

# Light of Grace

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

Vol. 31, No. 11  
November 1, 2020

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

Church E-Mail Address: [graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.graceumcmoorhead.org](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org)

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: [graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com](mailto:graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com)

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

I'm sure it's on your mind. What about Christmas 2020? Yes, first we have to get to the other side of this year's election. Those with kids or grandkids have to walk through the school-year a day at a time. We all have to figure out Thanksgiving—not just what to do with the day, but how to maintain the attitude. Still, I wish to share with you about Christmas 2020 at Grace.

We are doing what I call a soft-open. We had a family-only confirmation service with 45 people. I never thought 45 people would feel like a lot in Grace's sanctuary but it felt substantial after months of an empty sanctuary and with the taped off pews for adequate social distancing. The next two Sundays had a total of five people in the pews who weren't part of the worship team. That tells me the Grace congregation is choosing caution while embracing Livestream worship.

We are also in the midst of rapidly increasing Covid-19 case numbers in Cass and Clay counties—10/22 = 340; 10/23 = 227. An infectious disease expert from the U of M indicates the next 6 – 12 weeks will be difficult. I expect he's correct, since, Dr. Osterholm has been spot-on with his predictions so far. I've spoken with the leaders at Grace and we've a plan for Christmas.

**In the next week or two Sondra at the church office will number each Grace hymnal and create a hymnal sign-out list. All of you are encouraged to stop by the church to check out a hymnal for your household. If you cannot stop by call the church office at 218-233-1857. We will find a way to get a hymnal to you. Christmas Eve, with hymnal in hand, with a piece of Grace church in your hands and in your home, the Grace music team will lead Christmas songs, including Silent Night with candles at the church and, if you wish, in your home. We will let God's love for us and our love for baby Jesus in the manger unite us. If you do not have internet, but a family-member with a cell-**

phone will be with you on Christmas Eve, the service will appear on Grace's Facebook page and on Grace's website. After airing it may be watched anytime 24/7 on Grace's Facebook page or on Grace's website:

[www.graceumcmoorhead.org](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org) .

During the Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve, you'll be invited to sing along with Advent or Christmas songs in your own home. We'll also use some of the many prayers included in the hymnal.

We are unable to guarantee the building will be open for up to 50 persons (25% capacity) during any of the Advent or Christmas season. **In fact, as of October 27th Minnesota United Methodist are back to the orange phase -- livestream online worship with no more than 10 masked persons in the building for worship production, Nevertheless, God's love was miraculously present the first Christmas in an out of the way lonely stable; we will Spiritually lean into the God who meets us wherever we are. That, after all, was the promise of the angels and of the prophet Isaiah. "His name shall be called, Emmanuel,' which means God with us." (Matthew 1:23 & Isaiah 7:14) In these unusual and trying times, there is no greater hope than that God will not leave us alone, no greater truth than that God did not leave us alone, no greater promise that wherever we are, "We shall dwell in the house of the Lord, forever." (Psalm 23:6) Even apart in our own homes (or in a hospital, a strange land, a stable) we are in God's house. Because forever goes both ways, existing before we were born and lingering long after we die, Psalm 23 means are in God's house, even now wherever we are. Therefore we are always in God's care. **Christmas, the out of the way stable and the silent night, invites us to see anew the God who is always with us.****

God's Love and Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Roger





**PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities**  
**Peggy Anderson (R.E.M. House)**  
**Bonnie Wagner (Fergus Falls)**  
**Pat Walter (Villa Maria)**  
**Don Walter (Villa Maria)**  
**Marilyn Wollitz (Fairmont)**  
**Jim Jameson (River Point)**

**PRAYER LIST at Home**

Carol Devine Lorraine Taggart  
 Shirley Mohr Ilo Koenning  
 Luann Larson JoAnn Oelke  
 Loretta Smith Julie Possehl



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 (Nov/May) TEAM coordinators are: R. & P. Murray and W. Walseth and D. Stead

701-237-6738—C. Anderson  
 701-371-3536—G. & T. Anderson,  
 218-239-6477—P. & K.. Anderson  
 218-287-1676—I. Beving  
 218-233-8038—G. Clifton  
 218-287-1969—B. & J. Fraundorfer  
 701-541-2490—S. & L. Gedrose  
 701-238-5025—L. Jensen  
 218-233-8746—B. Johnson  
 218-236-1747—C. Ladwig  
 218-287-2639—D. LeQuire  
 218-233-3888—E. Volbrecht  
 218-329-9665 -- D. Williams



