

January 2025




## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*May he give  
 you the  
 desire of  
 your heart  
 and make all  
 your plans  
 succeed.*

Psalm 20:4 NIV

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## *You are God's Beloved*

Luke 3:21-22 says, "Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



This word beloved jumps out at me. It means that you are one of God's very own. It means that you are deeply loved by God. It means that God will continue to have a connection with you.

What comes to mind as you remember your own baptism? What comes to mind as you remember the baptism of a family member or a friend? What comes to mind in baptisms that you have witnessed over the years? What is God calling you to do if you are not baptized? This is a great time of year to share these stories.

Our baptisms are generally made up of a team of beloved people like our family, our friends, our sponsors, and our church community. This baptismal event with Jesus surely would have been something incredible to witness and experience first-hand. Yet, each day this gift of baptism reveals our daily callings, our daily interests, our daily endeavors and that you are God's beloved. I love these words by Daniel L. Schutte from the hymn "Here I am, Lord." Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday is January 12th. It is one of many days that you are reminded of this gift of Holy Baptism and being God's beloved.

In Christ,

Pastor Cole



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sundays:** 8:30AM Traditional  
10:45AM Contemporary
- Tuesdays:** 2:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12  
(pre-recorded)
- Wednesdays:** 6:30PM WOW, Worship on Wednesday!
- Fridays:** 1:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12  
(pre-recorded)



\***Communion** is offered each Sunday and Wednesday.

\***Sunday services will be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and our webpage.**

**Goldfinch Senior Living Worship Service** is the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10AM on the Memory Care side with Communion. Every 2nd Monday of the month, 10AM, at Lakeview Methodist home, with communion. Please come and worship with our friends and members of Grace!



**Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. John 11:25**

In profound grief and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we announce the death of Eleanor Skaggs. Rest eternal grant Eleanor, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Gracious God,

Surround the family of Eleanor Skaggs with your love, and grant them your peace, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come. Thanks be to you, O God, for you give us the victorious through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**CVN H**

**Baptisms:**

**In December we celebrated the baptisms of Jacey Violet Bolte, daughter of Jamieson and Jessica Hansen and Jared Eli Hartwig, son of Scott Hartwig and Jessica Hansen on Dec. 8.**



**Thank You**

**On behalf of the pastors and staff at Grace Lutheran Church: Pastor Allison, Pastor Cole, Nicole, Jane, Brad, & Amber, we would like to thank you for the gifts and treats that you have gifted us this Holiday season. Your kindness is a blessing that has brightened our days!**

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to our Grace Lutheran Congregation for your support of the Star Tree. Your generosity and open hearts fulfilled 260 requests for gifts. Thank you to Jane Reiman and her Weigh Tronix team for helping us every year and this year taking 50 stars. We wish you all a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas. Carol Cress, Peggy Jones, Val Berhow, Sandy Lunn, Tari Stradtman, and Cindy Wohlhuter.

# BUSINESS OF GRACE

**THERE WAS NO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER.**

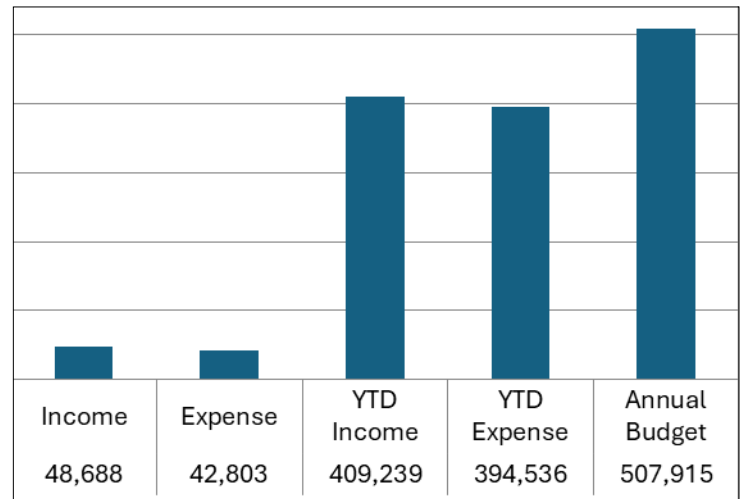
## **Memorials:**

**Evon Lyle Memorial**

Scott & Cheri Drever Youth Fund



## **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR NOVEMBER**

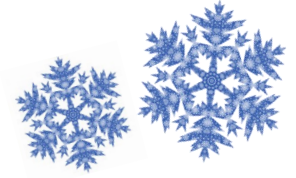


# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

## ***First Communion Class on February 23!***



At Grace, we commune children at whatever age parents feel it is appropriate. Jesus welcomes all to the table so if you come from a tradition where even the littlest commune, you are welcome to do so at Grace. Likewise, if you prefer your children to have taken an introductory class to communion first, that is welcome as well. There is no “right” age to commune, and no one can ever fully understand the holy mystery of Christ being present at communion. Jesus simply welcomes all! The pastors offer a class once a year geared toward ages five through twelve which offers hands on learning as we hear the promises of Jesus brought to us in this holy sacrament. Please call or email the office if you would like to enroll your child in this year’s class which will meet on Sunday, February 23, from noon to 3pm. ***An adult must attend with each student.*** We will start with a pizza lunch followed by lessons, a craft, tasting communion elements, and baking communion bread. Students will mark this special milestone of first communion in both worship services on Sunday, March 3.



## WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

**Open Door Meal:** 4:45PM - 6:30PM - All are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a meal.

**BLAST, PreK - 6th Grade:** 5:30PM - 6:30PM - This includes Cherub &

Alleluia Choir, learning lessons, and fun!

**Wednesday Worship:** 6:30PM - 7:00PM

*First Day  
Back is  
January 8!*

## Youth Mission Trip



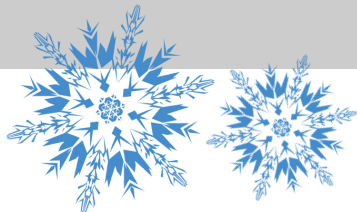
Youth and parent informational meeting Sunday, January 12th 5:30pm in the fellowship hall for the Appalachia West Virginia mission trip coming up this summer July 18<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The trip is for current 7<sup>th</sup> graders through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Pizza will be served.



## "The True Christmas Story"

A Christmas Program Presented By Grace Lutheran  
BLAST Children on December 15.





# 2024 Grace Confirmands



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***Have you ever wondered the purpose of the Stewardship Team?***

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry team, please sign up on the board in the Gathering Space. Thank you for sharing in God's work here at Grace!

The Stewardship Team strives to encourage generosity of our time, skills, service, and financial support of the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church by fostering joyful intergenerational giving. The Stewardship Team oversees the annual stewardship campaign, creating a culture of giving back to God through Grace's ministries, sharing our blessings, supporting community needs

through collaboration, and seeking out long-term solutions for financial stability. We plan and coordinate with the Service Team and Council to ensure that worship, faith formation, and service are supported through financial and volunteer means to pass on the faith to the next generation.



**CHURCH**  
D I R E C T O R Y

**Church Directory Update:** Thank you to our dedicated volunteers, led by Cindy Wohlhuter, and Nicole in the office who continue to put together our new directory. They are diligently working to input your current contact information provided at the photo sessions into the church database which will then be turned into a spreadsheet to send to the directory company.

They are also choosing the layout and activity pictures to be included as well. These pieces are all sent to the company who will then assemble them into the directory and get the books printed. We hope to have this completed soon after the new year.

**Men's Breakfast on Monday:** Men of all ages are invited to a monthly breakfast at The Ranch restaurant on the first Monday of the month at 7:00AM. Come for a devotion, fellowship, and good breakfast food.

**When: Monday January 6 at 7:00AM**

**Where: The Ranch Restaurant**

**Why: Because Jesus says that when a few are gathered in his name, he's there too!**

**January  
Open Door Meal Menu**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on  
Wednesday evenings from  
4:45 - 6:30 PM

Jan 1: NO MEAL  
Jan 8: Sloppy Joes  
Jan 15: Meatballs  
Jan 22: Chicken Fried Steak  
Jan 29: Chicken Breast/Nuggets





**The Gift of Final Wishes:** During this time of giving, one of the most helpful gifts we can give our loved ones is to have our final wishes written down. Join the pastors on Sunday, January 5 between the services and talk about what questions are typically asked when planning a funeral. What are your chosen scripture readings, hymns, organ or piano, special music, military honors, favorite memories, and so much more. The best gift we can give our loved ones is to take the stress away in planning our church service. Come to learn more, walk through Grace's funeral planning guide, and take it home to make selections and talk with your family. When you are finished, please bring a copy of your wishes to Grace and we will keep it on file for you. Funeral guides can be found on our Care Table in the gathering space as well as under the *Resources* tab on our webpage. For more information, please see Pastor Allison.

**Mark Your Calendars:** The Annual Meeting at Grace is on Sunday, January 19 between the worship services. We will meet in the fellowship hall for discussion, and over donuts and coffee, talk about the wonderful ways God is at work at Grace through our ministries. This is a great opportunity to discern together about where the Spirit is leading us in the new year. A pre-budget meeting will be held the prior Sunday, January 12 between the services to answer questions and discuss the financial picture of Grace. We need a quorum for this meeting so please plan to attend!



**Pizza with the Pastors:** For everyone who is new to Grace, who have recently joined the church and those who may want to join in the future, come for a fun lunch with the pastors! Join us for a time of getting to know one another, learning about the ways to plug into Grace, and answering any questions you might have. We will meet at Noon in the Lounge on Sunday, January 12. Please let the office know if you plan to attend so we can order the right amount of pizza. Hope to see you there!

