

# grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

## Free 2B Grace!



Wow! I can hardly believe we held 18 Focus Group Meetings over a four week period. During this time, we had 184 people attend representing 139 or 25% of our church families. We were able to engage and receive passionate feedback from a broad spectrum of Grace. It was a time for us to ask people to join leadership and begin praying for the journey ahead.

During these meetings, we were able to share some of the roadblocks that are impeding us from being all that God has planned for us as a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond. For those who attended and completed a survey, 83% were in support of a campaign to help meet the needs identified (13% did not complete the survey). In addition, 116 people were willing to volunteer to help with a campaign. The response we received was

very inspirational to the Vision Board, Staff, and those involved in coordinating the meetings.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to those who accepted the invitation to engage in conversation about the future of the church and who began to pray along side the church leadership. Thank you Grace family!

Some of the *Hopes* God has placed on individual hearts, here at Grace include:

- \* “We need to continue to grow in our spiritual development, which will lead us to our mission and outreach as a congregation, both locally and around the world.”
- \* “We need to become a place of service and mission, focused on God’s abundance, through continued spiritual formation and connection to reach others (locally and globally)”
- \* “We need to continue to serve Christ and reach every person we can who is in need. Physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. Then, equip them to serve a loving God and change the world.”
- \* “We need to build on what has already been accomplished here at Grace.”

As a result of your valuable feedback, the Vision Board voted unanimously to move forward with a campaign to address the needs of the church. We will begin the process to develop a plan for the campaign to continue to share God’s vision for Grace, and will reach out for volunteers to assist with the process. We will keep you posted as the momentum continues to build!

Please continue to pray for the congregation and leadership as we undertake this campaign to help us fulfill the vision God has given us, to be a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover. As Pastor Mark put it in our campaign prayer, “Gracious and loving God, enable and inspire us to boldly go forward to tackle our debt and building projects; so that, we might be free to do what you have planned for us.”

In Him,  
Ralph

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity.. Jeremiah 29:11-14*

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**Pastor Mark's Remarks:**



**Bishop Ann Svennungsen to Install Pastor Steve Thomason**



We are thrilled to welcome Bishop Anne Svennungsen to Grace on Sunday, November 11 to install Steve Thomason as our Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministries. Although she will be preaching at both the 9 and 10:20 a.m. services, the installation service will be conducted only at the 9 a.m. service.

Bishop Svennungsen is rather new to the Minneapolis Area Synod having been elected to the office last February. Prior to becoming our bishop, she served in parish ministry in Iowa City, IA, Edina, and Moorhead, MN. From 2007 to 2010 she served as President of Texas Lutheran College in Sequin, TX and most recently as Interim College Pastor at St. Olaf College. She is married to Rev. Dr. William Russell, a Reformation specialist and together they are parents to Sarah, John, and Mary.

Bishop Svennungsen's visit to Grace will be a meaningful culmination to what has been a long-awaited event at our church. Almost three years ago, Steve Thomason started to work at Grace as a very part-time consultant, to help us develop an intentional approach to spiritual formation for adults. Many of us may remember that the Focus 20/20 Envisioning process identified this as our top need at Grace. Right from the start we knew Pastor Steve was a good fit for Grace and an important part of God's plans for our future.

The next step of the process came as Pastor Steve moved to full-time status with the additional responsibilities of youth ministry. Then Bishop Craig Johnson gave him special permission to preside over Holy Communion and baptisms at Grace. During these months, Steve felt the Lord calling him to seek certification of his ordination; thus, began the long process of interviews, meetings, papers, and conversations between the ELCA, synodical personnel, and Steve to approve him as a rostered leader in our church denomination.

The final approval came in August. Shortly after that, the Vision Board recommended he be officially called at a special congregational meeting on September 22 and 23. The meeting was held and the vote was unanimous!

What a wonderful way God has worked at Grace to call Pastor Steve to serve and partner with us! We are thankful that Bishop Svennungsen will join us in celebrating his official installation. Please join us on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to join us for the 9:00am Installation Service, you will have the opportunity to greet both the Bishop and Pastor Steve at a special reception after all the Worship services in the Fellowship Hall.