**NOVEMBER Birthdays**

5 - S. Burkhardt  
 7 - J. Possehl  
 8 - J. Alvshere  
 10 - B. Beck  
 12 - J. Thiessen  
 19 - M.Akin  
 28 - R. Christopheron  
       S. Mohr  
       C. Borgen  
       A. Loeks  
 29 - D. Williams  
       J. Thiseth

**NEW DIRECTORY**

The new address and phone directory for 2021 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



**LECTIONARY TEXTS**

November 1 - Josh 3:7-17, Ps 107:1-7, 33-37, I Thess 2:9-13, Matt 23:1-12  
 November 8 - Josh 24:a-3a, Ps 78:1-7, I Thess 4:13-18, Matt 25:1-13  
 November 15 - Judg 4:1-7, Ps 123, I Thess 5:1-11, Matt 25:14-30  
 November 22 - Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24, Ps 100, Eph 1:15-23, Matt 25:31-46  
 November 29 - Isa 64:1-9, Ps 80:1-7, 17-19, I Cor 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

**WORSHIP AT GRACE - 10:00 A.M.**

**FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM ON:**  
 Grace UM Church Moorhead page  
 Roger Grafenstein's page

**WORSHIP ALSO LIVESTREAMS ON THE WEBSITE:**  
[www.graceumcmoorhead.org](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org)

**Kids Devotions on the Website and on FACEBOOK: Grace UM Church Moorhead**

**AS OF OCTOBER 27th THE BUILDING IS LIMITED TO 10 PEOPLE CURRENTLY FAMILY-ONLY FUNERALS OF NO MORE THAN 10.**

## THANK GOD FOR GENEROSITY AND HOPE

I'm frequently asked, "how is church hanging in there through all this?" It's a beautiful question. It shows the person asking is concerned about a cause beyond self. **So, how is it with Grace Church? First, people have chosen to participate in worship online.** It seems everyone who has internet and phone is choosing to tune in—plus we have people with ties to the church or myself that are tuning in from as far away as Maryland, Florida, and Louisiana. I wish every household had access to Grace's online worship. (If you do not have internet but have a family member or friend that visits you and has a smart phone, those services are a ½ hour and accessible 24/7 at [www.graceumcmoorhead.org](http://www.graceumcmoorhead.org) or at Grace UM Church Moorhead on Facebook).

**Second, we have virtual Sunday School.** Grace teachers love their kids and families and go the extra mile. Plus, the adult Sunday School has stayed connected and learns together through the web.

**Third, I have been heartened by giving.** Via mail, sliding gifts through the mail slot, and members using bill pay, giving has been fairly-stable. Between the months of January and September we spent about \$10,000 more than we've taken in with regular offerings—that is much better than some years, not as good as others. Most years Grace counts on November and December to fill the gap. This year we won't have a Christmas choir cantata, children's program, donut-making, etc. Still, by the grace of God and faithful givers there is hope.

**Fourth, Grace people are amazing.** City improvements around the church neighborhood have added more special assessments to our property—to the tune of \$20,000. **You responded:** a) \$2,300 in misc. gifts came in specifically for assessments. b) Grace received a one-time gift from a member that will cover the new special assessments. With the new assessments Grace owes a total of \$43,500 in special assessments—that if paid off over time would accrue over \$14,000 in interest. **For the first time Grace will pay off new assessments up front—saving approximately \$9,000 in interest.** Grace also has \$11,310 left on a loan for all the improvements that happened in the last 5 years.



The one-time gift was \$65,000. The leadership team will strategically utilize the gift in these uncertain Covid-19 times to focus on the needs to: a) address outstanding debt; b) have the ability to pay bills through and coming out the other side of the pandemic;

c) be prepared for future structural issues (e.g. aging roof)

As a pastor, this year's giving at Grace has shown me:

- 1) Grace people deeply love and believe in the ministries of this church
- 2) Grace people know every gift is important and a spiritual discipline to stay close to God.
- 3) Grace people know church (loving Jesus and neighbor) is about more than a building.
- 4) Grace people know there is a future beyond Covid-19 and know the church will have a purpose.
- 5) Grace people trust the leadership to make wise, prayerful choices. (The largest gift was given with the words, "I trust the leaders. I don't need to be consulted.")
- 6) Grace people care deeply about worship—even if it means "virtually" for the time being.

Thank God for the generosity and hope that has been planted in the souls of the people called Grace. You are amazing in sustaining your church. You believe it has a ministry in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic and make sure it will fulfill its vital mission in whatever becomes the new normal on the other side of Covid-19.

**How is Grace Church? Grace Church is hanging in there because you are hanging in there with it. These are tough times. Nevertheless, you are all amazing. You are keepers of the faith.**

Be Well and Be a Blessing,

Pastor Roger

| <b>Date</b>         | <b>Psalm</b>                       | <b>OT</b>       | <b>Epistle</b>                     | <b>Gospel</b>      |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Sun, Nov 1</b>   | am: 111, 112, pm: 148, 150         | Neh 4:1-23      | Heb 11:32-12:2                     | Matt 18:21-35      |
| <b>Mon, Nov 2</b>   | am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65         | Ezek 20:27-44*  | am: Rev 14:1-13<br>pm: Rev 19:1-10 | Luke 12:49-59      |
| <b>Tue, Nov 3</b>   | am: 61, 62, pm: 68                 | Ezek 24:1-14*   | Rev 14:14-15:8                     | Luke 13:1-9        |
| <b>Wed, Nov 4</b>   | am: 72, pm: 119:73-96              | Ezek 26:1-14*   | Rev 16:1-11                        | Luke 13:10-17      |
| <b>Thur, Nov 5</b>  | am: 70, 71, pm: 74                 | Ezek 29:17-21*  | Rev 16:12-21                       | Luke 14:18-30      |
| <b>Fri, Nov 6</b>   | am: 69, pm: 73                     | Ezek 12:12-28*  | Rev 17:1-18                        | Luke 13:31-35      |
| <b>Sat, Nov 7</b>   | am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27             | Ezek 13:1-16*   | Rev 18:1-14                        | Luke 14:1-11       |
| <b>Sun, Nov 8</b>   | am: 93, 96, pm: 34                 | Ezek 14:1-14*   | 1 Cor 14:1-12                      | Matt 20:1-16       |
| <b>Mon, Nov 9</b>   | am: 80, pm: 77, 19                 | Joel 1:1-13     | Rev 18:15-24                       | Luke 14:12-24      |
| <b>Tue, Nov 10</b>  | am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72          | Joel 1:15-2:11  | Rev 19:1-10                        | Luke 14:25-35      |
| <b>Wed, Nov 11</b>  | am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82         | Joel 2:12-19    | Rev 19:11-21                       | Luke 15:1-10       |
| <b>Thur, Nov 12</b> | am: 83, pm: 85, 86                 | Joel 2:21-27    | Jam 1:1-15                         | Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 |
| <b>Fri, Nov 13</b>  | am: 88, pm: 91, 92                 | Joel 2:28-3:8   | Jam 1:16-27                        | Luke 16:1-9        |
| <b>Sat, Nov 14</b>  | am: 87, 90, pm: 136                | Joel 3:9-17     | Jam 2:1-13                         | Luke 16:10-18      |
| <b>Sun, Nov 15</b>  | am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46             | Hab 1:1-2:1     | Phil 3:13-4:1                      | Matt 23:13-24      |
| <b>Mon, Nov 16</b>  | am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52          | Hab 2:1-4, 9-20 | Jam 2:14-26                        | Luke 16:19-31      |
| <b>Tue, Nov 17</b>  | am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95        | Hab 3:2-19      | Jam 3:1-12                         | Luke 17:1-10       |
| <b>Wed, Nov 18</b>  | am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144      | Mal 1:1, 6-14   | Jam 3:13-4:12                      | Luke 17:11-19      |
| <b>Thur, Nov 19</b> | am: 105:1-22, pm: 105:23-45        | Mal 2:1-16      | Jam 4:13-5:6                       | Luke 17:20-37      |
| <b>Fri, Nov 20</b>  | am: 102, pm: 107:1-32              | Mal 3:1-12      | Jam 5:7-12                         | Luke 18:1-8        |
| <b>Sat, Nov 21</b>  | am: 107:33-43, 108, pm: 33         | Mal 3:13-4:6    | Jam 5:13-20                        | Luke 18:9-14       |
| <b>Sun, Nov 22</b>  | am: 118, pm: 145                   | Zech 9:9-16     | 1 Pet 3:13-22                      | Matt 21:1-13       |
| <b>Mon, Nov 23</b>  | am: 106:1-18, pm: 106:19-48        | Zech 10:1-12    | Gal 6:1-10                         | Luke 18:15-30      |
| <b>Tue, Nov 24</b>  | am: 120-123, pm: 124, 125, 126     | Zech 11:4-17    | 1 Cor 3:10-23                      | Luke 18:31-43      |
| <b>Wed, Nov 25</b>  | am: 119:145-176, pm: 128, 129, 130 | Zech 12:1-10    | Eph 1:3-14                         | Luke 19:1-10       |
| <b>Thur, Nov 26</b> | am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135    | Zech 13:1-9     | Eph 1:15-23                        | Luke 19:11-27      |
| <b>Fri, Nov 27</b>  | am: 140, 142, pm: 141, 143         | Zech 14:1-11    | Rom 15:7-13                        | Luke 19:28-40      |
| <b>Sat, Nov 28</b>  | am: 137, 144, pm: 104              | Zech 14:12-21   | Phil 2:1-11                        | Luke 19:41-48      |
| <b>Sun, Nov 29</b>  |                                    |                 |                                    |                    |

# Grace United Methodist

## November 2020

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

|  |           |   |  |  |           |           |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>1</b> All Saints Day<br><b>10:00 am</b> Worship w/<br>Communion<br><br>Facebook Live Worship or<br>www.<br>graceumcmoorhead.org<br><br>Daylight Savings Time Ends | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b> 23rd Sunday after Pentecost<br><b>10:00 am</b> Worship or<br>www.<br>graceumcmoorhead.org<br><br>Facebook Live Worship                                      | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br><br><b>6:30 pm</b><br>Streaming<br>Vision and<br>Operations and<br>Resources | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b><br><b>7:00 pm</b> Cub<br>Scout Den<br>Meeting                              | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b> 24th Sunday after Pentecost<br><b>10:00 am</b> Worship<br><br>Facebook Live Worship or<br>www.<br>graceumcmoorhead.org                                     | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br><br><b>7:00 - 8:30 pm</b><br>Virtual District<br>Church Charge<br>Conference | <b>18</b><br><br>Annual<br>Leadership<br>Team meeting<br>with District<br>Supervisor<br>online | <b>19</b><br><br><b>7:00 pm</b> Cub<br>Scout Den<br>Meeting                          | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b> Christ the King Sunday<br><b>10:00 am</b> Worship Service<br><br>Facebook Live Worship or<br>www.<br>graceumcmoorhead.org                                  | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br><br><b>Thanksgiving<br/>           Day<br/>           Office Closed</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b> 1st Sunday of Advent<br><b>10:00 am</b> Worship<br>Facebook Live Worship or<br>www.<br>graceumcmoorhead.org  | <b>30</b> |   |  |  |           |           |

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE COVID RESPONSE

The Minnesota Annual Conference of United Methodist Churches are now in phase orange of re-opening.

- 1) No more than 10 people in the building for worship production of online services.
- 2) Funerals limited to 10 persons,
- 3) Continued distancing and masks over mouth and nose..

So far Minnesota has recorded:

570 infected at weddings

136 infected at funerals

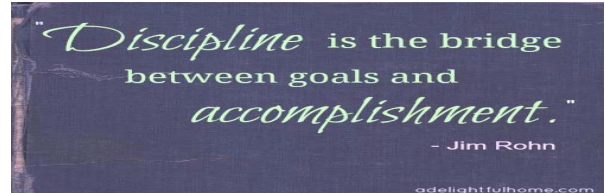
121 infected at worship

With the significant jump in all categories the week of October 18th.

## THE DISCIPLINE OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude ... goes beyond the "mine" and "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.

- Henry J.M. Nouwen



"Were there no God, we would be in this glorious world with grateful hearts; and no one to thank."

- Christina Rossetti

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Moorhead MN 56560  
(218) 233-1857

