

# 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](http://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 2021

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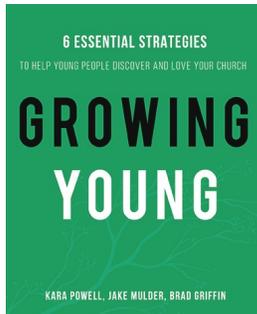
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OFFICE INFORMATION

What we are not doing... yet. That's not the way anyone wants to start off, but we are a people wandering in a pandemic wilderness, and as we place our trust in God, we accept that there are some things better left undone, for now.



We are not going to do the book study of GROWING YOUNG: 6 essential strategies to help young people discover and love your church... yet. While it was nice to have the reminder from the synod, we are wagering that a little more time together, and someday even being together in-person, might add to the benefit of sharing is such an important commitment of time and purpose.

What we are not doing... yet. We are not gathering in-person for worship, but a step in that direction began this week when the first vaccinations were administered in Illinois. We will continue to monitor the guidelines and data, and to provide the most protective opportunities that we can as things develop.

What we are doing. We are missing loved ones. We are missing the ones that we would be with this Christmas if we could without endangering their health or our own. And we are missing two beautiful women, members of Grace Lutheran Church, who were laid to rest this week: Delores Kern and Mary Folder. We miss them, pray and extend care to their families, and give thanks for their life and the life they inherit; thanks be to God. Women of faith play a pivotal role in the Gospel of Mark as well, and we may just take a closer look at that role during our midweek Lent, albeit two months away.

What we are doing. In addition to every Sunday, we are also sharing together in worship created just for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In addition to these worship videos, we are also sharing together in **Christmas Eve Drive Inn** in the parking lots at Grace (*note* that it is Drive Inn, we will make room for you at the Inn).

It is not Drive Through, because it will start at the same time for everyone). **2:00pm** Drive Inn Communion is in the Lincoln parking lot (overflow in Grace lot).

**5:00pm** Drive Inn Communion with Luminaries is in the Grace lot (overflow in Lincoln lot).

Don't worry, we'll get you directed and parked in the right lot/spot and then we will get you what you need!

We will hear the story of Jesus' birth like we have never heard it before!

We will celebrate Communion in the safety of our own cars.

With our windows cracked a little, we will sing "Silent Night."

Remember, if you cannot come to one of these two Drive Inn opportunities, online worship will also be provided for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

with Grace, Pastor Krieger

**JOIN US FOR DRIVE-THROUGH COMMUNION**

**JANUARY 3 9:30—10:30 AM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEING AT 11:00AM THAT DAY**



**SPECIAL NOTICE GRACE LUTHERAN**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



**Sunday, January 31, 2021** via ZOOM.

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 2021 Nominating Committee. We will also receive and act on the proposed budget for 2021. **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](mailto:k.gietl15@yahoo.com), that would be extremely helpful. If you have questions contact Kim Gietl. They will be available via email and printed at church by January 17.

**GRACE LUTHERAN SIGN FOR YARDS...** If you would like to have a sign for your yard that helps spread the word about Grace Lutheran Church, they are available. Mary Schofield has designed them and will be the contact person, 217-415-3617. Thank you

I took several computer classes for continuing education this past year. Little did I know how immediately useful this would be, as so much of my work at Grace became more tech dependent. I offer here a little church analogy for all of us who have been staring at screens all year. You have probably heard that computer users should always keep their system updated. Most software companies find flaws in their products from time to time and release a “patch” to fix the problem. Sometimes these are urgently needed, from a security standpoint, and force your computer to restart that very day. Less urgent updates are sent all at once on a regular basis. Microsoft does this for Windows every second Tuesday of the month, sometimes called “Patch Tuesday.”

I am glad to write the date on this article as January 2021, because we need a Patch Tuesday for the entire year of 2020! The COVID vaccines will hopefully function like that by bringing a swift end to this devastating disease. But what about a Patch Tuesday for racism? Or, is there a “fix” for the war and chaos that refugees like Mary and Joseph are still fleeing today?

Perhaps some of the solution lies in staying open to God’s “updates” in our lives. I attended a recent webinar from the Springfield Coalition for Dismantling Racism. In this, and in many other ways, I need to have updates to my worldview that include the voices of people whose experiences differ from mine.

The words we say and sing have had updates over the years as well. Those updates reflect a recognition that not all voices of the Church have been heard equally. So, we have more examples now of global music, women’s voices in text and music, as well as a general emphasis on more expansive language to describe God. As we eventually return to singing together (I can hardly wait), how might our joy in worship also exemplify our inclusion of others in God’s love.

Our ELCA primary hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, even has an update this year. Just as *With One Voice* (blue paperback) was a supplement to *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green hardcover), the new supplement, *All Creation Sings*, will feature a many new hymns that I hope will soon be a part of our beloved hymn repertoire.

Based on the tagline of the ELCA, one of these new hymns is

“God’s Work, Our Hands” (Tune: EARTH AND ALL STARS):

God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelte'ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your  
name, sharing the good news of your  
Gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal.  
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.



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**MUGS...**We have new mugs with gorgeous stain glass art on them. We will give them to our visitors as we meet again for worship. If you would like one contact Kim in the office. They are \$5.00.

## **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL**

Join us each week via ZOOM at 10:30 am  
We will have music and opening time with Mr. George.  
We will resume classes **January 3**.  
That day we will meet at **11:00am** because of  
Drive-through Communion

## **ADULT FORUM**

We hope to begin topics on ZOOM soon.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**



Sunday School Confirmation classes continue each week on  
Sunday at 5:00 pm via ZOOM. We will resume classes  
January 3.

## **BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY**

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY via ZOOM is held each Thursday, at  
12:10 pm. Some bring their lunch with them. Come join us and  
together we will see what we find. We will resume January 7.



## **A LITTLE BIBLE TRIVIA**

Who was Samson's father?  
In Hebrews, what is sharper than any double edged sword?  
In Proverbs what is a cheerful heart?  
How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

Trivia Key is on **Page 12**



## **PRAYERS OF GRACE MINISTRY**

*"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion.  
Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all  
believers everywhere."*

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

**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](mailto:soehlert@aol.com)) or Kim Gietl





*Thank you to those who have given both in honor of loved ones  
and those who are caring for our community.*

Joyce Abrams — In remembrance of Bob Abrams

Mark & Cindy Anderson — In thanks to God

Anonymous — In honor of Lynn Kennedy

Tom & Helen Appleton — In remembrance of Alice and Myron Pugacz,  
Mark Appleton, Glenn Appleton, and Donna Prentiss

Curt & Valerie Benanti — In remembrance of Clara, John, and Carolyn  
Benanti, Betty and George Clough, Edna Nation and Adysen Lowery

Wayne & Sandy Benanti — In remembrance of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Benanti,  
Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Steffens, Donald Webb and Adysen Lowery

Bonnet & Holuhin Family — In remembrance of David Bonnet  
and Helen Hults

Claudia Cross— In remembrance of Gregory and Christopher Cross

Annie & Bob Ellis — In remembrance of Tom Wilhelm  
For Natalie and Mark

Pat Ekle — In remembrance of Ted Ekle

John & Karla Enrietto — In thanksgiving of our first grandchild, Oliver

Sally & Tom Erickson — In remembrance of family members  
of the Bryden, White and Erickson families

Ann Evans — to honor my family

Faith /Grace Circle — In memory of Betty Fowler and Mary Folder

Laurie Farrell — In remembrance of loved ones

Dan & Kendal Hoselton — In remembrance of our loved ones

Trudy & Cary Israel — In remembrance of Trudy's mother, Maxine Petrick

Corrine Kircher — In remembrance of Frank Kircher

Bruce & Cathy Loyd — In remembrance of Drucilla Edmonds

Carol Morris & family — In remembrance of Marty Morris

Judy Rake

Dick & Debbie Smith

Scott & Gina Taylor — In remembrance of Pastor Jerene Houser

Betty Webb — In remembrance of loved ones

Chuck & Diana Weyhenmeyer — In remembrance of family and friends

Further information concerning Council action can be seen below.

Dates to know:

- December 24 Christmas Eve 2:00 and 5:00 pm DRIVE INN ONLINE WORSHIP
- December 25 Christmas day ONLINE WORSHIP
- December 27 ONLINE WORSHIP
- January 3 Drive Through Communion 9:30—10:30 am

- Thanksgiving Eve worship held via ZOOM including Grace and St. John's
- 2021 Budget was discussed (December meeting)
- Closed session was held. Bonuses were given to the staff for 2020—**approved unanimously**
- Food Baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas went well—thanks to all donations and volunteers
- Warming Shelter meal was prepared by Community Ministry
- Pastor Krieger in the building as needed but can be reached any time

**November 2020**

Income: \$30,097  
Expense: \$22,315  
Surplus: \$7,782

**YTD 2020**

Income: \$308,338  
Expense: \$284,843  
Surplus: \$23,495

**November 2019**

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

**YTD 2018**

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

**Attendance records (based on weekend attendance)**

**November 2019:** 451(4 weeks)     **2019 AVG. TD:** 113

In person All Saints	<b>1-Nov</b>	**In-person 26	STREAM 108
In person	<b>8-Nov</b>	**In-person 23	102
<b>Views online</b>		<b>YouTube</b>	<b>Facebook</b>
Pentecost 23	<b>15-Nov</b>	66	72
Christ the King	<b>22-Nov</b>	90	69
ELCA Thanksgiving	<b>25-Nov</b>	51	55
Advent 1 PK begins	<b>29-Nov</b>	109	341
Advent 2	<b>6-Dec</b>	75	144

*Helen Appleton*

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

In November of 2020, we served 521 families composed of 1520 individuals compared to 563 families composed of 1171 individuals in 2019. While we are serving fewer families, they are larger families and more of our clients are utilizing a food pantry for the first time. More individuals were served in November of 2020 than during any month in the last two years. We are back to our pre-pandemic numbers and needs.



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

We had a beginning balance of \$72,644.91 in our account. There were \$12,602.85 in deposits and \$11,046.32 in expenditures for an ending balance of \$74,201.44. We received a grant from the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund for \$263. \$5,000 had been granted to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and it was divided equally between the 19 congregations ministering to persons with food insecurity.

We also received a grant for \$2,000 from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln 2020 Community Grants Program. Donations were \$500 from the Loken Family Fund and \$1,500 from the Michael and Sandy Barker Family Fund. We are grateful for these funds as well as for the generous donations we receive from our anchor churches.

Both St. John's Church and Our Savior's School had their annual fall food drives. St. John's donated about 2500 items and Our Savior's School donated 2020 items. Thank you!!!

Our volunteers continue to cope with the colder weather, bringing bags of food outside. We are still avoiding having clients enter the stairwell to the basement of the church because of the pandemic. We give great thanks for these extra efforts by our volunteers!

The Food Pantry will be closed December 23 and reopen January 4, 2021.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers, prays for us, and donates. Please continue to keep the Food Pantry, our volunteers, and our clients in your prayers.

**ALL WOMEN** of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.

***Please note the following things happening in January***

**Ruth Circle** - Ruth Circle will meet on **January 19th via ZOOM** at 7:00pm. All women of Grace are welcome!

**BUTTER BRAIDS...OUR PROFIT WAS \$949.00** Because of COVID-19, customers drove up to the curb and we took their order to them. They did not get out of their car. This required a lot more help than we usually need for distribution. Velma Lawson sent emails to 85 non-members who have purchased butter braids from us before. Gene Blade did his usual great job of putting all the products in the food pantry freezers. A total of 86 members and non-members placed orders. On the afternoon people picked up their orders the following people directed traffic, bagged the orders, took them to the cars, collected & kept track of the money: Kim and Katy Gietl, Caroline Haynor, Pam Schlicht, Claire Thannen, Mackenzie Schlicht, Debbie Rigg, Laurie Farrell, Diana Weyhenmeyer, Rosie O'Fallon, Pat Casper, Jan Conrady and Barb Hedden. Kim did her usual good job of handing out orders to people who did not pick up their order on the scheduled pickup day. The food pantry volunteers always do a great job of making room in the freezers for the braids. Deb Wakefield designed an order form for customers and transcribed them to the vendor's order form. The \$949 will be given to local service agencies. Our customers also purchased 5 of our cookbooks for \$50 which was given to the food pantry and they donated \$183 to our food pantry. Because of my declining vision it is time for me to turn the coordination of this ministry over to someone else. If you have any questions about it please contact me, Charlotte, 546-5573.



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



Another new year. I don't know about you but I am glad 2020 is over and hoping 2021 will be much different and better. It has been a long year with isolation and limited activities. When I retired in June, I had all these ideas of things I wanted to do and accomplish not realizing how limited things would be. Oh well that is behind us now with new beginnings. I always love the start of new years with so many possibilities. I hope with the vaccine, life will be made easier for everyone. It may be a while before we can receive it, but one thing I've learned this past year is patience. Not that I wanted to learn but slowing down hasn't been so bad.



Our nurses group is planning an activity that all can participate in for Lent. It is an in home activity keeping track of fun activities you can do. It will start when Lent starts February 17<sup>th</sup>. If there is anything you would like to do please let Josie Anderson, Pat Ekle, Jan Conrady or me know so we can incorporate it into the program.

Blessings for you in 2021, Diana

## **Bleed and Feed—Help those in Need**

**April 17, 2021 9:00 am–12:00 Noon**

We will be having a blood drive in April 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 a previous donation is February 28, if you give regularly.