## Pastor Steve's Remarks:



A couple weeks ago I posted a Facebook status that read, "The Bishop is Installing Me." A fellow computer-loving friend commented, "remember, before installation, close all programs." I appreciate this kind of humor, and those of you who are fellow techy-geeks like me probably do too. I ran with this techy pun and responded that the bishop is installing Pastor 2.0.

This November is a big month for me and for Grace. It marks the end of a 2.5 year journey that we have taken as a community. I came into this place in January of 2010 with fear and trepidation of reentering ministry. God has moved through this congregation to instill me with renewed passion for the work of God's grace in the world. After many months of interviews, papers, and waiting, the ELCA has officially welcomed me into the fold as a rostered pastor and now the bishop will install me on November 11 as the Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation.

What does that mean for us? At the practical, day-to-day level, it means very little. I will do the same things that I have been doing: working with youth, teaching adult classes, supervising staff, ministering in Word and Sacrament. At the deeper, existential level, it is profoundly significant. Now, I belong. It's not that I didn't belong before, but now it is official.

This has caused me to reflect on why it is important to be part of a local congregation of Jesus-followers. Many people in our culture today fall under the category of "nones." They claim to be "spiritual, but not religious." I respect this, and understand where they are coming from. I suppose I was a "none" for a while as I was healing from difficult ministry experiences. Yet, having been in the self-sufficiency of the "none-zone," I realize that it really is just that. None. Nothing. Just me. Alone.

God never intended for us to be "nones." We were created to be in community; to belong.

An analogy that helps me understand the difference I'm experiencing, is that of children and family. It is one thing to be a child in foster care. Your foster parents can love you and shower you with the affection and attention that you desperately need, and it is good. And yet, it is an entirely different thing to be adopted by those same parents. Foster care is temporary; contingent. Adoption is a formalized ritual of permanence and acceptance. The parents who adopt a child communicate a deep commitment that goes beyond words. It is a ritual that says, "you're ours for good."

Bishop Ann is installing Pastor 2.0 this November. Grace Lutheran Church is adopting me as a Pastor. Foster Care is over. I'm home. Thank you for your Grace, my brothers and

sisters. I can't wait to see what God does with our family as we strive to be a ministry of grace in the heart of Andover.

**Stewardship:** God's standards of goodness are measured by the Torah; they clearly reach into every corner of our lives as they touch our neighbor (Mark 10:19). To live under God's rule leaves us on the "hot seat" for if God's rule touches on all of life, then it certainly reaches to the deepest and most sensitive of areas: the way in which we deal with our money and possessions. Jesus speaks tough words, and suddenly we sense that our big questions about life are at risk. Jesus' repetition of the warning and the sealing with the metaphor of the camel and the needle make clear that this is not a slip of the tongue and there is no way to escape.

The disciples appropriately sense the seriousness and the risk. "Then who in the world could ever be saved?" they ask (Mark 10:26). Stewardship is ultimately practical. The disciples sense that following Jesus is not just a "spiritual" matter, but touches how and where we live in our lives. No wonder they panic! But Jesus points in another direction—to the possibilities and power that belong not to us, but to the God with whom all things are possible.

Once his vision has been turned from himself to God's possibilities, Peter has a kind of "aha" experience. "Now I see it," he says, "Now I see what it means to follow you." (Mark 10:28). And Jesus chimes in and adds his promise of hundredfold blessings to be poured out on those who have risked trusting God's promises. Stewardship grows as we learn to live in this kind of trust, and in this trust we already experience a taste of what is meant by "eternal life."

This strange phrase concludes and sums up the lesson (Mark 10:31). It reminds us that in questions of the "kingdom" and of "eternal life," we are dealing with a God who is about transforming this world. As stewards of God's resources, God intends to use us as agents endowed with this world-transforming power.

Stewardship, the kingdom and salvation all belong together. They are about imagining a powerful and generous God whose goodness touches upon all of life, and whose promises intend to gather us into the grand vision of a world transformed by God's saving power.

By: James Boyce, a professor emeritus of New Testament and Greek at Luther Seminary

## Worship in November:

November is a month both rich in meaning and opportunity as we gather for national holidays and significant moments in the church year calendar.

