

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Vol. 25, No. 12
December 1, 2014

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

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

We are about to travel the same road we've traveled so many times before—the road that leads us to a stable and a baby held in his mother's arms on a silent night. This year I am reminded the road is never an easy one. Sisseton, SD – a murder/suicide leaves 4 dead; Rochester, MN – a murder/suicide leaves 2 dead; Ferguson, MO – a Police Shooting leaves 1 dead and a city unraveling in racial tensions. Wounds run deep; emotions run high. With regard to the last, what voice does a 50 year-old white male from the far north really have?

With humility I wish to simply share four brief quotes that come to mind: 1) "Don't judge anyone until you've walked a mile in their shoes" - *anonymous*; 2) "Hate has caused a lot of problems in this world but never solved one" - *Maya Angelou*; 3) "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in God's sight" – *A Sunday School Song*; 4) "I came that all may have life and have it abundantly" - *Jesus*. **In a world that is hurting, you and I are invited to keep hope alive this Advent Season.**



Each year I look forward to a retired colleague's advent poem. I'd like to share one of Rev. Duane Gebhard's lines from this year's poem with each of you.

**"God's heart was broken open and love released,
God's Spirit chose to live in the midst of the world
and its pain.**

Love born beating in a human heart."

He goes on to quote Sister Simone Campbell
(of Nuns on the Bus)

**"When our hearts are broken open
and we form a community that cares,
hope is released into the darkness."**

It is worth repeating, **In a world that is hurting, you
and I are called to keep hope alive this Advent season.** Our hope is found in the heartbeat of God—the baby Jesus held against Mary's chest.



The birth of God into our world has the power to change lives, heal wounds, right wrongs, and lead each of us on the road that leads to abundant life.

May the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus go with you on your Advent walk and be born anew in your hearts this Christmas.

In Christ's Hope,
Pastor Roger



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
 Elouise Brendemuhl (Kinder Care)
 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)
 Mary J. Phillips (Sheyenne Crossing)
 Jeanne Schwager (Bethany)
 Vi Williams (Bethany on 42nd)
 Mary Ann Held (Bethany on 42nd)



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

701-297-5983—L. Andel
 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

PRAYER LIST at Home

Vicky Westra Dale Smith
 Rae Offutt Cheryl Borgen
 Bonnie Wagner Myrna Swan

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, 2014 to be counted as a 2014 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2015 contribution.



December Anniversaries

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

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Please plan to attend the Annual Charge Conference on Sunday, December 7th following Worship Services.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE
 NOVEMBER**

INCOME: \$ 9,372.27
EXPENSES: \$ 12,668.28
APPORTIONMENTS: \$ 116.34





CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 21st during the regular worship service.

CHRISTMAS EVE



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

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will have their Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 17th at 12 :30 pm, at J Oelke's.

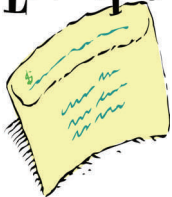
CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The Choir will present their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 14th during the regular worship service.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for 2015 will be available beginning Sunday, December 7th. If you would like envelopes and do not find a box with your name, please take a box and write your name next to the number on the sheet. Remember to discard your 2014 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.

LYDIA CIRCLE

The Lydia Circle Christmas gathering will be at the home of W. Walseth on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 pm. with a potluck supper. Those attending are asked to bring a White Elephant gift and a donation for the YWCA Women's Shelter (donation to be determined later). Please let Wanda know if you are attending via email: wandawalseth@gmail.com

"TREASURERS"

by Del Larson, CLM

For our devotions, Luann and I have been using a book I purchased at a church meeting I attended in Motley this Fall. It is called *Treasure, Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*. Although it is a short study, it has been an eye-opener. The book is about recognizing what and where your treasures are, and who we should honor with those treasures.

Are You A Yes Person? I know that I have a hard time saying no to people or projects. Hopefully, I am not doing them for my sake, but rather just trying to be helpful. Unfortunately, multiple yeses lead to multiple masters. Every time I say yes, it stretches me thinner and gives me less time to what I really want to invest in, which is serving God. When we say NO, it gives us a chance to say yes to God. Yes, I will usher; yes, I can serve; yes, I will join a bible study, and soon you are filled with the Holy Spirit that enriches your treasures.

It will not be easy or comfortable, but once you learn to say No to multiple masters and YES to the one true master, you will feel uplifted and recognize how close you have come to the treasures of heaven.

Master Jesus: When you finally figure out that Jesus is your master and God is Lord above all other things, everything else will find their place in your life. It does not mean that you have to give up all your money, or even your hobbies. Rather, you need to put God first and foremost in front of all other things. That is extremely tough and it is getting tougher with each new gadget that is placed in front of us. With the help of Jesus, you can find that all of your family, friends, jobs, finances, seem to get in balance when you put God first and see the treasures of His kingdom.

Bigger than You: When you stop looking at your finances as a means to the end, and stop reviewing your insurance policy to cover your valuables, you will find that your treasure is in Him, and what you do for Him is the greatest treasure you can have.

Prayer and You: God wants a close personal relationship with you. He doesn't want you to step out in public seeking acknowledgement for your prayers. No, he wants you to open your heart in a personal one-on-one conversation. You guard your treasures with such care. Guard your most valuable treasure even closer with your prayerful moments with God. Nothing can please you as much as when you recognize the ultimate treasure is your relationship with God.

ROLLAG!ROLLAG!ROLLAG!

Our Time With Rollag Ends. After four meetings, much discussion, and your input, the Administrative Council voted to discontinue our relationship with Minnesota Steam Thrashers Union, aka Rollag and our running a food stand.

For at least 13 years we have worked together operating this stand. We have had many great experiences and much fellowship. However, we have recognized that as we age, it is becoming more difficult for our workers. We have been very successful and we leave Rollag on a positive note, both in financial gains, as well as experiences. We are thankful for Christ The King members for joining us, which we consider a positive experience.

There will be a meeting in the near future to discuss and plan other fundraising events. Everyone's ideas are welcome. We believe we need to find projects what will be inclusive for our members and give the community an opportunity to better know us in Christian fellowship.

Our congregation will be challenged to stay involved and/or get involved in new fundraising projects that help us with our budget, as well as create new fun fellowship experiences.

Thank you for all these years of rolling millions of meatballs, flipping thousands of pancakes and burgers, and walking up the hill to our stand. Without your support and enthusiasm, we would have never achieved this success. Let us look forward to a new adventure in future projects.—Del Larson

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.

LIVING NATIVITY

Christmas only begins on December 25th. Join in the celebration by being a part of the Living Nativity on December 28th. We'll create a living manger scene and share in the story of Salvation's history by hearing key scripture readings and of course we will sing Christmas carols.

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 21st. Cost: \$8.50

Your Name: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

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

CHURCHES UNITED

On November 13th, four members of our congregation met with the Churches United for the Homeless Member Relations Director, Jen Engquist. Our church has been a member of Churches United for many years, beginning when they were located in the old Bethesda Church building by the Moorhead Public Library. Although our participation has been small, we have made an impact. Ms. Engquist has been making visits to Member Churches to make an effort to reconnect and to ask for their support, involvement, and advocacy. Our Healthy Church Initiative Team will review our involvement with Churches United to see what else needs to be accomplished.

We engaged in a discussion that covered everything from can-openers (which we always bring when we serve!) to childcare needs. Here is a note from Jen about her visit:

Dear Grace United Methodist,

It was wonderful to join in conversation with your thoughtful parishioners! Our organization has been stretched to the maximum in recent years, and it is uplifting and inspiring to see your care and energy. In fact, when I passed by Pastor Roger on his way to a prayer meeting, he took prayer requests from me right then and there.

Churches United is going through changes that include increases to our shelter capacity, which has required us to decrease the number of community services we offer to those who are not homeless. We still provide tasty meals to all who need them, thanks to faith communities like Grace United Methodist!

Grace has shown commitment to the work of Churches United over the years, and we can't thank you enough for that. Your prayers, financial support, awareness about homelessness, and service (and the occasional can opener), help us to continue to do good work in the community. Those of you who have served meals recently will have noticed the increase in the numbers of families with children. When I met with you in your church, there were 14 families beginning their bedtime routines at the shelter.

Churches United has committed itself to finding solutions to homelessness for those we serve. We hope to someday build an apartment building where we can help people to succeed. In the meantime, we work with love, grace, hospitality, and service to honor the dignity of our neighbors without homes. You are a part of that work. I hope that our conversation in November is the first of many. We need your help to keep our services running and improving, which you do by serving, donating, and communicating with our staff. We also need you to help us keep moving towards providing homes. That might mean sharing ideas, writing a letter or making a call to your leaders in congress about providing funds for affordable and/or supportive housing, and even helping each other to learn more about what homelessness looks like in our community. Information is so powerful.

Thank you for opening your doors to me and your hearts to Churches United.

Peace,

Jen Engquist

jengquist@churches-united.org

Member Relations Director - Churches United for the Homeless

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Mon, Dec 1	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Isa 1:10-20	1 Thes 1:1-10	Luke 20:1-8
Tues, Dec 2	am: 5, 6 ,pm: 10, 11	Isa 1:21-31	1 Thes 2:1-12	Luke 20:9-18
Wed, Dec 3	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Isa 2:1-11	1 Thes 13-20	Luke 20:19-26
Thur, Dec 4	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 2:12-22	1 Thes 3:1-13	Luke 20:27-40
Fri, Dec 5	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Isa 3:8-15	1 Thes 4:1-12	Luke 20:41-21:4
Sat, Dec 6	am: 20, 21, pm: 110,116,117	Isa 4:2-6	1 Thes 4:13-18	Luke 21:5-19
Sun, Dec 7	am: 148,149,150, pm: 114, 115	Isa 5:1-7	2 Pet 3:11-18	Luke 7:28-35
Mon, Dec 8	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Isa 5:8-23	1 Thes 5:1-11	Luke 21:20-28
Tues, Dec 9	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Isa 5:13-25	1 Thes 5:12-28	Luke 21:29-38
Wed, Dec 10	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Isa 6:1-13	2 Thes 1:1-12	John 7:53-8:11
Thur, Dec 11	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Isa 7:1-9	2 Thes 2:1-12	Luke 22:1-13
Fri, Dec 12	am: 31, pm: 35	Isa 7:10-25	2 Thes 2:13-3:5	Luke 22:14-30
Sat, Dec 13	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Isa 8:1-15	2 Thes 3:6-18	Luke 22:31-38
Sun, Dec 14	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Isa 13:6-13	Heb 12:18-29	John 3:22-30
Mon, Dec 15	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Isa 8:16-9:1	2 Pet 1:1-11	Luke 22:39-53
Tue, Dec 16	am: 45, pm: 47,48	Isa 9:1-7	2 Pet 1:12-21	Luke 22:54-69
Wed, Dec 17	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Isa 9:8-17	2 Pet 2:1-10a	Mark 1:1-8
Thur, Dec 18	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 33	Isa 9:18-10:4	2 Pet 2:10b-16	Matt 3:1-12
Fri, Dec 19	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Isa 10:5-19	2 Pet 2:17-22	Matt 11:2-15
Sat, Dec 20	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Isa 10:20-27	Jude 17-25	Luke 3:15-20
Sun, Dec 21	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Isa 42:1-12	Eph 6:10-20	John 3:16-21
Mon, Dec 22	am: 61, 62, pm: 112, 115	Isa 11:1-9	Rev 20:1-10	John 5:30-47
Tues, Dec 23	am: 66, 67, pm: 116, 117	Isa 11:10-16	Rev 20:11-21:8	Luke 1:5-25
Mon, Dec 24	am: 45, 46, pm: 89:1-29	am: Isa 35:1-10, pm: Isa 59:15b-21	am: Rev 22:12-17, pm: Phil 2:5-11	Luke 1:67-80
Thur, Dec 25	am: 2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Zech 2:10-13	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:31-36
Fri, Dec 26	am: 28, 30, pm: 145	2 Chron 24:17-22	Acts 6:1-7	[Acts 7:59-8:8]
Sat, Dec 27	am: 97, 98, pm: 118	Isa 44:1-8	1 John 5:1-12	John 13:20-35
Sun, Dec 28	am: 93.96, pm: 34	Isa 62:6-7, 10-12	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 1:18-25
Mon, Dec 29	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Tues, Dec 30	am: 20, 21, pm: 23, 27	Isa 25:1-9	Rev 1:9-20	John 7:53-8:11
Wed, Dec 31	am: 46, 48, pm: 90	am: Isa 26:1-9 pm: Isa 65:15b-25	am: 2 Cor 5:16-6:2 pm: Rev 21:1-6	John 8:12-19

Grace United Methodist

December 2014

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 1:00 pm Quilting	2 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	4 9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry	5	6 11:00 am WOG Advent Luncheon
7 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 pm Charge Conference	8 1:00 pm Quilting	9 6:00 PM Lydia Circle Christmas Gathering- W.Walseth's	10 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	11 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Parkview Terrace 10:00 am Golden Living 2:00 pm River Pointe 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry	12	13
14 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship w/ Choir Cantata 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	15 1:00 pm Quilting	16 6:00 pm Trustee 7:00 pm Ad Council	17 12:30 pm Martha Circle Christmas Party— J.Oelke's 6:30 pm AWANA	18 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry	19	20
21 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program	22 1:00 pm NO Quilting	23	24 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	25 Office Closed	26	27
28 9:00 am NO Sunday School 9:15 am HCI Prayer Team 10:00 am Worship w/ Living Nativity 10:15 am NO Chil- dren's Sunday School	29 1:00 pm NO Quilting	30	31			

QUILTS

Thank You, to everyone that bought quilts at the Fall Festival. Seven quilts were sold earning \$210.00 which will pay for our next couple of bolts of Batting. The other 15 quilts were donated to the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, in south Fargo, and to the New Life Center. They are so Thankful to receive the quilts.

TRUSTEE'S PROJECT



pledged .

The Trustee's are still accepting pledges for new carpeting, handicap door openers and a new ADA compliant handicap accessible family bathroom. To date \$25,910 has been

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery volunteers are need from December 21st thru February 22nd. If you are CPR certified, or if you need a class, one will be offered. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Women of Grace Advent Luncheon will be held Saturday, December 6, at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$7. Anne Kaese, a local calligrapher and artist, will be speaking during this event. All Women of Grace are invited to attend the luncheon. Purchase tickets from P. Murray, .J. Anderson, or church office on or before December 1st.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED