

# community matters



## ***Faithful Fellowship***

It's a blessing to spend time together in fellowship at events like Grace Night Out and our recent Paint Night.

Grace Preschool students are enjoying time with their new classroom guinea pigs!



How can you know if you are getting close to your destination if you do not know where you are going? Bishop Clements of the Northern Illinois Synod has asked each of the congregations of the synod to spend the next nine months to a year reading and reflecting on the same Bible story so that we are all on the same page. We are to mediate on it in meetings and studies, discuss it and listen to each other. Here is the story so you can tear it out of the newsletter and keep it at your breakfast table. This process is called **Dwelling in the Word**.



pastor  
dahlseng

*After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town,*  
(Luke 10:1-12).

Sister M. Wiederkehr, a Benedictine nun offers a seasonal metaphor: 1) Quieting the mind and soul like soil that lies fallow. This helps to open us up to be *Receptive* to God's promptings. 2) Sowing the seed. This is the first time you slowly read the story – a *Reflective* reading. 3) Take time after the reading for *Resting* - to allow the story to speak to you. 4) Reread for a *Reaping* of the kernels that jump out to you. Knead the text like dough, pondering it deeply. Conclude in prayer as you speak to God what you have discovered, naming what remains unclear, and what if anything troubles you (Bradley P. Holt, *Thirsty for God*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005, pp. 45-46).

What is God saying to you as you read and reflect on this story? What is God saying to Grace Church? What are you discerning as you spend time listening and looking for God's leading? Share your questions and thoughts with others who are reading and listening to this story as well. Listen to each other as you share your thoughts. Please share the thoughts of your group with me. I am committed to reading and listening to others too. We will collect and sort these thoughts into clusters. Together we will discern what God is saying to us at this time.

### Community Listeners

Do you know someone at Grace that has the gift of listening to others? Please give me your names. When I first came to Grace in 2006-2007, we had a number of people host me and a group so we could meet and I could listen to you. I am asking for a similar process where 15-20 hosts invite people they know from Grace to their home. One of our listeners will lead a process of reading and reflecting on the Luke 10 passage and gather the thoughts and questions that emerge from the gathering. I am looking for 5-8 people with listening skills and 15-20 hosts who will invite others to come as we pause as church to listen to God and each other. Please consider

being part of this process. This is Christ's church and your voice and what you discern God is saying to you is as important as any other persons' voice.

Please call the church office and give us the names of people willing to listen and to host. Are you willing? We need to hear from you!

*Pastor Brent Dahlseng*

### All Saints & Thanksgiving & Stone Soup

Have you ever read the children's story Stone Soup? I would invite you to do that! Stone soup is the story of a weary hungry traveler who shows up in a sleepy village. He knocks on neighbors doors and asks for food. The villagers, fearful of these unknown strangers shut their doors and offer no hospitality. The traveler finds a stone and a pot, builds a fire in the center of the village and begins to cook. Gradually people began to be curious about what is going on. One by one they approach the stranger and ask what he is doing. He invites them to share his soup if they have a little something to add. One brings a few carrots. Another brings an onion. Still another brings a few potatoes. All add their gifts to the soup. The aroma brings still more to the center of the village. Soon there is a bounty that is enough for all to share!

*pastor  
joAnna*



What a wonderful story of the power of generosity and the willingness to risk and share. What a powerful story about being willing to leave the comfort of home and meet our neighbors around a meal.

As we begin advent at the end of the month we will begin something new for our church. Our Advent meals will look a bit like this children's story. We are calling it "Stone Soup" and we will be gathering in Founder's Hall around bowls of soup (provided) and bread and wine (communion) and the gifts that you all bring to the table. Our meal and worship will be combined as we share around the table. We will still meet at 5:30 PM and worship will begin at 6 PM. We will be wrapping up by 7 PM so if you have young children, there will be time to get home for bedtime!

My most vivid memories as a child most often involve some meal shared with people around a table. Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas brunch, stand out in my mind as times when everyone had a place at the table. Fond memories of my grandparents, who are no longer with us, are centered around that table.

As we look toward the holiday season I know that it can be a time when we miss those we have lost the most. When we see those empty seats around the table we are brought to our grief anew.

The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday. It is a chance for us to gather around the table of our lord and remember our loved ones, and to honor them. It is also a time to comfort one another in our grief. I invite you to come and be a part of that special day.

Come and gather around the table with us.

*Pastor JoAnna+*





## Grace Kids Spring Musical

Informational meeting for parents and kids will be on Sunday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in Founder's Hall

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, January 10th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Performance on Saturday, March 18th

All kids 3 years old - 6th Grade are welcome to join!

See Jody Dahlseng & Amanda Monroe for more information.

## Grace Kids Christmas Program

This year Grace Kids will be doing a "Songs of Christmas" program. All kids are invited to be a part of this and we will rehearse during Sunday School starting in November. The program will be on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Children and family news

## Moms & Tots

Here are the upcoming Moms & Tots Playgroups. We meet every other Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

November 8<sup>th</sup> – Red, White & Blue  
November 29<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving  
December 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party

## Save the Date for these Preschool events!

- On November 7th, the Preschool will host a **Family Reading Night**. Teachers will read stories and sing songs with the group, and then we will make some crafts related to the stories. All families are welcome!
- November 14th from 5-9 p.m. is a benefit for the Preschool's scholarship fund. Take a **Chef's Night Off** and dine at Chipotle! Make sure to mention Grace when paying.
- November 18th from 4-7 p.m. is our next **Parent's Night Out**. Sign up will be available soon!
- December 2nd will be our **Christmas Fun Fair**. Watch for further details in your bulletins!



Preschool news

The preschool students are very excited to have class pets! We had 4 guinea pigs donated to our school recently. Each classroom is working on names and helping with feeding and care of the pets. We are learning some great social and science skills as we observe and talk to our piggies. Feel free to come down and say hi to them any time!



## Grace Youth news

### Save the Date for our Grace Youth Winter Retreat!

December 8-10th

Watch bulletins for details or contact Pastor JoAnna with questions!

The idea for the **Parable of the Talents Fundraiser** began with Jesus' story in Matthew 25:14-30. Many volunteers took on the task of living out this parable in order to benefit our youth summer trips.

The final deadline for raising and returning the money is November 5th! We are excited to collect these envelopes and look forward to sharing the stories of how God is at work in our community.



**Second Sunday** We meet with our youth team leaders and local youth groups (including Grace Youth (9th - 12th)) on the 2nd Sunday of every month from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Katie's Cup in Rockford. We worship, play games, eat and get to know one another as we equip youth to be disciples for Jesus.

Our next gathering is November 12th. If you have any questions or would like to support this ministry please contact Pastor JoAnna.

## Music, music, music!

You will notice some changes both in the sanctuary space as well as in the upcoming music.

The space in the sanctuary is being revamped to include a sound/video console. This will bring the sound and the video down to the worship space allowing much more control from the teams. It also allows the teams to feel they are a part of the worship services. Accompanying the space downstairs we will still have the controls upstairs for the choir and soloists who prefer to sing or play within the loft. Upstairs and downstairs Grace Media has it covered!

Moving into the holidays we have exciting music happening at Grace. December 3rd we will have the Rockford Lutheran Orchestra here to bring us their delightful musical offerings.

The following Sunday, December 10th will be our long-standing tradition of the Cantata presented by the Grace choir at the 7:30 and 9:00 services. The title appropriately this year is HOPE! Please join the choir and a special instrumental combo for this wonderful worship experience.

As always have a smile on your face and a song in your heart!



Does it feel overwhelming to think about creating a monthly budget? Are finances a source of stress or strain in your relationships? Are you looking to learn about paying off debt, saving for your future and building clear, strong, financial communication in your family?

We are gauging interest in hosting a session of Financial Peace University here at Grace. Classes would meet Sunday afternoons in January, February and March.

Please contact Pastor JoAnna to express interest or ask further questions.

*thank  
you's*

- Ed Dreger, Many thanks to Pastor Park, Rand and Jeanette Moore, for their visits, when I was on an extended stay in the hospital. Also, many thanks for the cards and your prayers. I feel I have a great loving family at Grace. God bless you all.
- Woody Knutson, Thank you, friends at Grace, for the beautiful mum that was used at Diane's memorial service, and how I welcomed your attendance at the memorial service on Saturday. Your hugs and smiles made the burden of the day easier to bear. My deep appreciations.
- Kathryn KinCannon, Thank you to all that worked on my lawn this summer. It took a great burden off my shoulders. May God bless you and keep you.

**Prayer Team Update** Our Tuesday morning prayer ladies are grateful for the opportunity to pray for our congregation! You may have already gotten a card to let you know that you and your family are being prayed for as they are working their way through the directory, praying for each family. We are thankful for this community.

**JOY (Just Older Youth) Event**  
Join us on Saturday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Spring Creek United Church of Christ for a concert of John Denver music by Chip Messiner. The church is located at 4500 Spring Creek Road (near the corner of Alpine and Spring Creek). Arrive early. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Free will offering with food available for purchase.

**ELCA Good Gifts**  
Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if we could redirect that spending toward the things that really matter, like putting an end to hunger. With ELCA Good Gifts you can do just that!

Choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones—from goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. All of these gifts can be given in honor of friends or loved ones.

Watch for more information as Grace participates in this life-changing program!

**Volunteer to Decorate**  
We are looking for volunteers to help decorate Grace for our beautiful Christmas season! Join us on Sunday, November 26th at 11:30 a.m. to put all our wonderful ideas and talents to use and make Grace look wonderful!



Join us Wednesday, November 22nd  
Noon or 7:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 - Karyn Bohl—75
- 7 - Mary Sager—91
- 10 - Diane Carlson—80
- 10 - Nancy Hersey—75
- 11 - Hugo Peterson—93
- 15 - Lloyd Rhodes—78
- 18 - Audrey Wooley—83
- 19 - Phyllis Hult—86
- 23 - Jessie Pearson—77
- 24 - Jeanette Halter—80
- 28 - Norma Peterson—91

Birthdays that are published are 75 and older. Anniversaries that are published are 25th, 40th, 50th, and any Anniversary after the 50th. If you wish not to have it published please call the office (815-633-8075).

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 - Charles & Teresa Frykman—40th
- 11 - William & Karen Schmitt—50th
- 16 - John & Cynthia Petticrew—50th

## We extended our Sympathy to:



To Dave Wick and family on the death of his sister, Donna Wick.

To Jeanie Fauerbach, Patricia Snow, and family on the death of their father, Robert Paulson

## Pastoral Acts for September

### Wedding

Christopher Thompson and Vanessa Schultz

### Funeral

Kathleen Beyer

### General Fund (Mission and Ministry)

October 20, 2017

#### General Fund Income

Income: \$487,218.15

Expenses: \$511,804.51

#### Rebuilding Grace

Income: \$56,779.11

Expenses: \$46,323.49

*Thank you for your giving hearts.*

*Mary Frykman*

*Check out electronic giving and make a contribution. We are also accepting Credit Card donations*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Gary Olson—81
- 3 - John Peterson—75
- 3 - Ben Sherven—100
- 3 - Marvin Webber—86
- 4 - Lavon Hiltl—76
- 4 - Marjorie Rhodes—78
- 5 - Hugh Bourkland—84
- 7 - Beverly Farr—83
- 7 - Ralph Jury—88
- 9 - Sandra Knorr—75
- 16 - Irmgard Widell—88
- 17 - Paul Lancaster—80
- 21 - Peggy Jo Sells—76
- 23 - Nancy Schleicher—75
- 25 - Frank Casarotto Sr. —82
- 26 - Gerald Anderson—77
- 28 - Judi Anderson—75
- 29 - Marita Johnson—79

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### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 16-Hugo & Norma Peterson—71st
- 24-Harlan & Karen Holte—56th

The next newsletter will be published on **Friday, December 1, 2017** and mailed out **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**. Items for that issue (December Calendar) are due in the church office by **NOON, Friday, November 17, 2017**.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE

...when members of your family are hospitalized so the pastors may visit them.  
(Also let the hospital know you are with Grace Lutheran Church)

...when a member of your family has passed away so the pastors and members of the congregation may express their sympathy and include you in their prayers.



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## Upcoming Events at Grace

Mark your calendars!



**Annual Meeting**  
**November 19th at 11:45 a.m.**

Please be sure to set aside the time for our upcoming Annual Meeting! There will be a luncheon and the opportunity to hear about the ministry work we are doing together.



**Fall Festival**

**Grace's Amazing Angels**  
**Fall Festival**  
**November 18th**  
**9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Back by popular demand, Grace's Amazing Angels announce their 15th Semi Annual Vendor event! Featuring 30+ vendors and Baldy's BBQ serving up lunch, this is a great opportunity to get a jump start on your holiday shopping.

**Worship**  
**Opportunities**  
**at Grace every**  
**Sunday**

**7:30 a.m.**  
*Weekly*  
*Communion*  
*Worship*

**9:00 a.m.**  
*Traditional*  
*Worship*

**10:30 a.m.**  
*Contemporary*  
*Worship*

*1st & 3rd Sunday,*  
*Holy Communion*  
*at*  
*9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*