642—L. & P. Horner
 218-236-8056—P. & T. Newgard & Family
 218-233-5836—L. Norby
 701-239-9453—J. & K. Thiseth
 218-236-1126—C. Behrens
 701-280-2097—J. Devine
 E. Hilgers
 218-233-6386—N. Howe
 218-236-7579—J. Oelke
 218-233-3969—R. & R. Richman
 218-342-3851—M. Swan
 218-233-4712—M. Tepley

PRAYER LIST at Home

Roger Opp Vicky Westra
Jackie Kopp Charlie Bowman
Dale Smith Grant Mohr
Joan Ostlie Esther Vollbrecht
Lane Englehardt Betty Jensen
Larry Possehl Janet Wilson
Mary Ann Held Duane Enkers

December Birthdays



1—**T. Grow**
J. Miller
 4—**J. Wilson**
M. Hamm
 5—**M. Burkhardt**
 7—**M. Ladwig**
D. Graning
 10—**M. Johnson**
 14—**S. Grow**
 15—**R. Burkhardt**
P. Welsh
 16—**B. Hopkins**
 17—**T. Grafenstein**
 18—**G. Clifton**
B. Moon
 20—**B. Johnson**
 22—**S. Simmons**
 23—**T. Wilson**
 25—**C. Burkhardt**
N. Moore
 26—**J. Loeks**
 28—**J. Eide**
 29—**E. Brendemuhl**



CONTRIBUTIONS

All donations must be received in the office by 10:00 Am on December 31, 2013 to be counted as a 2013 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2014 contribution.



December Anniversaries

6—**R. & C. Goldade**
 11—**T. & J. Wilson**
 12—**J. & K. Enkers**
 17—**T. & L. Collins**
 18—**R. & N. Lofgren**
 19—**L. & B. Jensen**

Thank You

Our sincerest thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral for my daughter, Michelle, from Pastor Roger who got the call first, to all who offered prayers, thoughts, cards and hugs. It was so comforting to know my church family was there to support us in every way.— Lovingly, M. Swan and Family

**FINANCIAL UPDATE
 NOVEMBER**

INCOME: \$ 10,683.21
EXPENSES: \$ 11,180.23
APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 1,150.34





Christmas Program

The children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 22nd during the regular worship service.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Service is Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 P.M.

MARTHA CIRCLE

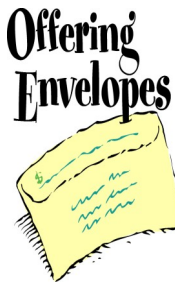
Martha Circle will have their Christmas Parton on Thursday, December 19th a 12 Noon with a potluck luncheon at J. Oelke's, in Moorhead.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The Choir will present their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 15th during the regular worship service

OFFERING ENVELOPES



Offering envelopes for 2014 will be available beginning Sunday, December 8th. Please let the office know if you cannot find your box of envelopes. Remember to discard your 2013 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.

REMOTE CONTROL

Did you donate a yellow Tonka truck to the Country Store during October and forget to include the remote control that goes to the truck., if so please contact Bonnie, 236-9212

SILENT AUCTION

E, Vollbrecht has donated two antique quilts made by her mother to the Quilters Group. The quilts are exquisitely hand stitched and beautifully designed. The Quilters Group will be selling these as silent auction items between December 1st and December 15th. All proceeds will go to the **GENERAL FUND** of Grace. These quilts are on display in the Narthex.

YOU HEARD THE CRY!

Del Larson, CLM

This past couple of weeks you have heard the cry for help and again the Grace Miracle came forth. We were called to help refugees from being deported or worse, being separate. Again, I want to say thank you for making a difference in what could have been a tragedy. When someone asks you what Grace is all about, say "CARING." A caring community of believers. Please offer a special blessing for this miracle on Thanksgiving.

As we move on towards Christmas we will witness again the miracle of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Christ came here to confirm the Truth and free us from oppression. In 1 John 2:6 it says: "*Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*" Christ has picked you to deliver some of his miracles. Miracles don't just happen once a year, but all the time. We are constantly given opportunities to reach out and help others in need. Sometimes it is a hug, a food dish, a donation, a listening ear, or helping hand. We know when we are called. There is that whisper, that moment of sadness, or concern when we know we need to act. When we help there is a great sense of joy. A warmth comes over our body and we know we have done something really good. Those opportunities are there and we must stand watch, just as Christ stands watch over us. We are here for a purpose.

There will be other opportunities to help during this Holiday Season, but we can't forget that miracles are needed throughout the year. In my role as CLM, I have been assigned to areas of support. The homeless are one of my important areas to cover. Our church has committed to helping serve on the fifth Wednesday of the month at Churches United. January 29 is our next scheduled time for us to serve at Churches United for the Homeless. Many people are unsure of what to expect and reluctant to take that step. Meals are planned and there is a chef who will help organize and instruct those who have come to cook and serve. You don't have to do dishes or anything else, accept come in fellowship with other Christians to serve as Christ has served us. Those eating will bless you and thank you. There will be smiles, especially from those too young to go it alone, which is another reason I help, because of the hungry children. PLEASE help Christ serve the least of these, as he does for us. Sign up.