<p>Nov. 5/6 <b>All Saints</b> All Services</p>	<p>This is the weekend we remember all the “saints” who have died and join the “great cloud of witnesses” in heaven (Heb. 12:1) It is a joyous time. It is a grieving time. But most of all, it is a time of gratitude for the lives God has given us to funnel and shape us with faith and love. A special banner with names of our loved ones written upon it will be carried into the services. In addition, a Commemoration Prayer will be prayed as we name aloud those who have died.</p>
<p>Nov. 11 <b>Installation Day</b></p>	<p>Pastor Steve Thomason will be installed as Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministries by Bishop Ann Svennungsen at the 9 a.m. service.</p>
<p>Nov. 17/18 <b>FMSC Serving Weekend</b> All Services</p>	<p>Come and celebrate with us our joy and excitement for our Feed My Starving Children Marathon Serving Weekend. There will be lots of exciting stories to share as we give thanks for the opportunity to touch and change the lives of countless hungry children in our world!</p>
<p>Nov. 21 <b>Thanksgiving Eve</b> 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Our Thanksgiving Eve Service is a special time of testimonies, music, and prayers for the many blessings we have received as a nation, a church, and as families. We are especially excited to welcome Seminarian Corey Lange to preach at the service. The Graceful Seniors will host a Grace Pie Social after the service.</p>
<p>Nov. 24/25 <b>Christ the King</b> All Services</p>	<p>This weekend marks the end of the church year when we celebrate that when all is said and done, Christ is on the throne as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Come join us with a celebration of special music and message!</p>



## Music Ministry:

Dear Grace Family,

It has been a wonderful first 2 months here at Grace, Lindsay and I have felt your warm welcome and have enjoyed getting to know many of you. I feel blessed to be a part of such a talented staff team and church body, that is alive and exploring where God wants to work next.

I wanted to make you aware of some upcoming opportunities for service in the music department! Advent and Christmas are coming, and the Grace Choir would love to have you join us to help celebrate the season. We'll be presenting a special time of celebration in Music on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent (Dec. 15 and 16) in all of the services, and I'd love to have you participate.

You are invited to join the choir during the months of November and December to prepare. We will also have a couple of Saturday rehearsals as well as some recordings to rehearse with, so if you cannot make many Wednesday rehearsals you still will have the opportunity to participate. Please let me know you are planning to join us so I can have music for you. You can reach me at the church office Tues-Fri 763-421-6520 x113 or by email [JonathanO@graceandover.org](mailto:JonathanO@graceandover.org)

God's richest blessings,

Jonathan Orwig, Director of Worship and Music



Opportunities!



## Vision Board:

**Excitement.** That word seems to capture the feeling of the fall season at Grace. The new church year has begun. The youth programs, Sunday School, Sunday Evenings at Grace are all in full swing again. This year we have yet another reason for excitement. The focus group sessions have given us an opportunity to learn more about the current status of Grace and to give input on Grace's future direction. I hope you had a chance to participate. We now look forward to the continuing process and the unfolding of God's plan for Grace. It will be exciting to see where he leads us.



Men at Grace believe in connecting men with God and men with each other. And that can be hard to pull off in today's world with its hectic pace and challenges in balancing work, family and other interests.

So here are some opportunities to meet with other men as you seek to focus on God's priorities and purpose in your life.

## Growth Opportunities:

**CONNECT CLASS**  
**Sunday, December 2nd**  
**5:00-7:30 pm!**



All are welcome at the next . . .CONNECT CLASS!

- \* Would you like to get more 'connected' here at church?
- \* Would you enjoy making friendship connections and learning about the core values of Grace?
- \* Are you interested in exploring church membership at Grace?

If you answered yes to any one of the above questions (or all of them), then please join us for the next CONNECT class from 5 – 7:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 2. Come to enjoy a delicious dinner at 5 pm, followed by time to connect more with the pastors and others from Grace.

## Yoga Devotions

Soft lights and music make this hour of yoga relaxing and beneficial to your strength and health.

Join us on Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Contact Ellen Law at 763-218-9980 if you have any questions. We look forward to having you!



### Saturday Morning Men's Group

7:30-9:00 AM in classroom 101

Contact: Stephen Hirt

stephenhirt@ast-corp.net

or call the church office at 763-421-6520.

### Monday Morning Men's Group

6:30-8:00 AM in classroom 105/107.

Contact: Ed Beckman 763 421-8208 or Eric

Smitsdorff, smitsdorff@centurylink.net

763-433-8001

*"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."*

Proverbs 27:17

The Men's Ministry at Grace strives to connect men to men, and men to God. Come join us!



