

GRACE NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OFFICE: 522-3965 FOOD PANTRY: 522-9707

www.gracelutheran-springfield.org

HISTORIC GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples in Christ, we support our faith community, encourage spiritual growth in everyone, and serve all creation with Christ-like love.

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ *spreading God's Word*
- ♦ *building relationships*
- ♦ *serving the community*
- ♦ *reaching out to those in need*



JANUARY 2020

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that we believe in the 'holy catholic church?' Many will be quick to tell you that "catholic" simply means "universal," which is true, but it's a word with richer meaning than that, and we're very intentional in using it. It can also mean "all-inclusive," which is closer to what we mean. More than simply saying that there's a single "correct" communion among Christians, we confess that in Christ, God has formed a mystical community — the Communion of Saints — that is far broader than any single denomination could ever hope to embrace, united by God's grace beyond distinct theological differences. It's a confession of both hope and humility — an acknowledgement that we trust that God can unite what we humans cannot and that we are given neither the right nor the burden of determining ultimately who is included in God's catholic vision.



Epiphany (Koine Greek: ἐπιφάνεια, *epiphaneia*, "manifestation",

Epiphany is celebrated by both the Eastern and Western Churches, but a major difference between them is precisely which events the feast commemorates. For Western Christians, the feast primarily commemorates the coming of the Magi,

with only a minor reference to the baptism of Jesus and the miracle at the Wedding at Cana. Eastern churches celebrate the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan. In both traditions, the essence of the feast is the same: the manifestation of Christ to the world (whether as an infant or in the Jordan), and the Mystery of the Incarnation. The miracle at the Wedding at Cana is also celebrated during Epiphany as a first manifestation of Christ's public life.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's recognizes the season of Epiphany the period from 6th January until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter. Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated; The color green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. On January 12th we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord by recognizing the Baptisms of that have taken place since the Baptism of our

Sunday, January 26, 2020 between worship services. All active confirmed members should be present to share in this important meeting. The agenda will include, but is not limited to, election of Council members and the 2020 Nominating Committee. We will also receive and act on the proposed budget for 2020.

ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE... All reports for the Annual Meeting are due on or before January 13, 2020. If you can email them to k.gietl15@yahoo.com, that would be extremely helpful. If you have questions contact Kim Gietl. They will be available at the back of the church the weekend of January 18 & 19. There is a sign-up sheet to help assemble the Annual Report Friday, January 17 at 11:00am if you are able. Treats will be provided.



From the Desk of Cantor JB George...

The Morning Star of Our Dark World

After the whirlwind of December activities, culminating in the twelve-day festival celebrating Christ's birth, we come back to regular, everyday schedules. It's still cold and dark, decorations have come down, and the mood has changed.

Maybe, for some, this change is welcome. Christmas can be stressful for anyone, and for those who grieve a recent loss, especially so. Our Blue Christmas service acknowledged that and provided a quiet place in the middle of the noise of the season.

Now we have come to "Ordinary Time" in the church year. The Holy Child within the Manger grows up quickly in the church year, and by January 12, we see the adult Jesus Christ beginning his ministry in our Sunday Gospel readings. There is nothing ordinary about it, though. These "Ordinary Sundays" after Epiphany explore ways in which God-Among-Us, delivered at Christmas, has changed everything.

Remembering God's presence among us is a help through the dark days of January, and God's promises are a light to our hearts through any difficult times. Many have been inspired by the "Footprints" poem, where we find out after the fact, that Jesus has carried us through the most difficult times of life.

Another way of expressing this trust is in the great hymn, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (ELW #308/LBW #76). "For Christ goes with us all the way—today, tomorrow, every day!" and "What joy to know when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last..." (from stanzas 5 and 6)

Christian Education News

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL, ADULT FORUM

Join us each week on the Second Floor at 9:15 am!!

We will have music and opening time with Mr. George at the end of the hall. Young ones are welcome in the Nursery with Claire. Pre-K to 2nd grade in the room at the end of the hall. 3-6th grades will be in the large room to the right. We will resume classes January 5.

