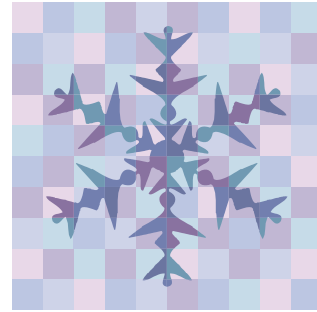

January In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,
Just before Christmas, I was leading worship at Summit Hill Senior Living. Our group gathered to share a service of Carols and the Christmas story. One of the residents requested that we sing 'I heard the bells on Christmas Day.' As I led them in song, I realized how well the message fits our current times. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote this poem which was later set to music. You may have heard Burl Ives singing it on the radio. Longfellow had suffered the tragic death of his wife two years earlier. Then, his eldest son enlisted to fight for the Union Army in the midst of the Civil War. In a few months, just before Christmas, his wounded son arrived home having been seriously injured in battle. When Christmas morning arrived, Longfellow heard the city bells ring out their message of peace on earth. Trying to express in words the mixed emotions flowing through him, Longfellow wrote:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old,
familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet, The words repeat Of peace
on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no
peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong, And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God
is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With
peace on earth, good-will to men."
Each Christmas, we hear the Christmas story
again. We decorate, we light candles, we set up
trees, and we gather with others. In the midst of

all this, do we truly hear the song of the angels?
The Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verse 14 tells us
that angels proclaimed : "Glory to God in the
highest and peace to all on earth."
In these troubled times, where do we see peace
on earth? Where do we hear the angels
proclaiming their message? I challenge you this
New Year, to really look and listen for the
message of the angels and for the good news that
Christ has been born for all of us. A child born to
bring peace, love, joy, and hope into the world
and to teach us how we should live in the same
way, bringing peace, love, joy, and hope to our
own little corner of the world. Maybe, if we all
join in, we will see the world turn. Together we
can work for truth and justice that all might hear
and live the song. For God is not dead nor asleep.
God still brings peace on earth and good will for
all. So, with the angels, the shepherds, and the
Magi, let's still seek Jesus.

Be the light this New Year,
Pastor Karen



Announcements

Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesdays beginning January 5 at 4 p.m.

Our Church Council approved the creation of an enhanced music staff position called Director of Music Ministries. A search team was formed to interview candidates. The team unanimously recommended a final candidate for the position to our Worship and Music Committee which unanimously affirmed that candidate. The recommendation was sent to Church Council for final affirmation.. It is with great joy that the position of Director of Music Ministries has been offered to Russ Carlson. Russ has been serving as a temporary choir director in November and December. His new position will begin on January 1, 2022. We look forward to his leadership in worship and music

Worship on Sunday, January 2, will begin the season of Epiphany, a time which recognizes the Magi who followed a star to Bethlehem and little Jesus. There is an old saying that wise people still seek Jesus. We will distribute Star Words again this year . Each star has a word to inspire you throughout 2022. Put the word on your refrigerator, your mirror, or somewhere that allows you to see your word and it's inspiration for the year ahead. Note the time change for January 2 at 10 a.m. with a long prelude.

Wednesday in the Word – a new Bible study offered weekly on Wednesday mornings in January and February. This study will be offered as a recorded video posted on our Church Website and Facebook page in a manner similar to last year's High 5. Take a peek into the Bible with Pastor Karen and Intern Per Halaas.

Annual Reports for the February Annual Meeting are due in the office by January 15, 2022. Thank you!!



From the Intern's Desk -

Greetings Collaborators!

Happy New Year! And, for that matter, Happy Round Three!

This month marks the beginning of my third round through each of the four churches. While the first round provided us with the opportunity to introduce ourselves to one another, the second round found those relationships deepening and my work in your midst growing. I had the chance to participate more fully in many different aspects of the exciting ministry taking place across the East Side Collaborative. I found great joy this past month leading our joint midweek "Cozy Vespers" where we prayed, sang, and reflected together on the Advent theme of "Light AND Darkness"—embracing God's expansiveness. And I was also so happy—thanks to technology and a flexible family—to be able to be with all of you for Christmas!

As we inch our way towards spring, I am looking forward to "leaning in" even further to the holy work each of you are up to on the East Side. One thing I am particularly excited about is the opportunity to imagine together with you what it means to do "shared ministry"—to answer together the question "What is the East Side Collaborative"? If this excites you too, let me know! Tell one of the pastors! We will be meeting on Monday, January 24th at 6:30pm at Our Redeemer to dig into this work. Encourage a friend to join us, too! As it is written in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help."

I can't wait to be about this work with you—yes, you!

-Per

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the month at Grace Lutheran Church for January 2022 is The Dwelling Place. The Dwelling Place is a Christ-centered ministry providing healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse through supportive services and a safe, transitional place to call home.

Dwelling Place provides transitional housing, provision of basic daily needs, training, supportive services, education programs and mentoring. The Dwelling Place offers the precious gift of time needed for safety, healing, and personal development that equips women and children to live free of abuse.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this ministry. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

Happy NEW Year!

Many of us are thinking about New Year's Resolutions for 2022. The Church Council will be sharing ideas about resolutions for Grace during the retreat in January. It's hard to believe we are entering the third year with Covid. Churches have changed during the pandemic. Some articles talk about religious leaders trying to attract members for the long haul, developing something that is "Covid-proof" and "recession-proof." Pastors began wondering out loud if their churches would survive financially. They worried about their buildings, sitting empty week after week. They were concerned about giving amid sudden job losses and economic downturn. They worried about a drop-off in online service attendance. There was much cause for deep anxiety, and the pandemic's long-term impact on churches may be felt for years to come.

An article in *Christianity Today* describes where the church has been. "In March 2020, as the American public only began to grasp the growing scope of the global pandemic, we suddenly went into a shutdown. Churches could no longer meet in person; many, including Grace, scrambled to find ways to broadcast Sunday services online instead. Initially, many of us thought (wishfully, as it turned out) that the shutdown would last a few weeks and we would return to normal. But the shutdown dragged out for months and months. Many churches were unable to meet in person for more than a year.

Those that have been successful in reemerging from the COVID-19 lockdowns are those that did a better job adapting to the pandemic. Eight in 10 congregants in the U.S. reported that their services were being streamed online, a Pew survey said." <https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2021/fall/how-might-covid-19-crisis-reshape-our-churches-for-good.html>

How might the Covid Crisis reshape our churches for good? How has Grace taken this opportunity to reset and look afresh at the future as we enter the third year with Covid? We have continue to evolve and learn more about what God has in store for us. Grace has developed multiple ways for people to continue to worship and serve. We met for parking lot services, we videoed services, and we continued devotions and music online. Churches in the neighborhood have joined together to provide Advent and Christmas services. The congregation continues to worship, sing, praise and serve God. Today, Grace finds almost as many worshipping online and Facebook as in-person. Think about the most beneficial changes that have already taken place at Grace.

In *The Post Quarantine Church*, we read that God continues the good news and expects great things from us. We are opening our doors through digital outreach. We are finding better ways to gather and be God's church. God's message of hope is the same yesterday, today and forever. We must align with the future based on the new realities of the post-quarantine world. We won't be returning to normal. But we can adapt, survive, and thrive in this post-pandemic era. The author concludes with certainty and clarity. The Bible is still the Word of God. Christ is the only way of salvation. Prayer is still vital. Evangelism is still a mandate. We enter 2022 boldly as God's people.

God has great things in store for Grace. Praise be to God.

Happy NEW Year!

Linda Baer

THANK YOU!

The Congregation of Grace again responded generously to The Giving Tree this Christmas season. For the children served by Merrick Community services 8 jackets, 32 hats, 16 pairs of gloves/mittens, a bike and many other gifts were delivered with an estimated value of \$1,300.00. For the Seniors serviced by East Side Elders \$435.00 in gift cards, body lotion, word finds and crossword puzzles along with many other gifts with an estimated value of \$700.00 were delivered.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the gift of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ. The holiday season was made a little brighter because of your willingness to reach out and share of your many blessings.

On behalf of the Mission Committee and the many recipients of your gifts, please accept our heartfelt thanks. Merry Christmas!



Missions Committee packing up the gifts from the Giving Tree to distribute.

Toys ready to go!!





Music Notes -

One of the oldest carols that we sing was never sung in church until the mid- 1800s. We don't know who wrote "The First Noel", but it was passed on by regular people, not the church. During the Middle Ages, most people couldn't read unless they worked for the church and they rarely saw a Bible or could sing the songs heard on Sunday. It wasn't until the Gutenberg Press was invented that reading became possible to the regular people. In fact, the first big printing project the machine printed was 200 bibles in 1455. It took 3 years to print that many. Reading became so popular that by 1500 over half a million books had been printed.

Singing "The First Noel" became an English family tradition, sung when lighting the Yule Log at Christmastime, telling the story of Jesus' birth. It didn't appear in print until 1833. FYI: This carol passes on a bit that does not appear in the Christmas story—the star never appeared to the shepherds, only to the wise men.

Speaking of wise men, did you know that the man who wrote the words to "As with Gladness Men of Old" which is found in the Epiphany section of our hymnal, also wrote the words to "What Child is This?". That's another carol that nobody is quite sure who wrote the original tune. The tune "Greensleeves" was first credited to Richard Jones in 1580, but King Henry could have had something to do with it while courting Anne Boleyn. William Dix wrote the poem called "The Manger's Throne" in 1865, which eventually was paired up with the tune "Greensleeves" and thus, became the carol we sing today.

Happy New Year to All! May each day bring cherished blessings, both big and small.

FROM THE LIBRARY:

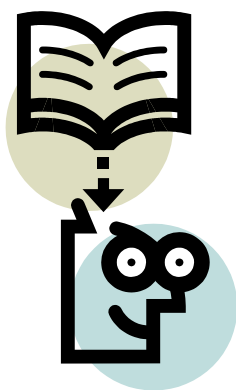
Thank you to everyone for financial and book donations. A new section of Science Fiction books are on the top shelf, middle section. If you need help reaching this shelf, ask an usher so we can reach it for you using a stepstool.

Recent donations:

FICTION	<u>Secrets to the Grave</u>	Tami Hoag
	<u>Deeper Than The Dead</u>	Tami Hoag
	<u>Dark Paradise</u>	Tami Hoag
	<u>Joy Luck Club</u>	Amy Tan
	<u>The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain</u>	
	<u>First Family</u>	David Baldachi
	<u>Saving Faith</u>	David Baldachi
	<u>A Taste for Death</u>	P. D. James
	<u>Voice of the Heart</u>	Barbara Taylor Bradford
	<u>Dead Aim</u>	Iris Johansen
	<u>The Falcon & The Portal</u>	Elizabeth Peters
	<u>A Gothic Treasure Trove</u>	Reader's Digest
AUTOGRAPHED	<u>Dear David</u>	Martha Wegner (RE: son's addiction)
LARGE PRINT	<u>Favorite Fairy Tales</u>	Logan Marshall

Grace Book Club schedule -

For January 6th: My Life and Hard Times - James Thurber
For February 3rd: People We Meet on Vacation - Emily Henry
For March 3rd: The Alice Network - Kate Quin



Grace Lutheran December Council Report

Enlighten Academy: Grace is applying for zoning approval to host the school.

Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project:

The Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are moving forward with a 5-year construction plan for a rapid bus lane that will parallel I94. Our property will be affected. Representatives from the agencies attended the October Council Meeting. Survey stakes have been placed on the property. The assessor has come to determine the appraised value of the land they intend to access. Please contact Monique McClure Hegge or Jim Dike from Property Management or Jeff Gorton from Business Management with questions. The project is scheduled to begin in July 2022

Grace Lutheran Church is the recipient of a generous annuity from Marvin J. Johnson. \$37,580.64 The council will meet in January in a planning retreat. We will bring our New Year's Resolutions for the church for 2022.

Thanks to Johanna Oberlander for serving four years as the Council Secretary and a year as a Council Member. She is serving Grace developing and maintaining our online presence as well. Cathy Geister will join the Council.

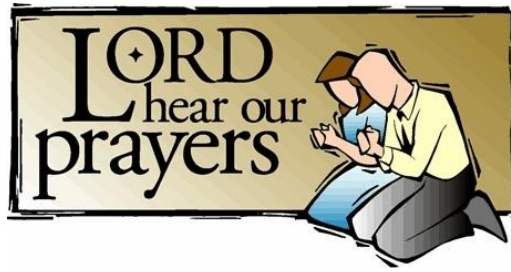
Thanks to John Klein for serving as Treasurer during the past two years. He worked on coordinating budget, accounting for the Yuker Gift, and supporting the work of the Enlighten Charter School. Norm Baer will join the Council as Treasurer.

Thanks to Karin Nikula for agreeing to serve as Vice President after Donn Johnson left.

The Church Council, Committees, Task Forces, music, worship and office staff, ushers, the Pastor, and church members have all served the congregation during these past difficult years. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Our 'Miles of Pennies' Jar has been emptied for the year and thanks to the generosity of many members we will be sending a check for \$ 233.00 to Lutheran Social Services for their Homeless Youth program. Thank you for your kindness and commitment to funding this program. The jar will be out in 2022 as well so keep emptying that change from your pocket or coin purse to help out our less advantaged youth!





We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. Today, we especially pray for Carol Sprau, Butch Nelson, Shirley Walby, Bev Henderson, and those we name in our hearts.

How to donate without an offering plate:

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.org) and click on the GIVE page. This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, mortgage, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2021

	<u>November Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$17,425.64	\$253,885.71 *	\$291,385.38
Expenses	\$22,338.74	\$269,706.42	\$314,401.12
Deficit/Overage	-\$4,913.10	-\$15,820.71	-\$23,015.74

*YTD excludes Gift given in January



- 1 Kaliska Reed
- 5 Susan Lindquist
- 8 Jake Kemen
- 9 Carl Alleman
- 10 Raymond Voss
- 11 Thomas Mohwinkel
Peter Zitzewitz
- 14 David Hunter
- 17 Charles Henderson
- 21 Ed Sonksen
- 27 Brian Jackson
Abigail Westling
- 28 Christian Humphrey
Patricia Young
- 30 Alicia Runquist



Worship Leaders for January 2022 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
2	Barb Holtan	Olivia Childs
9	Jeff Oberlander	Lauren Alleman
16	Jan Steingas	Dakota Reed
23	Monique McClure-Hegge	Olivia Childs
30	Roger Allmendinger	Lauren Alleman

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
2	Team E - Jeff Oberlander, John Klein, Anne Oberlander, Peter Wickert
9	Team F - Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Rich Castle
16	Team G - Brian Jackson, Chris Wintheiser, Kristen Wintheiser, Patty Young
23	Team H - Karen Nikula, Bob Golder, Youth
30	Team A - Norm Walby, Ron House, Larry Carlson, Roger McClure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
2	Amanda Christie team
9	Monique McClure-Hegge team
16	Kate Pray team
23	Amanda Christie team
30	Monique McClure-Hegge team



Grace Lutheran Church
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gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Larry and Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Russ Carlson—Director of Music Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Peter Zitzewitz—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

The word 'jANuARy' is rendered in a 3D, metallic block letter font. The letters are arranged in a slightly staggered, perspective view, giving them depth. The 'j' is lowercase, while the other letters are uppercase.

