

# 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, 2019

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

Recently, my wife and I concluded our vaccination against shingles with shot #2. It's the newer vaccine and highly effective. However, it's also more likely to have side-effects for a few days. Thankfully there wasn't any fever for us. Ah, but there were plenty of aches and pains, likely exacerbated by the weather of the weekend. Each ache was a vivid reminder of why we got the vaccination--to avoid long-term aches and pains, or worse, that come with shingles.

The post-vaccination aches and pains and occasional groans are reminiscent of the season of the church year we're about to enter:

Advent. In the Midwest, our days grow shorter and our nights longer. There's a chill in the air. This year, there's impeachment investigations, a myriad of other accusations, raised voices, more talking than listening, insults, anger, conspiracy theories, terrible mistrust, and livid Facebook posts and comments about it all. All this is punctuated from by mass shootings nationally, and a seeming uptick in crime locally. We are wounded. We ache – with an Advent ache.

Hymn #210 in our hymnal describes Advent with these words,

*“All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
And the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.  
All the worlds bound and struggling seeks true liberty,  
cries out for justice and searches for the truth.”*

Some years churches need to work to point out the ache and longing of Advent. But, some



years Advent has more of an ache than others. I think this is one of those years. So, this Advent at Grace Church when you show up to worship, I hope you'll find a reprieve from the Advent ache: that you'll be reminded of

God's promises and be filled with hope.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> we'll celebrate the deeper meaning of Christmas décor'.

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> the UMW hosts an Advent Luncheon with UM Mission speaker Nina Martin.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> we'll glimpse Christmas through the eyes of our children and their program.

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> we'll feel Christmas' gentle power through Choir Cantata Sunday.

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> we'll focus on dreams of wholeness (Joseph's dream and the Angel's Message).

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> we'll celebrate the birth of Jesus by candlelight.

***If your soul is longing for light in the darkness, quiet amidst the clamor, hope instead of fear, experiences that uplift, and reminders God is still at work in this world, come to Grace. Let God renew your soul this Advent.***

**Blessings,**

**Pastor Roger**



**PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities**

Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)  
 Mary J. Phillips  
 Clara Krook (Bethany)  
 Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)  
 Pat Walter (Elim)  
 Don Walter (Elim)  
 Emily Elliott (Rosewood)  
 Roger Helland (Eventide)  
 Barb Froundorfer (Elim)

**PRAYER LIST at Home**

Caliann Gedrose Tony Rocha  
 Carol Devine Lorraine Taggart  
 Myrna Swan Shirley Mohr  
 Ilo Koenning Maliek Larson



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 #6 (Dec/June) TEAM coordinators are S. & N. Grow and T. & D. Grow

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  
 218-236-7579—J. Oelke  
 218-233-3969—R. Richman  
 701-261-1672—M. Swan

**December Birthdays**



5—T. Grow  
 J. Miller  
 4—M. Hamm  
 7—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  
 25—C. Burkhardt  
 28—J. Eide

**DONUTS**



Donut sales this year were a huge success. Thank you to everyone who worked by mixing, shaping, cutting, frying, package and tagging the orders to make sure everyone received their order. Also thank you to everyone who ordered donuts. Starting January 1st, 2020 donut orders can be placed on the sign up sheet in the Narthex or by calling the office 218-233-1857 for Wednesday, January 15th.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

All contributions must be received in the office by 10:00 AM, on December 31, 2019 to be counted as a 2019 contribution. All contributions received after that date will be counted as a 2020 contribution. Grace is not responsible to count your contribution for 2019 if it is lost in the mail. If you are making a contribution for 2019 and 2020, please write a check for each year.

**December Anniversaries**



6—R. & C. Goldade  
 12—J. & K. Enkers  
 18—R. & N. Lofgren



**CONDOLENCES**

Our sympathies to the family of Reeta Herman who passed away on Sunday, November 10th. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

**CONDOLENCES**

Our sympathies to the family of ArNetta Monge who passed away on Sunday, November 3rd. A gathering of Friends was on Saturday, November 9th at Korsmo's Funeral Chapel.

## NEW LIFE CENTER NEWS

We are collecting the following Christmas gifts items for The New Life Center shelter residents. Face masks, stocking caps; work gloves, ski gloves, 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.



### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 8th during the regular worship service.

### CHRISTMAS EVE



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



### NEW DIRECTORY

The new address and phone directory for 2020 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.



### THE DIAPER TREE

This is the time of year that we give thanks to God for our many blessings. Please consider your blessings, and donate to the "Diaper Tree" for churches United until December 15th. They are in need of diapers, pull-ups, and baby wipes. Bring your donations beginning December 1st and place the diapers around the tree.

### PASS THE PIG

Now is the time to begin saving your change. The kids will be passing the pig on Sunday, December 8th during the Sunday School Christmas program. The collection is for the Heifer Project.



## ADVENT LUNCHEON

All Women of Grace and their guests are invited to the Advent luncheon, on Saturday, December 7th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The guest speaker for the program is Nina Martin. Nina and her husband, Ray, traveled around the world working in ways that connected them to people where their faith is lived out. Please purchase tickets from J. Anderson by Wednesday, December 4th.

### NINA MARTIN

Nina Martin is the guest speaker at the Women of Grace Advent luncheon. Nina grew up on a small family farm in central ND. Her parents had big dreams for her and her four siblings. These five children were instilled with the values of strong faith, hard work, curiosity, and service to others. From that foundation, Nina chose a lifestyle that allowed her to live out that value system. She and her husband, Ray, traveled around the world working in ways that connected them to people where their faith is lived out. Tanzania and Kenya are just two of the locations where Nina and Ray were able to make an impact. Following the 1997 flood, Nina served as the project manager for the Upper Midwest Recovery which was set up through UMCOR here in the Dakotas and Minnesota. During that same time period, her husband was serving as the pastor at the Casselton, Arthur and Hunter Methodist churches. While Nina values her formal education, her most valuable learnings come from some tough life experiences and she has not been afraid to confront life head on, insisting on searching for meaning and joy.

### CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, January 12th immediately following worship services. Please have your reports into the office by December 26th to be included in the Charge Conference booklet.

## **CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS,**

by Del Larson, CLM

Merry Christmas, Good Tidings, Best Wishes, Happy Holidays are many of the greetings we hear during the season of Christmas. We all feel the busyness of the season with shopping, parties, and more shopping and parties. Throw in all the baking and the kids' activities and UFF-DA. Wow, how will we survive the next 25 days? Each year we talk about cutting back and making life easier. Let's get back in the Christmas spirit is the rallying cry. That is exactly what we must do; get back in the Christmas Spirit. The Spirit of the baby Jesus, who came into this world for one purpose: To save us from ourselves. It seems to me that Christmas has become less about Jesus birth, and more about how we can make everyone else happy and ourselves miserable trying to get through the Black Friday crowds, or ordering on Cyber Monday. We have lost our way. How many times have you said, this world is different? I know I have said it too many times.

Cleaning out my house this month for the sale, I found many articles I had saved. One article, called the White Envelope, wouldn't leave my mind. It's a story of a man who hated Christmas, because it had lost its true meaning in his family. The commercial aspects of overspending, the frantic running around for last minute shopping, the company gift exchanges and parties, and trying so hard to make everyone in the family happy, even if it meant threatening no Santa Claus, or returning all the gifts.

He was at a wrestling tournament with his wife watching their son's team matched against an inner-city school team from the wrong side of town. These middle-schoolers, wearing mismatched uniforms and worn-out shoes, walked away dejected after each loss. Seeing her husband so sad, she prayed for guidance and the next day went

out and bought new wrestling shoes and headgear for all the wrestlers and delivered them to that school. On Christmas, she left an envelope on the tree for her husband that shared what she had done in his name. The Christmas Spirit was again alive in that house, and the tradition was continued by their children after he died many years later.

I know that many of us donate to many great causes during this season, but perhaps this year we can add a new tradition to a very old story of love, kindness, and compassion that started with a baby in the manger, and the world given one last chance to be the people that God planned for us to be. Over the years of being a leader in our church, I have witnessed numerous examples of kindness to those in and out of our church throughout the year. Perhaps you feel like the person I shared at the beginning of this article. Could you be the difference this year in one person's life, or the saving grace to a family, or help feed a community with the "Heifer Project" during our youth's Christmas program December 8?

Jesus doesn't mean that we change just for this holiday season, but that we change our lives and live as He has shown us. A simple life of helping others be the person God wants them to be through your angelic efforts. We are called to those in need. God bless you on your journey. AMEN

## **WOMEN OF GRACE**



The women of Grace will meet on December 19th, at the BOULDER TAP HOUSE on the Corner of 34th and Main, in Moorhead at 11:30 am. ALL ARE WELCOME! PLEASE let J. Oelke know by the 12th if you are able to join us .

## WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Consider this: God loved the world so much that he came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby, without fanfare of heraldry.

Think of it: The baby, born of humble parents, the man a carpenter, the woman still in her teens, scholars say, Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells.

It took years before people fully comprehended God's self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod's prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3, NRSV), Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor.

That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16, NRSV).

What's amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth.

## CHRIST IN YOU

Angelus Silesius (aka Johann Scheffler), born in Germany in the 17th century, was a physician, priest, hymn writer and poet. He knew Christ as far more than a historical figure, Silesius allowed Christ to dwell in his heart and to guide his life as completely as possible. He wrote this poem about allowing Christ to be born and live in each of us.

Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem is born,

If he's not born in thee, thy soul is still forlorn.

The cross on Golgotha will never save thy soul;

Th cross in thine own heart alone can make thee whole.

## DONUTS

On Sunday, November 24th the proceeds from the 2019 Donut project were presented to the church, in the amount of \$ 9,522.29. This was the 10th year, and in that time the church has been given

\$ 59,113.40. There is a great crew to help make the donuts. Beginning the 1st of January you will be able to place your order for donuts that will be made on January 15th., 2020. A big Thank You goes out to Judy Anderson for her 10 years as Chairman., Taking her place will be Lori Burkhart, and Phyllis Murray. If you can help, they will find a place for you. It is a fun time of fellowship working with a fun group of people .

Look for the order sheet on the table in the Narthex or you can call the office, 218-233-1857 to place your order.

## IT'S PARTY TIME

Everyone is invited to join in celebrating J. Oelke's 85th birthday on Sunday, January 5th, 2020 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Grace Fellowship Hall. Cards can be sent to J. home.

## TRUE HOSPITALITY



A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel," he said. "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."

# Grace United Methodist

## December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Sunday of Advent <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship w/ Communion & Hanging of the Greens <b>10:15 am</b> Children's Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting	<b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>6:00 pm</b> - supper Grace Kids w/ Confirmation <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline	Set up for Advent Luncheon	<b>11:00 am</b> Advent Luncheon
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> 2nd Sunday of Advent <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting	<b>6:30 pm</b> Vision and Operations and Resources	<b>6:00 pm</b> - supper GraceKids <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline		Choir Rehearsal
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> 3rd Sunday of Advent <b>9:00 am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship W/ Choir Cantata <b>10:15 am</b> No Children's Sunday School	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>1:00 pm</b> Quilting		<b>6:00 pm</b> - Supper GraceKids - Holiday Movie Night	<b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>11:30 am</b> WOG - Christmas Lunch- Boulder Tap House <b>7:00 pm</b> No Lydia Circle		
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> 4th Sunday of Advent <b>9:00 am</b> No Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
		<b>5:00 pm</b> Christmas Eve Candle Light Service  Newsletter Deadline	Office Closed	<b>9:00 am</b> Bulletin Deadline  Charge Conference Report Deadline		
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b> 1st Sunday of Advent <b>9:00 am</b> No Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am</b> Worship w/ Living Nativity <b>10:15 am</b> No Children's Sunday School	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

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



## POINTSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORMS

There will be poinsettia plants displayed in the church throughout the Christmas season. The congregation is invited to purchase these poinsettias (at a cost of \$12.00 each). Please place the form below with your payment into the offering plate or drop off the form and payment in the office **before December 15.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants purchased \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of payment \_\_\_\_\_

Name of honoree:

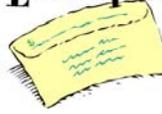
\_\_\_\_\_

Name for memorial:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Offering Envelopes



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2020 will be available in December. 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 2019 envelopes on January 1st. If you have any questions, please call the office.

## QUILTERS

On November 24th the quilters display their quilts during worship and sold 6 for a contribution of \$180.00 to the quilting supply fund. The remaining quilts will be delivered to the following shelters: 6 to the New Life Center, and 6 to Youth Works.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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(218) 233-1857