ADULT FORUM

The Sunday morning **Adult Forum** meets between services at 9:30 am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Verne and Carolyn Nelson will complete the fascinating study of the science of the Star of Bethlehem on January 5. Beginning January 12, Helen Appleton will lead a study of the ELCA Social Statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust." We will first address relationships, trust, marriage, and divorce. Next will come addressing the ways sexuality causes harm including such areas as pornography, child abuse, domestic abuse, the exposure of children to our highly sexualized society, damaging body images, etc. We will then explore the scriptures regarding sexual orientation.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES



Sunday School Confirmation classes continue each week on Sunday at 9:15 am. We will resume classes January 5.

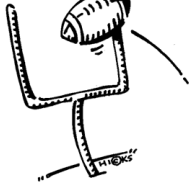
BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY is held each Thursday, from 12:15-12:50. Some bring their lunch with them. Coffee and water is always available. Come join us and together we will see what we find. NO Bible Study December 26. We will resume January 9.



Kid's activity bags... We need people to replenish the supplies every week in the bags. The church pays for all the supplies. One or more members are needed to do this. Students could do this for service hours.





SOUP... On Super Bowl Sunday, February 2nd, bring a pot of soup and/or cornbread to church. After the 10:30 worship service, for a free will offering, you can either eat a bowl of soup at church or take a bowl home. All the money will



be given to our Food Pantry. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those willing to donate soup and/or cornbread and those willing to serve.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Stewardship NEWS

A SPECIAL THANK YOU... The Stewardship Committee and the Congregational Council thank all of you who have returned the filled out Covenant Cards and Time and Talent Sheets to support God's mission and ministry at Grace Lutheran Church in 2020. Thank you to Randy Heidorn and Jean Scherer for their help in assembling the envelopes. If you have not returned your forms yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you. If you did not receive these please contact the church office and they will be made available to you.

POINSETTIAS

If you are able to deliver Poinsettias following worship on January 5, please let Charlotte know. It only takes a moment to bring this gift to someone and they might live in your neighborhood.



Lunch Bunch for January

We will meet Sunday, January 19th, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Friends and relatives are always welcome. Cost is \$4.00. Please sign up on the reservation sheet in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, January 12th. John Enrietto who was a cook at the Red Coach inn and the Lamplighter before changing careers will prepare

2019 MEETING MINUTES

The November and December Council meeting were held.
Further information concerning Council action can be seen below.
Dates to know:

December 23 SCS Children's Worship 9:15 am only (Quarterly)
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 and 10:30 pm
December 25 Christmas day 9:15 am
December 29 Lessons and Carols 9:15 only

- Thanksgiving Eve worship held at St. John's
- Budget was discussed (December meeting).
- One-time bonuses were given to the staff for 2019—**approved unanimously**
- Kid's Holiday Happening December 8—we had 13 youngers, 7 olders, and 4 adult volunteers including Pastor Wayne. Good time
- Caroling— all involved had a great time.
- Food Baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas went well— thanks to all donations and volunteers
- Community Ministry busy—Bell Ringing, Washington Place, Food Baskets. January we will prepare another warming center meal.
- Aaron VonHolten (custodian) hours will change January 1. He will work Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:00am–1:00pm Monday, Wednesday 7:00—12:00 noon with days off Friday and Saturday.

Moved to vote by Property committee-**approved unanimously**

November 2019

Income: \$65,695
Expense: \$24,918
Surplus: \$40,777

YTD 2019

Income: \$334,935
Expense: \$326,170
Surplus: \$8,765

Attendance records (based on weekend attendance)

November 2019

451 (4 weeks)
2019 AVG. TD: 113

November 2018

Income: \$53,741
Expense: \$20,456
Surplus: \$33,284

YTD 2018

Income: \$345,152
Expense: \$353,109
Deficit (\$7,956)

November 2018

499 (4 weeks)
2018 AVG. TD: 119

Helen Appleton

As Christ fed the multitudes, the mission of the Historical Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry is to feed the hungry.

In November of 2019, we served 563 families composed of 1,171 individuals compared to 564 families composed of 1,215 individuals in 2018. We are again on track to serve over 13,000 individuals this year.

Our beginning balance for November was \$27,589.70. We had receipts of \$14,728.52, expenses of \$8,422.52, and a closing balance of \$33,895.77. We were the recipients of \$2,500 from the Community Foundation of the Land of Lincoln including gifts from the Kellner Charitable Fund, the Loken Family Fund, and the Michael and Sandy Barker Family Fund. We also received an anonymous donation of \$2,800 from a member of St. John's.