**Camp Sunday:** Good Earth Village Bible Camp will be coming on Sunday, January 26th at both worship services. Come and hear about the many exciting programs that they have to offer for all ages. We will have additional time between services in the fellowship hall at 9:45am for families and people of all ages with goodies and an interactive activity.



**Into Communications?** Grace Lutheran is looking for a volunteer Newsletter Collaborator to partner with Nicole in putting together the monthly newsletter. If you are interested to volunteer in this way, and are familiar with Microsoft Word, please give the office a call. Thank you!





**Reader Coordinator Needed!** We are looking for a volunteer who will put together the quarterly reader schedule for our Sunday worship services. This person works with volunteers to schedule them in the service of their choice and send the final schedule to Nicole in the office for publishing. If you are willing to take on this role, please contact Nicole in the office. Thank you!

**Our Pianos Need You!** We are looking for a volunteer who would “water” the pianos at Grace once or twice a week. Brad will provide instruction and when the light on our three pianos blink, you know it needs more water. A small and unique watering can used. If you would like to take on this role, please contact Nicole in the office. Thank you!



**Synod Conference Assembly Meeting for Pastors and Lay People:**

The Blue Earth River Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Each conference shall hold a Conference Assembly at least annually, typically at the beginning of February. Each congregation shall be represented by its pastor(s), Deacons, and three times the number of lay voting members it is entitled to at the Synod Assembly. For Grace Lutheran, that is six lay people who may attend. If you are interested in going to this meeting, please let

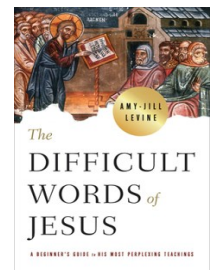
Pastor Allison know by February 1. Thank you!

**Synod Assembly Delegates:** This year’s Synod Assembly will be a two-day event as it is a bishop election year. We will again meet in Mankato and need two delegates which will be voted on at Grace’s Annual Meeting. If you would like to join your pastors for this conference, May 30-31, please let the office know so your name can be added to the ballot. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear about the larger church and what God is up to Southeastern Minnesota. Thank you!



**Grace’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2028!** In three years, Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate 100 years of worship, service, and fellowship in the Fairmont community. A small team is being formed to plan this event, in coordination with our Fellowship and Worship Teams. Lenny Tvedten will be chairing the sub committee that will bring together historical articles, artifacts, and conduct interviews with our youngest to oldest members. If you would like to join the planning team or the history team, please contact the Pastor Allison.

**Adult Education:** Come and join the discussion on Sunday mornings between the services about the miracles of Jesus. We begin our new adult ed series, *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*, on Sunday January 26 by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. We hope you will be able to join us for this time of coffee and conversation.



# WORDS FOR WORSHIP

## **Sunday, January 5 - Epiphany**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

## **Sunday, January 12 -**

### **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

## **Sunday, January 19 -**

### **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of

God moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

## **Sunday, January 26 -**

### **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28



# JANUARY 2025



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

29 9:30am Lessons and Carols Worship	30 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Ways of Grace Assembly Team	31 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	1 <b>New Year's Day - Office Closed</b> NO Women's CBS - New Years Break 4:45pm - 6:30am NO OPEN DOOR	2 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	3 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	4
5 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Gift of Final Wishes Class 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service	6 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Cir- cle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	7 9:00am Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	8 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	9 4:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boyscouts	10 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	11
12 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Budget Meeting 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service <b>5:30pm Youth Trip Parent Meeting</b>	13 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting <b>10:00am Lakeview Senior Worship</b> 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Shalom Circle	14 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 5:30pm Outreach/ Fellowship Team Meetings 5:30pm Service Team Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship Team Meeting	15 <b>Ways of Grace Sub- mission Deadline</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	16 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	17 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	18 1:00pm Birthday Hall Rental
19 8:30am Traditional Worship Service <b>9:40am ANNUAL MEETING</b> 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 11:45am Church Council Meeting	20 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:00pm Silverlake 4-H	21 9:00am Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	22 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	23 1:00pm Ways of Grace Assembly Team 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Thea- tre	24 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	25
26 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Adult Ed. - Lounge 9:40am - 10:40am Good Earth Village Meetup - Fellowship Hall <b>9:40am Tech Training - Balcony</b> 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service	27 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	28 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	29 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Communi- ty Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	30 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	31 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	1 5:00pm Baby Shower



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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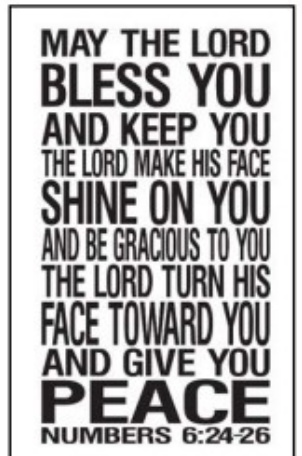
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Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org)



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