## Upcoming Events:



### The power of a simple gift . . . a SHOE BOX!

Demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children around the world this holiday season! Please join the all-church effort this November as individuals, families, and small groups fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Through the efforts of Samaritan's Purse Ministry, millions of children in over 130 countries have received these gift-filled shoe boxes. Each child is blessed by simple gifts such as crayons, writing paper, coloring books, harmonicas, jump ropes, toothbrush and hair combs. The boxes serve as reminders that there is a God who loves each child and He sent his best gift, Jesus, to be our Savior.

**Please return the filled shoe boxes to the church lobby by Sunday, November 18.** Shoe boxes will be available at the Welcome center or you may use any shoe box or similar size container. For more information, please contact Dawn Perra 763 370-4869, dawnperra@gmail.com



### Give some GOOD GIFTS this Christmas!

Looking for a unique gift idea this holiday season? How about giving a gift of 10 chickens for \$10? Or give the gift of training and tools to a farmer for \$25, or provide medicine to treat malaria for \$50

YOU can give these good gifts to families across the globe through the ELCA Good Gifts program. (ELCA is our national church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). The 10 chickens you give will bring nutritious meals to growing kids, as well as generate income. A rake, hoe and shovel will help people improve their farming methods as well as the harvest. Just one course of medicine is enough to save a life, and your gift will treat 25 malaria patients.

Pick up your ELCA GOOD GIFT catalog at the Welcome Center today --- and have fun shopping!

ELCA Good Gift catalog offers over 50 gift ideas filled with meaning and love. These gifts are a special way you can make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church, while giving a memorable gift to a friend, neighbor, teacher or loved one.

For more information, or to chat further about this Christmas gift giving idea, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, jeannieh@graceandover.org



### “In the MOMent” Hearts at Home Conference for all Moms!

Hey, Moms . . . do you want to be refreshed, revitalized, challenged and educated to grow in your mothering, friendships and faith? You're not alone! Come to the Hearts at Home conference Nov 9-10 in Rochester, MN and join with thousands of moms who share the same desire.

#### If you need a reason to attend a Hearts at Home conference, try one (or more!) of these:

- \* To feel refreshed and ready to embrace the challenges of motherhood.
- \* To enjoy a fun, getaway weekend with your friends.
- \* To remove the guilt of not being a perfect mom.
- \* To learn to prioritize time for yourself to better care for your family.
- \* To experience a newfound strength through a deeper friendship with God.
- \* To increase your impact by treating the job of mom as seriously as a career.
- \* To create the vision to successfully usher your children into adulthood.

The Hearts at Home conference begins with the morning session where you'll be inspired by speakers and enjoy uplifting music. You'll find yourself laughing and crying with an auditorium full of moms you don't know (they won't know you either!), but with whom you share the common bond of motherhood. After the morning session, you'll attend up to four workshops. You will choose which workshops you'd like to attend from 20-30 options on parenting, marriage, spiritual growth, personal growth, and family management. You get to design your day based on what you want. If you attend the Moms Night Out event on Friday night, you'll enjoy more music, laughter, and often a surprise or two.

Throughout the conference you'll have the opportunity to personally talk to the speakers, shop at a variety of vendors, as well as enjoy time with other moms.

Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center or chat with Jeannie Hellmann about the blessings of this conference. Also, you may learn more on line at [www.hearts-at-home.org](http://www.hearts-at-home.org).

## Upcoming Events cont'd:

### The Nina-Lewis Suttor Family Fundraiser!

On December 1st there will be a benefit held for Nina Lewis-Suttor, a young woman diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma on November 30th, 2010. She is currently undergoing an extremely aggressive form of Chemo through the University of MN. Join us for bowling, silent auction, Bake Sale, raffle and more from 2:00-5:00pm at Ham Lake Lanes in Ham Lake MN. Donations can be made to the Nina Lewis-Suttor Benefit fund at any TCF Bank. Willing to donate an item, please contact Lois at 763-432-3323.



### SHOES NEEDED!



Donate new or gently used shoes and winter boots

During the month of November, Heading Home Anoka is sponsoring a collection of new and gently used shoes and boots for all ages. Shoes are often the number one item that those experiencing homelessness need, and often shoe donations are in short supply. Donated shoes will be distributed to homeless persons in Anoka County through the Heading Home Anoka organization, which is a part of a statewide initiative to end homelessness.

Shoes may be dropped off at these locations during November: all Anoka County Libraries, Blaine Human Services Center and the Anoka Co. Government Center, first floor lobby. For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, Director of Outreach and Women's Ministries at Grace.



### Be Part of Something BIG...Serve at Feed My Starving Children!

Grace will host our annual **Marathon Packing Event** at Feed My Starving Children on November 16 & 17 as we hope to enlist 750 volunteers and pack over 100,000 meals! Plan now to invite your friends, coworkers, teammates, neighbors and maybe even your distant relatives.

- \* **Friday, November 16th** - 8-9:30pm
- \* **Saturday, November 17th** - 9-11am, 11:30-1:30pm, 2-4pm, 4:30-6:30pm, 7-9pm.

To reserve your spot, go to [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) and register or call the church office.



### Advent Wreath Making Event!

Please join us for the **Advent Wreath Making Event** on Sunday, Nov.25 from 5 to 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share and we'll enjoy an old fashioned potluck at 5 pm (green jello anyone?). Then we'll create our advent wreaths and conclude the evening with singing carols together.

The Advent wreath kit, including candles and evergreens, will be provided for a cost of \$12. Please bring your own pruning shears or scissors, and also decorations such as ribbon, pine cones, etc.

The advent wreath in our homes will be a reminder to prepare our hearts for Christ's birth. As we light another candle each week, and as we share in family devotions around the advent wreath, we will focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Please join us as we make our Advent Wreaths on Sun. Nov. 25. Sign up on the opportunity pages in bulletin or call the church office 421-6520. For more information, please contact Jessie Crooks, [jessiem678@yahoo.com](mailto:jessiem678@yahoo.com)

## Senior Moments:



According to the Grace Lutheran roster, there are 86 senior members at the present time, which is represented by 68 couples and 18 singles.

Last month we introduced you to several church-related activities, that we seniors are committed to, and this month we are familiarizing you with additional activities.

In September, our Property Management Team was able to patch the notorious block wall; however, due to the drying time of the grout used and everyone's busy schedules, it still needs to be painted before the snow falls. The team did complete several painting projects as well as install new ovens in the kitchen.

The Property Team is composed primarily of men who meet one Wednesday morning each month, usually after the Tuesday, senior Bible Study/breakfast at the Farmstead in Andover.

One of our illustrious senior men did several repairs at the FPAC Day Center (Family Promise Anoka County). Several members of the Property Management Team have offered to help Family Promise move the Day Center to a new location in the near future with the date and location to be determined. That same illustrious man assists with the clothing trailer at Family Table each month. If you aren't familiar with this, it is a trailer full of clothing available to all Family Table attendees at no charge.

Two members of Ruth Circle recently attended a Women of the ELCA meeting at Central Lutheran in Minneapolis. During the Friday session, Dr. Kimberly Leetch, founder of GodSisterz, a non-profit organization for women in ministry, led attendees in a Bible Study. In the evening they saw a play "Seven", an inspirational play about the true stories of seven women from seven countries who dare to fight social injustice in their countries. On Saturday, the keynote speaker was Rev. Ann Svennungsen, Bishop of ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod. She is the first woman to serve as bishop in any of the ELCA's six Minnesota synods. A \$100 offering on behalf of Ruth Circle, was donated to the Women of the ELCA for malarial nets and other identified needs.

Seniors will be serving pie following the Thanksgiving Eve service in November. Be sure to allow time to attend the service and enjoy the pie!

With the Grace Bazaar scheduled November 10<sup>th</sup>, you will have an opportunity to view and purchase quilts and other items made by seniors, as well as baked goods to meet your every need. Be sure to check out the wonderful items

On the third Tuesday of each month, Pastor Gene Heglund leads the "breakfast" seniors in a Biblically-related study at the Farmstead in Andover. The current charge for a delicious breakfast buffet served by the Farmstead staff is \$6.50. The meeting begins at 8:30 and is usually completed by 9:45 (because the seniors have other commitments!). Reservations need to be made for the breakfast and there is a calling committee who does this each month. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact the church office. In addition, this group attends occasional plays at Lyric Arts as a group and usually meets at Billy's for brunch the Sunday of the play. "Annie" is on the schedule for December. We hope you will join us.



at great prices!

**Love of Grace Bazaar**  
**Saturday, November**  
**10<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 - 4:00pm**

We will have over 30 crafters this year, some are returning favorites, and others will be here for the first time. We have expanded into the portables this year as our vendor interest continues to grow. There are still a few spots remaining so if you or someone you know is interested in exhibiting at the bazaar this year, please call Caroline Butterfield at 612-875-3567.

The Grace Eatery will be serving lunch (hot sandwiches, soups and pie), and the Grace Emporium will have a variety of tasty baked goods and beautifully crafted items, along with heart warming quilts made with love by our own Grace Quilters. For our youngsters, we will have a bazaar bucks table. Kids can donate canned goods for the Grace Food Shelf and earn up to 4 "Bazaar Bucks" (see your SONday school teacher for details.) The boy scouts will also be selling wreaths.

We ask that you join in the fun by donating goods for the Grace Emporium and food items for the Eatery. We also need volunteers of all ages. Please see the blue sheets in your Sunday bulletins for available opportunities.

All proceeds from the Love of Grace Bazaar go right back to the community, so please consider helping out by donating items or your time to a great cause.

Lastly, please come to the bazaar for a delicious lunch, to see the various crafts and art for sale, and to have a wonderful time. See you there!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Blended Worship & SONday School <b>10:20 AM</b> Contemporary Worship & SONday School <b>12:00 PM</b> Youth Summer Mission Trip Meeting <b>3:00 PM</b> High School Dojo <b>4:30 PM</b> Summer Youth Mission Trip Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Sunday Evenings @ Grace	<b>29</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Monday Night Women's Group	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Golden Rule Yoga Class	<b>31</b> <b>Reformation Day</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> 5 Star Professionals <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters <b>9:30 AM</b> WOW <b>10:00 AM</b> Leadership Team Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Catechism <b>6:45 PM</b> Adult Choir Practice	<b>1</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga Devotions <b>7:00 PM</b> SaLT Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Team Practice	<b>2</b> Okoboji Retreat <b>8:00 PM</b> Children's Ministry Lock-In	<b>3</b> Okoboji Retreat <b>7:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:00 AM</b> Grace Music Academy <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship & SONday School
<b>4</b> <b>Daylight-Saving Time Ends</b> Family Worship Sunday Okoboji Retreat <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Blended Worship & SONday School <b>10:20 AM</b> Contemporary Worship & SONday School <b>3:00 PM</b> High School Dojo <b>5:00 PM</b> Sunday Evenings @ Grace	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> General Election <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> Pastoral Care Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Monday Night Women's Group	<b>6</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> General Election <b>10:00 AM</b> Golden Rule Yoga Class <b>6:30 PM</b> Vision Board	<b>7</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters <b>9:30 AM</b> WOW <b>1:00 PM</b> All Staff Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Ruth Circle <b>6:30 PM</b> Catechism <b>6:30 PM</b> Rockin' Kids Bible Club <b>6:45 PM</b> Adult Choir Practice	<b>8</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga Devotions <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult Ministry Leadership Huddle <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Team Practice	<b>9</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Love of Grace Bazaar Set Up	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Love of Grace Bazaar <b>7:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> Baptism Class <b>10:00 AM</b> Celiac Support Group <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship & SONday School
<b>11</b> Bishop Visit Pastor Steve's Installation <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Blended Worship & SONday School <b>10:20 AM</b> Contemporary Worship & SONday School <b>3:00 PM</b> High School Dojo <b>5:00 PM</b> Sunday Evenings @ Grace	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Monday Night Women's Group	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Golden Rule Yoga Class	<b>14</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters <b>9:30 AM</b> WOW <b>6:30 PM</b> Catechism Small Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Parent University <b>6:30 PM</b> Rockin' Kids Bible Club <b>6:45 PM</b> Adult Choir Practice	<b>15</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga Devotions <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Team Practice	<b>16</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Feed My Starving Children	<b>17</b> <b>7:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>9:00 AM</b> Feed My Starving Children <b>11:30 AM</b> Feed My Starving Children <b>2:00 PM</b> Feed My Starving Children <b>4:30 PM</b> Feed My Starving Children <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship & SONday School <b>7:00 PM</b> Feed My Starving Children
<b>18</b> Baptism Sunday <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Blended Worship & SONday School <b>10:20 AM</b> Contemporary Worship & SONday School <b>3:00 PM</b> High School Dojo <b>5:30 PM</b> Family Table	<b>19</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Monday Night Women's Group	<b>20</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Graceful Seniors Breakfast <b>10:00 AM</b> Golden Rule Yoga Class	<b>21</b> Anoka-Hennepin School Holiday <b>9:00 AM</b> Property Team Meeting <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters <b>3:30 PM</b> Music Academy <b>4:30 PM</b> Music Academy <b>7:00 PM</b> Thanksgiving Worship Service <b>8:00 PM</b> Pie Social	<b>22</b> Anoka-Hennepin School Holiday OFFICE CLOSED! <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>23</b> Anoka-Hennepin School Holiday OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>24</b> No SONday School <b>7:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:00 AM</b> Grace Music Academy <b>8:00 AM</b> Music Academy <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship
<b>25</b> No SONday School <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Blended Worship <b>10:20 AM</b> Contemporary Worship <b>3:00 PM</b> High School Dojo <b>5:00 PM</b> Family Advent Wreath Making & Potluck	<b>26</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> Monday Night Women's Group	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Golden Rule Yoga Class	<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> WOW <b>5:30 PM</b> Catechism Leader Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Catechism <b>6:30 PM</b> Rockin' Kids Bible Club <b>6:45 PM</b> Adult Choir Practice	<b>29</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga Devotions <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Team Practice	<b>30</b> Planet Wisdom	<b>1</b> <b>7:30 AM</b> Men's Bible Study <b>8:00 AM</b> Grace Music Academy <b>8:00 AM</b> Music Academy <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School Program Rehearsal <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship & SONday School

## Youth Happenings:



### Awesome Sleep Out at Cardboard City

**Thank you** to everyone who supported our youth during our first time participating in the **Cardboard City Sleep Out for Homelessness**.

We were the largest new group to participate, with 18 youth and 7 adults joining the 600 youth who slept outside in boxes, to raise funds and awareness for the homeless in the Metro area. We contributed over \$750 of the more than \$14,000 which was raised at this year's Sleep Out.



### Okoboji Recharge Coming Soon!

**Nov. 2-4**

Catechism students, get your sleeping bags reading, because it's time to go back to **OKOBOJI!**

This trip is always a highlight of the year. We enjoy great music, skits, and teaching with Pastor Dan. There's always tons of amazing food and lots of games throughout the whole weekend. Please pray for our 68 youth and 12 adults who will be travelling to Camp Okoboji in Iowa this weekend.

### Youth serve at FMSC event:

All of our middle and high school youth are encouraged to join our Grace family at the Feed My Starving Children weekend on Friday night, November 16<sup>th</sup> or at the many times on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sign up with your family, your Catechism small group, or invite a group of friends to join you.

Sign up information will be available at Catechism, at The Dojo, and in the weekend bulletins.



## Children Ministry:

### Grade 3-5 Lock-in!



Children in grades 3rd through 5th are invited to a Lock-In on Friday, November 2nd at 8pm. The evening will include games, crafts, snack, devotion, movie, and tons of fun! Kids may bring a board game, sleeping bag, pillow, and comfy clothes for sleeping. Please do not bring mp3 players, I-pods, or cell phones. Children must be able to stay the night. This is a great opportunity to bring friends! Help is needed for overnight chaperones, evening helpers, and breakfast chefs. If your child brings more than 2 friends, you will need to be an overnight chaperone. Cost of the evening is \$5 per child. Please contact Kim or Monica if you have any questions.

### SONday School Birthday Offering

Our Birthday Offering this year will be going to Heifer International to purchase flocks of chicks. \$20 can buy a flock of chicks which could be 10 to 50 chicks. Did you know that a good hen can lay 200 eggs a year? Birthday offerings will be taken the 2nd and 5th weeks of the month in Large Group. Kids can bring their money from home on those weeks and be recognized, receive a sticker, and a birthday pencils. Our offering total as of October 14<sup>th</sup> was \$17.16!