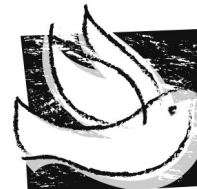
We have benefited from numerous food drives during November. Our Savior's School had a food drive and contributed about 1500 items right before Thanksgiving. Franklin School's food drive collected about 500 items with more expected in December. St. John's contributed more than 3,800 items from their food drive. Trinity Lutheran School had a food drive and contributed about 625 items. There have been a number of donations of fresh fruit from Rotary members as well.

There are numerous community groups, churches, and individuals who donate and have drives on behalf of the Food Pantry. There were so many different generous donors these months before Christmas and I will make sure I include more in next month's Grace notes.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers, donates, or prays for the Food Pantry and our clients. Everyone is needed!

GRACE FOOD PANTRY will be closed from December 23 and will reopen January 6. There will be a cleaning day Tuesday, December 31 beginning at 9:00 am.

JANUARY RAFFLE...Helen Appleton will prepare her recipe for Swiss chicken on page 98 in our cookbook. If you win you may negotiate the delivery date with Helen. Raffle tickets cost \$1.00 and are available in fellowship hall. If a minimum of 15 tickets are purchased the drawing will be Jan. 26 immediately following the 8:00 worship service. Please let us know what recipes you would like to have in future raffles and/or if you are willing to prepare a recipe. These monthly raffles are fundraisers for the



A **spiritual gift** is **given** to each of us so **we** can **help** each other.

ALL WOMEN of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events. **The last quarterly meeting** of WELCA was held Saturday, December 14th in the basement of Grace Lutheran Church with breakfast and cookie packing.

Please note the following things happening in January

Faith/Grace Circle - January 8th at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

Sew'n Sowers - January 11th from 9:00 am to noon in the basement - Contact person is Charlotte Blumle.

Ruth Circle - Ruth Circle will meet on **January 27th** at 7:00pm. All women of Grace are welcome!



BUTTER BRAIDS...We sold 331 items. A year ago we sold 224 items. The profit of \$684.40 was distributed to a number of local social service agencies. One lady bought 10 butter braids to give for Christmas gifts. Another customer who moved to Arkansas last summer called and said her family was so disappointed they wouldn't have butter braids for Christmas she wanted to order some and have her son who lives in Springfield pick them up. Because Thrivent gave us money to cover expenses associated with the breakfast we served when we packed cookies for the homebound WELCA purchased 4 butter braids. This semi-annual fundraiser which we have done for 13 years is successful because so many people help. Velma Lawson maintains the list of 77 non-members who purchase butter braids and sends them emails about upcoming sales. Deb Wakefield prepared the order form. Gene Blade always does an excellent job of packaging the orders. Pat Ekle distributed orders to non-members. She does a wonderful job of greeting people in her friendly way, she double checks every order she distributes to make sure it is correct and she keeps an accurate account of the money as it comes in. Gary Courtwright delivered 3 orders to people who could not pick them up because of health problems. We really appreciate the food pantry volunteers who make room for the butter braids in the freezers and allow us to work around them as we get organized.

TWISTED STITCHERS...Is a group of ladies that get together the first Tuesday evening of the month in someone's home and have an evening of fellowship and stitching crafts (knitting, crochet, cross-stitch, quilting or anything else).





Another year has passed very quickly to me. I can't believe its 2020 already. My mother really was right when she said the older you are, time passes quicker. When I was 16, it seemed like time drug on and on. Now it really does fly by.

Many people this time of year like to make New Year resolutions. I've never gotten "good" at keeping resolutions be it diet or exercise or whatever I am going to "improve on." I am good until about March, then boredom sets in or frustration or in the case of diet -really hungry and give up. As I have gotten older, I don't want to make any resolutions, just try to live each day the best I can and enjoy it.

I plan to retire in June this year and start on a new path that I am very excited about. After 44 years at the hospital it is time to take a new path. I want to take time and enjoy the little things such as a nice warm sun shiny day. I don't want to be hurrying to do this or that and sleeping in sounds really good right now. Making snow angels in the snow is also fun, plan on teaching grandsons that one!

Take care and have a blessed 2020,
Diana

***REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED
THE THIRD WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH!***



MEMBERS HOMEBOUND

DOROTHY BAHRE
BETTY FOWLER

GLORIA GAGNON
DELORES KERN
ELEANOR SAKRIS

GENE RUBLEY
ELEANOR SAKRIS

the Schattschneider, Gietz, and Hatten families cannot express our gratitude enough from our family at Grace and close friends. We are still shocked and deeply saddened. But we know our sister is with her heavenly Father and we will see her again someday.

- ❁ Thank you to all the ladies who packed Christmas cookies for our homebound residents, friends and co workers.
- ❁ From Ilse Nunn how very pleased and surprised she was and would like to thank the ladies and friends at Grace for the lovely tray of cookies given to her on her 89th birthday. So unexpected and a great pleasure. God bless you and thank you again.

Congratulations...Yvonne & Dan Mueller's daughters, Genny and Georgia were presented with their class of 2020 Illinois basketball coaches' association hall of fame inductee awards. Genny was the central state eight conference's girls basketball player in 2000 and 2001 and was the SJR Central State 8 female athlete of the year in 2001. Georgia in 2005 was the cs8 girls basketball player of the year as well as the SJR Central State 8

Stephen Ministry News

Working with a Stephen Minister is kept completely confidential. Consider having a Stephen Minister walk with you or a friend on a journey to wholeness.

How can you receive a Stephen Minister?

Fill out the information below. Return it in a sealed envelope and put it in the Stephen Ministry mailbox located in Fellowship Hall between the office and the Capitol Street entrance.

Name: _____

Phone _____

____ I am interested in obtaining more information about receiving a Stephen Minister.



January 4 Kathy Bird
 January 5 Sally White
 January 7 Nolan Best
 Emma Von Holten
 January 8 Betty Wanless
 January 9 Patricia Casper
 January 11 Emma Best
 Christopher George
 Samantha Gilbert
 January 12 Craig Schattschneider
 Betty Webb
 January 14 Jacob Matteson
 January 17 Nathaniel Benanti
 January 18 Todd Folder
 Andrea Myers
 January 19 Shelly Bandy
 Natalie Jensen
 January 21 Connor Dees
 Jane Fee

January 22 Paula Benanti
 Bonnie Braye
 Richard Carlson
 Chris Dishon
 Susan LeMasters
 January 23 Georgiann Bredehoft
 January 24 Diana Thompson
 January 25 Cindy Anderson
 Deborah Case
 Wilbert Rehwald
 January 26 Gerald Fines
 Kim Gietl
 January 28 Grant Folder
 January 29 Katherine Galloway
 January 30 Delores Kern
 January 31 Vivian Darling



HAPPY BIRTHDAY and GODS BLESSINGS TO YOU!

Random acts of kindness...

- ♥ one of the altar guild members noticed after the 8:00 service all the communion glasses were dirty. The member washed them.
- ♥ two members noticed we didn't have hand sanitizers in all the pews. They both bought some and placed them in the pews.
- ♥ one of our members every thanksgiving cooks a turkey for all 3 shifts at a firehouse

There are a couple of ways to request prayers from the Prayer Chain or if you would like to join the Prayer Chain list.

1. Call the church office (522-3965)
2. Email Sara Oehlert (soehlert@aol.com) or Kim Gietl
k.gietl15@yahoo.com

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY...

Providing Meals for the Winter Warming Center

Younger adults (including those young at heart!). Please save the date of January 25, 2020! We are inviting the younger adults in the church to come together for an evening of service, food, and fellowship. Children will be able to help and babysitting will be provided. We will gather to prepare a meal for the Warming Center at 4:30, eat together about 5:40, leave to deliver and serve the meal at 6:15 (only 5 or 6 adults/teens will do this), and then return to the church for dessert and fellowship.

We will also need a few people to make muffins ahead of time as the Warming Center requests that we provide something for breakfast the next day. Please read additional e-mails and texts that will be sent shortly. You may RSVP by responding to the texts/e-mails or by signing up in the church lounge.

GLOVE, HAT, SCARF TREES... Are getting fuller by the day. Thank you in advance for bringing in warm hats , gloves and scarves for children and adults in Springfield. We will have the trees up through January 5.

Management at the Hy-Vee store at 2115 S. Macarthur has selected the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry to be the beneficiary of purchases of its red My Heart reusable shopping bags throughout the month of January. The purchase of each bag for \$2.50 will result in a \$1 donation to the Food Pantry. Bags are located at check-out lanes and/or in special display areas.

SEW'N SOWERS STUFFED ANIMAL PROJECT... We make stuffed animals and donate them to various places in town. Every December Contact Ministries sets up a Christmas store at Westminster Pres. Church for one day for parents to select gifts for their children free of charge. The sew'n sowers provided 27 stuffed animals for the Store. We meet the second Saturday of every month from 9:00



pop tabs containers. **TABS** from soda or beer cans may be placed in a container in the kitchenette off the Fellowship Hall. We give them to Ronald McDonald House which are delivered by Karen Duckworth. **INK CARDIGES** also helps with their ministry. **GREETING CARDS** - a container over the coat rack in fellowship hall is where you can deposit new and used greeting cards for all occasions. The new non-religious Christmas cards are given to patients in Veterans hospitals. Again in Nov. Maurine and Jim Orr delivered a sack full of Christmas cards for the people in the veterans' hospital in Danville. Thanks to everyone who donated these unused cards. The veterans enjoy sending them to their relatives and friends. The staff at the clinic were very appreciative. All other new cards are mailed to our Homebound members by the members of Faith-Grace circle. We are looking for a nursing home, pre-school, etc. which can use recycled cards for crafts.



2020 CALENDARS - they are made available to our food pantry clients. **RELIGIOUS MATERIALS** - over the coat rack in fellowship hall is a Container where you can deposit old religious material. These Materials are sent to an organization that gives them to churches who Cannot afford to buy them. Whenever our container is full randy & Jean Heidorn deliver them to a local church which serves as a local Depository.



Bleed and Feed—Help those in Need

February 22, 2020 9:00 am–12:00 Noon

We will be having a blood drive in February for Richard's window to benefit the Grace Food Pantry.

Got to: <https://www.bloodcenterimpact.org/donor/schedules>
Schedule your time to donate blood, when doing so please mention Richard's Window for whom it should be directed.

It only takes a few minutes to impact lives.

Deadline for donation is December 30, if you give regularly.

Servant Opportunities

- * Deliver Poinsettias to homebound members
- * Bring in scarves, gloves or hats
- * Provide soup and/or corn bread for Souper Bowl
- * Launder altar linens
- * Serve on Altar guild



FLOWER POWER! When you donate floral flowers, if you wish the worship bulletin to state what event or person you wish to honor or remember, please complete the form next to the flower chart in the fellowship hall on the mobile announcement wall. The new chart is available now and many dates are open especially in January.

THE INITIAL OFFERING... Envelope which follows the December envelopes in our packets of offering envelopes helps defray the annual cost of envelopes. Your help in covering this expense is greatly appreciated.



Attention all Thrivent members... Be sure to find out if you have any Choice dollars available. March 31 is the last day you can designate who you want to receive your choice dollars for 2020. Refer any questions to Charlotte, 546-5573.

Please... If you use linens in the kitchen take them home and launder them.

ADDRESS CHANGES... Please fill out the blue attendance card or the form below to change your address and return the forms to the church office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTIFICATION:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Administration/Finance

Tom Appleton, John Klint, Susan LeMasters

Christian Education

Diana Weyhenmeyer, Larry Weyhrich

Community Ministry

Randy Heidorn

Evangelism

Janet Conrady, Deb Landis

Fellowship

Mary Schofield

Long Range Planning

Gene Blade, Phil Galloway

Parish Life

Deb Landis

Property

Gene Blade, Bob Ellis

Stewardship

Phil Galloway

Worship & Music

Janet Conrady, Wanda Williams

Youth

Lindsey Gietl

REMINDER: Committee chairs and/or secretaries please stop at the work room every week so that you can sign off on transactions vouchers.

Thank you for giving your time.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September-May

Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am

June-August

Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 9:15 am with fellowship following

Our church is ACCESSIBLE for wheelchairs

A nursery area is available at Sunday worship services.

During the summer we staff nursery Sundays from 9:00—10:30am.

Please call the church office for any information.

Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30...522-3965 (voice mail available)

The **Food Pantry** operating schedule is:

Mon, Tues, Thu 11:00-2:30, Wed 11:00-1:00...522-9707

E-mail addresses

shelksohn@gmail.com - Interim Pastor

cmjbgorge@gmail.com – Cantor

GRACE EVANGELICAL
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Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
I Corinthians 12:27

INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. O. Wayne Shelksohn

CANTOR

J.B. George

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron Von Holten

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer