



GRACE GLEANINGS

Grace Lutheran Church Newsletter

202 2nd St SE ~ Watertown, SD 57201

Phone: (605) 886-5737 ~ E-mail: gracelc@midconetwork.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m Monday—Thursday

Website: www.glcwtn.org

~ Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Pastor ~

Email: cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com Cell: 605-237-1501

January, 2024

Children Proclaim the Christmas Message

Confirmation youth, Wednesday and Sunday school children, along with the Grace Lutheran Preschool presented the story of Christmas in this year's children's Christmas Program **"Love Came Down"** on Sunday, December 10th.

The congregation adding in their voices to proclaim the good news reminding us that God sent Jesus to be our Savior that special night in Bethlehem.

A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall following the service. The program was directed by Kat Anderson. See more pictures on pg 10.



Meet & Greet Olena Shevliakova, Sunday, January 7th

A Ukraine refugee, Olena Shevliakova, arrived in South Dakota on December 20th and is staying with host family Ty and Jen Moos near Webster. Olena is from the city of Pavlograd. On April 30, 2023, after a night missile attack, her apartment suffered destruction and she was forced to leave Ukraine. She has a Master's degree in Primary Education, Lecturer of Pedagogy and Methods of Primary Education and been a Primary School Teacher for 12 years. A meet and greet is planned for Sunday morning January 7th at 9:30 am during coffee. We invite everyone to come out to meet Olena and welcome her to our community.

We Thank God for Our Volunteers!

Volunteers arrived early on Christmas morning to



prepare for the 49th Annual Christmas meal. Seated L to R are Bonnie Oletzke, Denise Biller, Ryan Biller, and Darcy Raethz. We thank God for our Chair-people: Julie Stock, Denise Biller, Darcy Raethz, Becky Knadle and Gena Urevig and all who volunteered to faithfully serve in this mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. Approximately 285 meals went out for delivery of the 425 meals provided on Christmas Day, December 25th by our wonderful volunteers



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are once again at that special time of year. That time to make a New Year's resolution. We know that means we start the year out with a firm decision to do or not to do something as defined by the dictionary.

Some make a resolution to go to the gym more. Others resolve to go on a diet (that one I make most often). And many resolutions are made to improve their diet, quit smoking, spend more time with family or in meditation, cut down on drinking, spend less time on social media, volunteer more and a list of other things. Once in a while, someone may make a resolution to attend church more. I like that one.

Resolutions are not new. Scripture holds some resolutions for us, especially in Proverbs on how to live a wise life.

¹³ *Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding.*

¹⁴ *For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.*

¹⁵ *Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.*

¹⁶ *She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left.*

¹⁷ *She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying.*

¹⁸ *Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.* (Proverbs 3) and from 19 we read: ²⁰ *Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life."*

Why is it so hard to keep New Year's Resolutions? According to MUIH.edu (Maryland University Integrative Health) "our brains are programmed to seek pleasure and avoid pain." making it difficult to change for many reasons. We aren't really sold on the reason we should change or we have become so used to immediate gratification that we give up when we don't find immediate or nearly immediate results.

Dr. Melissa Ming Foyne, PhD explains in an article, "Why New Year's Resolutions Are So Easy to Fail," resolutions fail because of how our brain works. She explains that willpower take more mental work than actions "that are automatic".

The article goes on to explain how connecting small steps to something you do daily can help you achieve an automatic action that reprograms your brain to seek a new behavior. For example, if your resolution is to read the Bible every day, connect it to something you do every day, such as having your morning coffee.

Timothy writes of resolve, ¹⁶ *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.* ¹⁷ *God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."* (2Ti 3)

We can't read all scripture in one setting, and we don't generally understand everything the first time we read it. Scripture is the living word of God and speaks to us in different ways at different times according to our needs. That requires us to read it over time and continually to let it speak to us. In other words, it takes work, as does changing our behavior as 2 Timothy 2: 15 writes: *Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."*

It is the same for making a resolution to attend worship, to volunteer, or to give more financially to the church, it takes work to make the change. But it can be done by taking little steps such as setting a goal to attend one Sunday a month and then increasing it to two and so on. Or volunteering on one committee or one activity and then finding other ways to offer your time. Perhaps you have given the same amount each week for several years and so by giving a small increase once a month to start you could increase your giving over time.

Putting God and the church first in your life takes work and determination, but we are told in Matthew 6: 33 *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."*

It is difficult to change, especially in this world where self-satisfaction has such a high priority as warned of in Act 20: 28 telling you *"So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock-- his church, purchased with his own blood-- over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders."* And by Proverbs 16:25 *"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."*

So you must ¹² *Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge."* (Proverbs 23) to not only help you with the work of making resolutions of change for the good of your soul, but to help you be more successful to wrestle against the evil forces of this world and the struggles of the flesh, as scripture tells us.

May your New Year be prosperous and filled with hope and love of God to fill your hearts.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

Pastor Cheryl

**Reports for the Annual meeting are due at the office on January 8th.
Annual meeting is at 11: 30 am January 21.**

Grace Lutheran Financial Report and the Grace Council Meeting minutes from December 14, 2023 were not received by deadline.

**The next Grace Council meeting is scheduled for
6:00 pm Thursday, January 11th
The annual budget will be approved
at the Annual meeting on January 21st.**
You are always welcome to come in to the office or call to review or discuss our church budget. Thank you, Kat 605-886-5737

Thank you

I'd like to take this time to thank everyone so much for the cards, gifts, and notes given to me at Christmas.
I always wait until I get home to open them with my husband and so as I am finishing this newsletter today, I look forward to get there and see all your wonderful gifts.
Pastor Cheryl

Thank you



**Planning a trip for the winter—Attending activities and unable to be at Worship?
You can still give to Grace with auto payments from your bank— just fill out the form Below!**

AUTHORIZATION

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

Organization Name: _____

Customer Id # _____		DATE _____	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change payment amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change payment date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic payment			
Last Name _____		First Name _____	
Address _____			
City _____		State _____	Zip _____
Email Address _____			
Payment Frequency: ? one-time ? Recurring (select one)- ? Weekly ? Monthly ? Annual ? Other _____ Date of one time payment: ____/____/____ Amount : \$ _____ Date of first payment: ____/____/____ Amount of recurring payment: \$ _____			
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit payment from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (staple a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small;"> </div>
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit card section.

Grace Lutheran Church Foundation Board Meeting, Monday on December 4, 2023

The Grace Lutheran Church Foundation Board of Directors met on December 4th, 2023, 5:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

Present: Bonnie Oletzke, Joy Nelson, Larry Picht, Rich Dunn, Geri Mohror, and Lindsey Groon. Also present was Peggy Hulscher, and Kat Anderson.

Joy Nelson called the meeting to order.

Approve Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the November 6th, 2023 meeting was made by Rich Dunn, seconded by Lindsey Groon, motion passed.

Geri Mohror has joined the board as the representative for the GLW.

American Bank & Trust reported on the Grace Lutheran Church Foundation investments.

Peggy Hulscher reported the financial summary for month ending October 31, 2023. A motion to approve the treasure report was made by Rich Dunn, seconded by Geri Mohror, motion passed.

Rental Property:

Larry reported that all the units are rented. There were more water leaks in 525 2 St SE and 214/216 2 Ave SE. We had to repair some pipes, boiler and replace a water meter. It was decided to not pay for the repairs out of the Capital Improvement Funds. Becky Knadle is working on the insurance. It was requested to ask Citi Wide to see if we are at market rent.

Church Update:

The Christmas program and bake sale are planned in December. The floor in the choir room has been filled in and they need to get new carpeting installed.

Annual Report and Board Election.

Larry Picht and Joy Nelson are up for election. A motion to nominate Larry Picht and Joy Nelson for the two positions that are open was made by Geri Mohror, seconded by Rich Dunn, motion passed.

Will Morloch will report for the Grace Lutheran Foundation during the annual meeting on January 21, 2024.

Our next meetings will be Monday, January 8th, 2024, 5:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church

A motion to adjourn was made by Rich Dunn, seconded by Geri Mohror, motion passed. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Remembering

Phillip Arden Johnson
December 18th
~

Robert "Bob" Michael Haan
December 22nd
~

Lana R. Norgaard
December 22nd


Funerals

ELCA Good Gifts purchased

The Wednesday family service noisy offerings from last year—



2022-2023
paid for
3 piglets,
3 goats and
3 flocks of
chicks at
ELCA Good
Gift God's
Global
Barnyard.

Grace Lutheran Church Foundation Report

January 28, 2024

The purpose of the Foundation is to receive gifts, bequests, and memorials; while expending only the earnings and the interest on these investments. These expenditures are for educational, charitable and religious work within the activities of Grace Lutheran Church, as well as other outside deserving organizations, who have made application for assistance.

2023 was a very good year as far as investment returns were concerned. The amount of money available for distribution from 2023 earnings will be slightly lower from 2022. Since its inception in 1968, the Foundation has distributed over \$1,600,000.00 dollars to worthy causes on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church. A list of grant recipients for 2023 is available upon request. Applications for grants for 2024 are available in the Church office or from a member of the Foundation Board. Grant requests need to be submitted by February 15, 2024. Grant requests will be reviewed at the March meeting of the Foundation Board.

Foundation properties continue to receive some needed repairs and updates this past year. The Foundation will continue to look at upgrading the properties to maintain their value and make them more inviting for renters. Throughout 2023 the occupancy rate of the units has been high. Management of the rental property is contracted to Citi-Wide Property Management, Inc.

The nominating committee has recommended Joy Nelson and Larry Picht to fulfill new 3-year terms on the Foundation Board. Other Board members who continue to serve in good standing are Will Morlock, Bonnie Oletzke, Rich Dunn, and Becky Knadle; Lindsey Goon and Gena Urvig (Church Council) and Geri Mohror (GLCW representative).

The Board sincerely appreciates the generosity of all donors to the Grace Lutheran Church Foundation. We need to remember all gifts to the Foundation are added to the Foundation asset base, and as the Foundation grows, so does our ability to further the work and mission of Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you all for your support.

Memorials and Gifts

To the Memorial Fund: In memory of Sharlee Kjellson from Geri Mohror; In memory of Sharlee Kjellson from Darlene Bresson; In memory of Sharlee Kjellson from DORCAS; In memory of Sharlee Kjellson from Sherry Jongeling.

To the Preschool: In loving memory of Jim Silliman, Butch Fox, Terry Stefferud, Tom Burns, Alberta Frerichs, Jim Lenards, Andy Hanson, and Sharlee Kjellsen, from Fran Schaefer.

To the Multi-Purpose Fund: A gift from Claudia Frentz

To Grace Foundation: A memorial for Phillip Johnson from Marv & AJ Sherrill.

To the NOLA Youth Trip: a gift from Larry and Janet Little

To General Fund: a gift from Larry and Janet Little

To the Flower Fund: In loving memory of Sally Rondeau on her first Heavenly Birthday December 1 from Pastor Cheryl; In memory of her mom, Sharon Johnson's birthday from Darcy Raethz; Poinsettias in loving memory of Matthew Kuttner from Fred and Gwen Peshman; Poinsettias in loving memory of Roy and Doris Schmelling and Larry Schmelling from Linda, Larry, and Lana and families; In loving memory of their granddaughter Kennedy Tomsha from Ann and Doug Murfield.

To the Radio Fund: In loving memory of Roy & Doris Schmeling" from the Schmeling Radio Fund; In loving memory of Sally Rondeau on her first Heavenly Birthday December 1 from Pastor Cheryl



Quilting is threaded with
SEW many pieces
of love and good designs
to join you together with cutting
edge creations all tied up
with strings of Blessings.

—Join Dorcas Quilters—
every Monday from 1 to 4 pm in
the basement of Grace Lutheran.

Come for the Fun!
Stay for the delicious snacks!

GRACE LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

Grace Lutheran Church
202 2d ST. SE
Watertown, SD 57201
Phone: 886-5737

REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Requests for funding due February 15, 2024

Mail to: Will Morlock at 905 W. Kemp

or leave at the church office or scan to gracelc@midconetwork.com (both sides if written on)

1. Person(s) making request:

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

2. Funds requested for the following project or organizations: you may write on the back of this form (Please be brief but with enough detail so the request is understood.)

3. Amount requested: \$ _____

4. Total cost of project: \$ _____

5. When will funds be needed: _____

6. The funds should be sent to Name: _____

7. Have funds for this project or organization been requested from the Grace Lutheran Foundation in recent years? If so.....

Year requested _____

Amount funded _____

8. Are you requesting funding from another organization for this project this year?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which organization and amount funded:

\$ _____

Signature _____

Date _____



Grace Lutheran Church
Invites You to our 1st Annual
CELEBRATION OF
Love

A night of Food, dancing, fellowship and
celebrate the season of love!

Single ticket \$30
Meal for 2 \$50

Feb. 10, 2024 Social Hour
at 5PM Meal served at
5:30PM
2nd Street Sation
Formal attire not required.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BEFORE FEB. 4TH
AT
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
202 2ND ST SE, WATERTOWN, SD

"Sponsored by the Fellowship and Outreach Committee" of Grace Lutheran Church.

"Sponsored by the Fellowship and Outreach Committee"
Of Grace Lutheran Church

Join Us January 20th, 2024!



Saturday
January 20!

Chili COOK OFF

Make the
best chili to
win prizes



**11:00 AM at Grace Lutheran Church
202 2nd St SE—Watertown, SD**

Chili Cook Off Competition will be held
at Grace Lutheran Church.

The competition will be judged by the
tasters and a panel of judges.

**FREE TO ENTER &
\$5 TO TASTE ALL
THE CHILI**

For more Information
Call or Text Denise 605-377-5106



Merry Christmas!! Another successful Christmas meal at Grace Lutheran Church, we served 425 meals between delivery and take-out. Thank you to all our volunteers, we could never do this without you!! You are all a blessing!!
Darcy Raethz



Upper left—volunteers go through boxes of pies to cut up and prepare for deliver.

Upper right: It's a family affair as brother and sister Lizzie and Austin Biller help with preparing the food each year along with their parent Denise and Ryan Biller pictured next at left.



Below at left is the table for delivery as volunteers wait for their assigned meals for delivery.



Above, assembly line for dishing up meals. Each takes a to-go container and fills it down the line preparing nearly over 300 meals in the first hour. A process that continues until the food is gone.

Another successful Christmas dinner in the books at Grace Lutheran Church this Christmas Day. I want to thank all who made this event possible and all who spent their Holiday with me this morning/afternoon and special thanks those who went out delivering meals in this weather! You Rocked! We will

be back next year 🥰 We figured around 285 meals went out for delivery today!!!

Gina Urevig

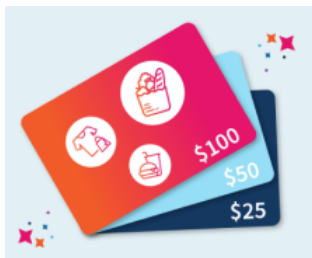
Scrip Gift Cards can now be purchased Online

If you regularly purchase Gift Cards for Birthdays or Christmas, you can purchase them through Grace Lutheran and support Grace. Each time your purchase Scrip – Grace receives between 3 to 5% or more which goes for the general fund.

Currently available at Grace are gift cards available for Walmart, County Fair, Hy-Vee, Target, Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Pizza Ranch and Starbuck. There are over 100 others available online at RaiseRight.com that can be order and shipped to your home or the church. Use this code for Grace: 7B7977AD26LL5 when you order. Kat will be happy to order them for you if you need assistance.



Scrip is a great fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran mission plan. Please consider using them for your next purchases. The cards can be bought after the service or 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Thursday and Wednesday until 7 pm.





Youth Group for those in grade 7th thru 12th
each Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room
 Come early for a meal 5:30—6:15 pm—Dinner Church at 6 pm
OR Just Hangout from 6:30 to 7:30
Begins again January 3rd
Plan to join us for Fun Night January 19th

Youth bake sale adds to Gathering Trip in New Orleans

The bake sale and jewelry sales added \$1161.75 to the fund for the youth trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July of 2024. Profit from the Bake sale was \$998.50 and Jewelry was \$163.25. Thanks goes to all those who provided baked items and volunteered to help with this effort.



Children from Wednesday and Sunday School as well as Confirmation and Grace Preschool presented the story of Christmas, entitled “Love Came Down” on December 10th



The program was under the direction of Kat Anderson.

Grace Lutheran Church

Pastor Cheryl: (605) 237-1501
Office Phone: (605) 886-5737

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 4:30 Tops/ Basement 5:00 pm Memorial Committee meets	3 10:30 am Service at Avantara 11:00 TOPS meets 5:30 – 6:15 Wednesday Meal 6 pm Dinner Church & Wed school Opening 6:30 pm Wednesday school 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 Youth Group	4 10:00 am Service at Stoneybrook	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 8:30 – Traditional Worship 9:30 – Coffee Fellowship and Meet & Greet Olena Shevliakova. 9:45-10:45 am Sunday School 11 am Contemporary Worship 1 pm Service at Edgewood	8 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 1 – 4 pm Dorcus Quilters 5:30 pm BANQUET 5:30 pm Grace Foundation meets	9 4:30 Tops/ Basement 5:30 pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee meets 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	10 10:00 am Service at HIRise 11:00 am TOPS meets 5:30 – 6:15 Wednesday Meal 6 pm Dinner Church & Wed school Opening 6:30 pm Wednesday school 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 Youth Group	11 10:00 am Service at Stoneybrook 5pm Finance and Stewardship committee meets 6 pm Grace Council meeting	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 8:30 – Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 – Coffee Fellowship 9:45-10:45 am Sunday School 11 am Contemporary Worship w/Holy Communion	15 Martin Luther King Holiday Gleanings Deadline 1 – 4 pm Dorcus Quilters 5:30 pm BANQUET	16 1:30 pm Mission Committee Meets 4:30 Tops/ Basement	17 10:00 am Service at Town/View 10:30 am Service at Jenkins 11:00 TOPS meets 5:30 – 6:15 Wednesday Meal 6 pm Dinner Church & Wed school Opening 6:30 pm Wednesday school 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 Youth Group	18 9 am – W/TN Ministerial Meeting location TBA	19 OFFICE CLOSED Youth Fun Night 6 pm to 10 For grades 7 - 12	20 Chill Cook-off Serving 11 am to 1 pm
21 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting Noon – Potluck Dinner	22 1 – 4 pm Dorcus Quilters 5:30 pm BANQUET	23 4:30 Tops/ Basement	24 11:00 TOPS meets 5:30 – 6:15 Wednesday Meal 6 pm Dinner Church & Wed school Opening 6:30 pm Wednesday school 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 Youth Group	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 8:30 – Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 – Coffee Fellowship 9:45-10:45 am Sunday School 11 am Contemporary Worship w/Holy Communion Girls Scouts 11:30 – 4 pm	29 1 – 4 pm Dorcus Quilters 5:30 pm BANQUET	30 4:30 Tops/ Basement	31 11:00 TOPS meets 5:30 – 6:15 Wednesday Meal 6 pm Dinner Church & Wed school Opening 6:30 pm Wednesday school 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 Youth Group	<div> <p>Pastor Cheryl Works on Monday from Home and can be contacted at 605-237-1501 or E-mail: cherylgrace@midconetwork.com Office Hours at Grace ~ Tuesday through Thursday ~ or by appointment. You are welcome to Contact Pastor directly anytime!</p> </div>		

Grace Lutheran Church
202 2nd St. SE
Watertown, SD 57201-4308

Please Expedite - Time Dated Material

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Watertown, SD
PERMIT NO. 537



Annual Meeting January 21st ~ ONE Service at 10:30 am

Important Upcoming Dates

December 31st—One Service at 10 am.
January 3 – Wednesday activities resume
January 8th – Annual Reports are Due at the Office
January 21st – Annual meeting
 Sunday school at 9:30
 One Worship Service at 10:30 am.
January 27 – Chili Cook-off
February 10th – Celebration of Love Banquet
February 14th – Ash Wednesday

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all who helped with the bake sale/ fundraiser last weekend: all those who baked goodies (and they were delicious), those who worked at the sale, and of course, those who bought the wonderful treats! With the jewelry/gift shop, we raised \$1,161! What an awesome addition to the fund so our youth can attend the National Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans! They are excited about the trip, and it's fun to see them talk about it. Thanks to all, God Bless, and Merry Christmas!

Darlene

Reports for the Annual meeting are due at the office on January 8th.

Annual meeting is at 11: 30 am January 21 followed by potluck for all. Due to the annual meeting, There will be ONE service at 10:30 am on Sunday, January 21st. Sunday school will begin at 9:30 am.

THANK YOU

To EVERY ONE who gave bake sale items in support of the youth fund raiser December 10th, those who purchased items, and all those who donated their time to help us with it.

**It was very much appreciated
From the Youth and families
of Grace Lutheran**

Grace Lutheran Church: God's Grace Experienced Daily