### **MEMBERS HOMEBOUND**

DIXIE ALVIES  
DOROTHY BAHRE  
CLORIA GUNCH

HELEN MOORE  
ELEANOR SAKRIS

- \* Thank you to all the ladies who mailed out cards for our homebound residents, friends and co workers.
- \* Thanks to everyone for your cards, emails, calls and contributions in honor of my "stay home " birthday celebration. You made the day quite festive. The thoughtfulness of Grace members never ceases to amaze me. Lyn Kennedy
- \* Greetings Grace Family, the moving boxes are dwindling, the dust has settled (some), and the many students in our home are finally taking the breath needed since we have moved in. Through our whirlwind, the people of Grace have humbled us by a warm and kind welcome that has nourished both our body and soul. Your gift of a Thanksgiving meal (and many additional meals!) allowed us the opportunity to stop and gather as a family for a delicious meal – a meal that would not have otherwise happened just two days after moving in! We have also been welcomed by the Grace family through cards, letters, pictures, and invitations to join in ministry opportunities. Through all of the ways you have welcomed us, we have been blessed to have you share a bit about yourselves and what makes Grace special to you. We extend our most humble thankfulness to all of you at Grace for welcoming us into your family with abundant grace and love. We are blessed to call Grace home. We look forward to growing, serving, and sharing beside you. Warmest wishes to you this Christmas and beyond,  
Michelle Krieger and family
- \* Thank you for your gift to St. John's Breadline. The Breadline provides 300-400 meals EVERY day. Your kindness allows us to help those in need of faith, food and kindness.
- \* Thank you to the Krone family who provides candy bags for the Christmas Food baskets each year as well as our Christmas tree.
- \* Thank you to Leona Garrison for arranging for Christmas wreaths.
- \* Thank you for the notes, emails and prayers for our family as we still mourn. Thank you so much for the Christmas goodies of all sorts. I am so humbled and thankful for our church family. Kim Gietl



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

#### TRIVIA Key:

- 1) Manoah Judges 16:31
- 2) The word of God Heb.4:12
- 3) Good medicine Proverbs 17:22



# January BIRTHDAYS

January 4 Kathy Bird

January 5 Sally Erickson

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

Natalie Jensen

January 21 Connor Dees

January 22 Paula Benanti  
Bonnie Braye  
Richard Carlson  
Chris Dishon  
Susan LeMasters

January 23 Georgiann Bredehoft

January 24 Diana Thompson

January 25 Cindy Anderson  
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 GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU!**

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Wise Men  
Seek Him Still



Epiphany is January 6, 2021

What is Epiphany???

A Christian festival, observed on January 6, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi; Twelfth-day.



***Just a reminder as a New Year begins... You are not alone.  
Your Stephen Ministers are available.***

Excerpts from a real Stephen Ministry story about a woman whose husband was facing cancer:

"I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits. It's difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be *my* support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know I was never alone."

*Stephen Ministry equips a team of lay caregivers to provide one-on-one, Christ centered care to people experiencing life difficulties. To contact us, ask Pastor Krieger, contact the church office, or contact any Stephen Minister. Your contact is confidential, whether or not you decide to accept our services.*



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**In 2004 members of Grace...** wrote daily devotions to be read during advent. I read them again this past advent. Dennis Sweatman, who lives in Washington, IL now, wrote something that is as timely today as it was in 2004. "Jesus said when you hear of wars and insurrections do not be terrified. (Luke 21:9)...an article ...discussed world-wide terrorism from the perspective of history...the article documented how terrorism in one form or another has been with us for thousands of years; however in each instance when the threat appeared to be overwhelming, civilization has always triumphed. Thus Jesus's admonition not to become terrified is as relevant today as it was during his lifetime.... We must have faith in his assurances...the lesson to be learned is that through God's grace, we can take comfort in Jesus' guidance, even in the most distressful times." submitted by Charlotte Blumle

**Administration/Finance**

Tom Appleton, John Klint (VP),  
Susan LeMasters (Treasurer)

**Christian Education**

Jessica Thannen, Amy Monahan

**Community Ministry**

Randy Heidorn, Diana Weyhenmeyer

**Evangelism**

Janet Conrady, Amy Monahan

**Fellowship**

Mary Schofield, Wanda Williams

**Long Range Planning**

Gene Blade, Phil Galloway

**Parish Life**

**Property**

Gene Blade

**Stewardship**

Phil Galloway

**Worship & Music**

Tom Appleton, Wanda Williams

**Youth**

Claire Thannen

**Stephen Ministry**

Jan Conrady

**In Office Hours:** Tuesday—Friday 8:00 am—4:00 pm  
Monday by remote

Please call the church office for any information. Phone (217) 522-3965

**Grace Food Pantry** current operating schedule is:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Food Pantry Phone (217) 522-9707



**IN PERSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday 9:15 am (when safe) otherwise join us online**

Drive Through Communion– First weekend of the month

Our church is ACCESSIBLE for wheelchairs.

**E-mail addresses**

tomkrieger63@gmail.com-Pastor

cmjbgeorge@gmail.com-Cantor

k.gietl15@yahoo.com-Administrative Assistant



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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

### **Our Staff**

**PASTOR**

Rev. Tom Krieger

**CANTOR**

J.B. George

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Kim Gietl

**CHURCH CUSTODIAN**

Aaron Von Holten

**PARISH NURSE**

Diana Weyhenmeyer