### November Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace, on

Saturday, November 10 at 9:00am. The class will meet in the Narthex. Baptism



Sunday is November 18<sup>th</sup>, and most Saturdays. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We

will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God. The next Baptism Workshop will be January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. We will not be scheduling Baptisms during Advent. Please contact Monica Allen at [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or the church office to sign up for the workshop.



### Christmas Program

The SONday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 9th at 2 p.m. Our play this year is **The Fumbly Bumbly Angels**. The Fumbly Bumbly Angels are delightful angels who yearn to sing in the glorious, heavenly choir, but discover their debut will be for a few ragged shepherds on a Bethlehem hillside, an enjoyable perspective of Jesus' birth.

Children will practice songs in SONday School. Grades 3-5 have the opportunity to have speaking parts in the play. Play contracts went home with children in 3rd through 5th grades in October and need to be returned by November 11. Please contact Monica or Kim with any questions.

Families please donate **one** dozen cookies for program  
 \*We are in need of volunteers to coordinate, serve, and clean up for the cookies and lemonade reception.

#### Important Dates

- Contracts Due: Sunday, November 11**
- Scripts Given: Sunday, November 18**
- Rehearsal : \*Saturday, December 1st from 9-10:15 am**

*\*This rehearsal is for children who are acting in the play - choir participants are not needed.*

- Rehearsal: \*Saturday, December 8th from 9-10:15 am**

*\*This rehearsal is for Grades 1-5. Preschool and Kindergarten will rehearse during class.*

- Program: Sunday, December 9th at 2pm**  
 (Please have children here by 1:40)

**REMINDER:** There will be NO SONday School on:

- \* November 24/25
- \* December 22/23
- \* December 29/30



### Thank You:

We, at Family Promise of Anoka County, are very grateful for your special gift of \$299.58 from your noisy offering. This will come in handy when we have miscellaneous expenses as we relocate our Day Center. Our staff and families we serve appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.  
 Family Promise

Dear Grace Lutheran Church family:



Hi, I'm Hunter Danielson. Thank you for praying for me. In the last 3 1/2 years I have been fighting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. I was diagnosed when I was

12 years old. I met a lot of new people through all of this. And I value the power of prayer because there are many other kids that aren't as fortunate as me. The treatments took a lot out of me and were not very fun. I am now in full remission and getting stronger every day. The cancer has brought me closer to God, family & friends.

I received a lot of support from family and friends. When I was always at home, my friends would come over. They would ask if I could "hang" and I would have to ask my Mom if I could "hang". We would mostly stay inside. My friends would help us by bringing food or taking my sisters places. They would also help me in school if I needed it. I couldn't always make it to church, but when I did, there was always someone there asking how I was doing and giving me support. Everyone has been very supportive during this sickness.

I am now doing fine. I am playing basketball and other sports. I am doing o.k. at school, even though my parents think I procrastinate. I am slowly getting my strength back and hopefully I will be full strength soon. When I was confirmed this spring, I picked a Bible verse about strength. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." By the grace of God, I've made it to the end of my treatments. Thank you for helping me in my journey through cancer and for praying for me.

Sincerely,  
 Hunter Danielson

Dear Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Mark & the entire Grace Staff:

On behalf of the Nelson family, we want to thank you for the love, care and support you gave us after we lost our little Natalia. The service was amazing and it could not have been a better way to send Natalia off on her next journey. As hard as the day was, it was also a beautiful day. Lots of love and support! We are all so truly thankful and blessed.  
 Love, Ron, Sue, Zachary, Brittany & Blaize

# Grace Lutheran Church

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## **Be Part of Something BIG...** **Serve at Feed My Starving Children's** ***Marathon Packing Event - November 16 & 17***

Grace will host our annual **Marathon Packing Event** at *Feed My Starving Children* on November 16th & 17th. We hope to enlist 750 volunteers and pack over 100,000 meals! Plan now to invite your friends, coworkers, teammates, neighbors and maybe even your distant relatives. Shift times are:

- \* **Friday, November 16th - 8-9:30pm**
- \* **Saturday, November 17th - 9-11am,**  
11:30-1:30pm, 2-4pm, 4:30-6:30pm, & 7-9pm.

To reserve your spot, go to [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) and register.

***Give 2 hours and change the life of God's children***  
***FOREVER!***