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sun, Dec 1	am: 146, 147 pm:111, 112, 113	Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8	1 Thess 5:1-11	Luke 21:5-19
Mon, Dec 2	am: 1, 2, 3 pm: 4, 7	Amos 2:6-16	2 Peter 1:1-11	Matt 21:1-11
Tues, Dec 3	am: 5, 6 pm: 10, 11	Amos 3:1-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	Matt 21:12-22
Wed, Dec 4	am: 119:1-24 pm: 12, 13, 14	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt 21:23-32
Thur, Dec 5	am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt 21:33-46
Fri, Dec 6	am: 16, 17 pm: 22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt 22:1-14
Sat, Dec 7	am: 20, 21 pm:110, 116, 117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt 22:15-22
Sun, Dec 8	am: 148-150 pm: 114, 115	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
Mon, Dec 9	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matt 22:23-33
Tues, Dec 10	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	Amos 7:10-17	Rev 1:9-16	Matt 22:34-46
Wed, Dec 11	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matt 23:1-12
Thur, Dec 12	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matt 23:13-26
Fri, Dec 13	am: 31 pm: 35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matt 23:27-39
Sat, Dec 14	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	Haggai 2:1-19	Rev 3:1-6	Matt 24:1-14
Sun, Dec 15	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
Mon, Dec 16	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matt 24:15-31
Tue, Dec 17	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	Zech 2:1-13	Rev 3:14-22	Matt 24:32-44
Wed, Dec 18	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	Zech 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matt 24:45-51
Thur, Dec 19	am: 50, 59 pm: 60, 33	Zech 4:1-14	Rev 4:9-5:5	Matt 25:1-13
Fri, Dec 20	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	Zech 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matt 25:14-30
Sat, Dec 21	am: 55 pm:138, 139	Zech 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matt 25:31-46
Sun, Dec 22	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	Gen 3:8-15	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
Mon, Dec 23	am: 61, 62 pm: 112, 115	Zeph 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
Tues, Dec 24	am: 45, 46 pm: 89:1-29	am: Isa 59:1-15a pm: Isa 59:15b-21	am: Gal 3:23-4:7 pm: Phil 2:5-11	am: Lk 1:26-80 pm: Matt 1:18-25
Wed, Dec 25	Am2, 85 pm: 132, 110	Micah 4:1-5,5:2-4	I John 4:7-16	John 3:26-31
Thur Dec 26	am: 93, 96 pm: 34	Isa 62:1-5	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 2:1-12
Fri Dec 27	am: 97, 98 pm: 118	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Sat Dec 28	am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	2 Sam 23:13-17b	2 John 1-13	Luke 1:57-66
Sun Dec 29	am: 93, 96 pm: 34	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
Mon Dec 30	am: 20, 21 pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 5:1-15
Tues Dec 31	am: 46, 48 pm: 90	am: 1 Kg 3:5-14 pm: Isa 65:15b-25	am: Jam 4:13-17; 5:7-11 pm: Rev 21:1-6	John 4:46-54

Grace United Methodist

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Advent 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship w/Communion Hanging of the Green 10:15 AM Sunday School 11 AM Potluck	2 1 PM Quilters	3	4 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	5 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 7 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 PM No Cub Scouts	6	7 11 AM Advent Brunch
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship w/Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School 11 AM Charge Conference	9 1 PM Quilters	10 6 PM Trustees 7 PM Ad Council 7 PM Scouts Parents Meeting	11 12 Noon - Office Closed 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	12 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 7 PM Cub Scouts	13 12 Noon - New Life Center Meeting	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship w/Choir Contata 10:15 AM Sunday School	16 1 PM Quilters	17	18 6:15 PM NO Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM NO-Choir	19 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon Martha Circle Christmas Party-J.Oelke's 7 PM Cub Scouts Meeting	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship w/Sunday School Program 10:15 AM Sunday School	23 1 PM Quilters	24 5:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 6:15 PM NO Bell Choir 6:30 PM NO AWANA 7:15 PM NO-Choir OFFICE CLOSED	26 9 AM Bulletin Deadline No Cub Scouts	27	28
29 1st Sunday after Christmas 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship Living Nativity of the Nine Lessons 10:15 AM Sunday School	30 1 PM Quilters	31				

NEW LIFE CENTER

A box is in the Narthex to collect Christmas Gifts to bring to the December meeting. Items to be placed in the box are unwrapped work or ski gloves, long underwear, (top and bottom) size Large and extra large, and crew socks. If you have any questions, contact J. Oelke, 236-7579 or S. Mohr, 236-7366.

All the paper products donated plus 9 quilts and 3 blankets were taken to the New Life Center during November. Thanks You to everyone for your donations.

CHURCH ENTRANCE

At the request of the Trustees please use the main entrance (by the Sanctuary) on Sunday Morning during the winter months. This is to reduce the risk of falling. Snow melt and tile floors combined make a very slippery floor.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Please plan to attend the Annual Charge Conference on Sunday, December 8th following Worship Services.



*Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17 St S
Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857*



SHARE A POINSETTIA WITH GRACE

To help decorate the altar area, fill out this form (PLEASE PRINT) and place in the offering plate by Sunday, December 22nd. Cost: \$8.50

Your Name: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Attached is \$_____ for ___ poinsettias at \$8.50 each.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED