

Light of Grace

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

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December 1, 2016

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

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Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

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

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

Jeopardy is famous for sharing the answer and having contestants name the question. In that spirit **I give you this answer: “Less than 3% of congregations in the United States.”** I enjoy clues. So, here are a few to help us know the question.

Clue #1 – If you attended worship on November 13th you might remember because of what our District Superintendent said in his sermon. (Note: It's not “what is the number of congregations that milk sheep”).

Clue #2 – Grace UMC has become one of these remarkable congregations.

Clue #3 – A visitor to Grace UMC after worship recently said, “Your congregation is so young.”

Clue #4 – “If you don't have people in the pews you have nothing” (Worship Coach - Cathy Townley).

Clue #5 – It's a sign that working to be a healthy church of the neighborhood is beginning to work.

You won't hear much about the Healthy Church Initiative in weeks and months to come.

What you will hear much more about is God's call for Grace to be the presence of Christ in the neighborhood and God's call for us to become a Community-Center Church.

A community-center church is where pre-school children and parents are taught skills necessary for success in the classroom. We are partnered with the Y and serve 16 families through Early Learning Readiness. A **community-center church** is where children of varied backgrounds gather to learn about Jesus, getting along, communicating hurts and hopes,

and praying together. We have exceeded 35 children on Wednesday nights. A **community-center church** is where people gather to make music together and pray for the needs of the community during their rehearsal. A **community-center church** collects an offering for community-causes each week—as Grace does each week at refreshment time. A **community-**

center church blesses the community. A **community-center church** has visitors say, like a musician from Beyond Blue after service, “We've never been in a church that shared their prayer needs so freely.” Amen!

There's more but that Jeopardy answer still needs its question. The answer is: “Less than 3% of congregations in the United States.”

The question is “What is the tiny percentage of congregations able to grow above 100 in worship attendance once they've fallen below 100?” Grace grew from 95 in 2015 to 105 in 2016. Amen!

As we move through Advent waiting toward the promise of a Christmas God-with-us, I believe we are already part of a new birth. If we look around God's children abound. When we tend to their needs, when we help them learn to love Jesus and each other, we honor that little child born in a manger 2,000 years ago. What a privilege. Merry Christmas!

Together in Christ's Service,
Pastor Roger





Ministry TEAM Program.. A 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) TEAM Coordinators are S. & N. Grow and T. & D. Grow.

- Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)
- Elouise Brendemuhl (Kinder Care)
- Mabel Burkhardt (Bethany)
- Lois Ferguson (Eventide)
- Marjorie Ladwig (Eventide)
- Tom Collins (Eventide)
- Delores Dronen (Jamestown)
- Mary J. Phillips (Sheyenne Crossing)
- Jeanne Schwager (Bethany)
- Clara Krook (Bethany)
- Eleanor Payton (River Pointe)
- Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)

- 701-412-7010—L. Andel
- 701-361-3586—L. Gibson
- 701-866-0686—C. & D. Burkhardt & Family
- 218-329-6750—J. Burkhardt
- 701-293-9270—R. & L. Burkhardt
- 218-303-1145—B. Hopkins
- 701-630-8035—E. & A. Ybarra & Family
- 218-790-2141—L. & P. Horner
- 218-236-8056—P. & T. Newgard & Family
- 218-233-5836—L. Norby
- 701-239-9453—J. & K. Thiseth
- 701-280-2097—J. Devine
- E. Hilgers
- 218-236-7579—J. Oelke
- 218-233-3969—R. & R. Richman
- 701-261-1672—M. Swan

PRAYER LIST at Home

- Vicky Westra Rae Offutt
- Ruth Opp JoAnn Oelker
- Cullen Fraundorfer Shirley Mohr
- Linda Dick



December Birthdays

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



THANKS YOU

Thank you to everyone who ordered donuts this past year. A special thank you to everyone who helped make the donuts. January 18th, 2017 is the start date for making donuts again. Please place you're your by Monday, January 16th by calling the Church office, There is also a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex.



CONTRIBUTIONS



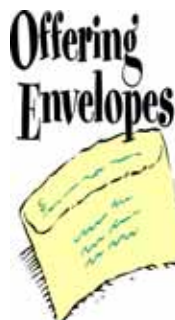
All contributions must be received in the office by 10:00 AM, on December 30, 2016 to be counted as a 2016 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2017 contribution. Grace is not responsible to count your contribution for 2016 if it is lost in the mail.

OFFERING ENVELOPES



December Anniversaries

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



Offering envelopes for 2017 will be available beginning Sunday, December 4th. 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 2016 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.

NEW LIFE CENTER NEWS

We are collecting the following Christmas gifts items for The New Life Center shelter residents.

Stocking caps

Work gloves and ski gloves

Socks (white and colored crew socks - not tube socks)

White undershirts - various sizes

Underwear - various sizes briefs or boxers

Thermal underwear - tops and bottoms in various sizes

Please place unwrapped gifts in the labeled bin in the narthex by December 8th. If you have any questions, please call K.

Anderson, 218-329-6477.



LYDIA CIRCLE PARTY

The Lydia Circle Christmas party will be on Monday, Dec. 19th at 6:00 at W. Walseth's home (815 S. 10th ST). There will be a potluck meal, exchange of a "White Elephant" gift and collected donations for "First Choice". Bring either baby items to donate or a cash gift. We welcome any members interested in joining the Lydia ladies.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 18th during the regular worship service, followed by a potluck dinner.



CHRISTMAS EVE

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

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Christmas and faith-based shirts will be for sale starting December 3rd. Share a gift. Celebrate God's goodness. And, raise funds to support Grace's neighborhood ministries.

1

2

3

4



1. Cherry Red for both t-shirt and sweatshirt
2. Garnet with white lettering
3. Cherry Red on Irish Green or white
4. Sweatshirt only in white

For prices and to place your order see D. Larson.

MARTHA CIRCLE



Martha Circle will have their Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 15th at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. Everyone will meet at 11:30 am for a dutch treat lunch.

CHOIR SPECIAL ADVENT MUSIC

The Choir will present special Advent music on Sunday, December 11th during the regular worship service.

NEW DIRECTORY



The new address and phone directory for 2017 will be printed in January. If you have moved, or changed phone numbers, please let the office know so your correct information will be available.

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Thur, Dec 1	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 2:12-22	1 Thes 3:1-13	Luke 20:27-40
Fri, Dec 2	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Isa 3:8-15	1 Thes 4:1-12	Luke 20:41-21:4
Sat, Dec 3	am: 20, 21, pm: 110,116,117	Isa 4:2-6	1 Thes 4:13-18	Luke 21:5-19
Sun, Dec 4	am: 148,149,150, pm: 114, 115	Isa 5:1-7	2 Pet 3:11-18	Luke 7:28-35
Mon, Dec 5	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Isa 5:8-23	1 Thes 5:1-11	Luke 21:20-28
Tues, Dec 6	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Isa 5:13-25	1 Thes 5:12-28	Luke 21:29-38
Wed, Dec 7	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Isa 6:1-13	2 Thes 1:1-12	John 7:53-8:11
Thur, Dec 8	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Isa 7:1-9	2 Thes 2:1-12	Luke 22:1-13
Fri, Dec 9	am: 31, pm: 35	Isa 7:10-25	2 Thes 2:13-3:5	Luke 22:14-30
Sat, Dec 10	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Isa 8:1-15	2 Thes 3:6-18	Luke 22:31-38
Sun, Dec 11	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Isa 13:6-13	Heb 12:18-29	John 3:22-30
Mon, Dec 12	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Isa 8:16-9:1	2 Pet 1:1-11	Luke 22:39-53
Tue, Dec 13	am: 45, pm: 47,48	Isa 9:1-7	2 Pet 1:12-21	Luke 22:54-69
Wed, Dec 14	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Isa 9:8-17	2 Pet 2:1-10a	Mark 1:1-8
Thur, Dec 15	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 33	Isa 9:18-10:4	2 Pet 2:10b-16	Matt 3:1-12
Fri, Dec 16	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Isa 10:5-19	2 Pet 2:17-22	Matt 11:2-15
Sat, Dec 17	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Isa 10:20-27	Jude 17-25	Luke 3:15-20
Sun, Dec 17	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Isa 42:1-12	Eph 6:10-20	John 3:16-21
Mon, Dec 19	am: 61, 62, pm: 112, 115	Isa 11:1-9	Rev 20:1-10	John 5:30-47
Tues, Dec 20	am: 66, 67, pm: 116, 117	Isa 11:10-16	Rev 20:11-21:8	Luke 1:5-25
Wed, Dec 21	am: 72, pm: 111, 113	Isa 28:9-22	Rev 21:9-21	Luke 1:26-38
Thur, Dec 22	am: 80, pm: 146, 147	Isa 29:13-24	Rev 21:22-22:5	Luke 1:39-56
Fri, Dec 23	am: 93, 96, pm: 148, 150	Isa 33:17-22	Rev 22:6-11, 18-20	Luke 1:57-66
Sat, 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
Sun, Dec 25	am: 2, 85, pm: 132, 110	Zech 2:10-13	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:31-36
Mon, Dec 26	am: 28, 30, pm: 145,	2 Chron 24:17-22	Acts 6:1-7	[Acts 7:59-8:8]
Tues, Dec 27	am: 97, 98, pm: 118	Isa 44:1-8	1 John 5:1-12	John 13:20-35
Wed, Dec 28	am: 8, pm: 19, 126	Jere 31:1-17	Rev 21:1-7	Matt 18: 1-14
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, m: 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 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	2	3 11:00 am WOG Advent Luncheon w/ "Beyond Blue"
4 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	5 1:00 pm ERL	6 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	7 1:00 pm ERL 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Choir	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	9	10
11 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Choir Advent Special Music 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 3:00 pm Pastor Roger Leads Church Confer- ence Meeting in Thief River Falls	12 1:00 pm ERL Sondra Out of the Office	13 6:00 pm Healthy Church Team w/ Coach Jim Haun	14 1:00 pm ERL 6:15 pm Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm Choir	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 11:30 am Martha Circle Christmas Luncheon— Holiday Inn	16	17
18 4th Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Children's Program	19 1:00 pm ERL 6:00 pm Lydia Circle Christ- mas Pot Luck	20	21 1:00 pm ERL 6:15 pm NO Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm Youth Group 7:15 pm NO Choir	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am Park View Terrace 10:00 am Golden Living	23	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Services
25 Christmas Day 9:00 am NO Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am NO Chil- dren's Sunday School	26 1:00 pm NO ERL	27	28 1:00 pm NO ERL 6:15 pm NO Hand Bell Choir 6:30 pm NO Youth Group 7:15 pm NO Choir	29 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	30	31



.LIVING NATIVITY

Christmas only begins on December 25th. Join in the celebration by being a part of the Living Nativity on Sunday, January 1st. We'll create a living manger scene and share in the story of Salvations history by hearing key scripture readings and of course we will sing Christmas carols.

THE THREE TREES



According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger; an olive tree, a psalm tree and a fir tree. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn King, and the palm tree gave its dates. The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration and the angels hung stars on its branches. So the fir became the first Christmas tree.



QUILTERS

A big thank you to the quilters and their many hours of work quilting. This group made and donated five quilts to Churches United for the Homeless; five quilts to the New Life Center and three quilts to the Ronald McDonald house. The ladies are taking a break during December and will resume quilting in January.

A TIME OF GIVING

A miser must have a wretched time at Christmas, for Christmas is preeminently a time of generosity. God set the example when he gave his own Son; the wise men followed it when they gave their gold to the Christ child; and in proportion to our share of the Christmas spirit, we are walking in their footsteps.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857

