

# grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



## The November Countdown... A month of SHARING at Grace!

It's a countdown . . . 500 – 400 – 300 – 200 - 100 . . . Let the Caring begin!

Join the energy & excitement of SHARING God's abundance in our lives during the month of November as we invite ALL the people of our Grace community serve together. We encourage every person at Grace to participate in one or two (or three or four) or ALL of these creative ways to share God's love with those in need. Share your time! Share your God-given

gifts! Share your energy and resources! Here is our dream - and our prayer - of how God will work through us in SHARING His abundance this November:

- ◆ 500 Volunteers will pack meals at Feed My Starving Children – Nov. 22/23
- ◆ 400 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be collected by Nov. 24
- ◆ 300 gently used Coats (from your closets) will be donated to Hope 4 Youth in Anoka
- ◆ 200 Pairs of Mittens will be collected for Sand Creek Elementary School and ACBC clothing closet
- ◆ 100 Volunteers will serve Family Promise guests at Grace the week of Nov. 24 - 30

Jesus was the greatest servant of all. He gave his life as a sacrifice for us, so that we might have everlasting life. We pray that during this month of giving, you will be stretched to share all that God has blessed you with, and in return become a great blessing to others.

Let the SHARING be a blessing to many . . . as the Countdown begins! And thank you in advance for the gift of your generosity!

*“Do not neglect to do good and share what you have been given, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”  
Hebrews 13:15*



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## Pastor Mark's Remarks:



### November is the Countdown!

Did you hear the story about the man who hadn't been feeling well? Tired, listless, and sensing things weren't quite right, he decided to go to his doctor for a complete check-up. Afterward, the doctor came out with the results. "I'm afraid I have some very bad news," the doctor says. "You're dying, and you don't have much time left."

"Oh, that's terrible!" said the man. "How long have I got?" "Ten," the doctor said sadly. "Ten?" the man asked. "Ten what? Months? Weeks? What?!" The doctor interrupts, "Nine..."

Well...in case you're a bit worried, the countdown I'm writing about is not ten seconds and counting! No, it's going to be much longer than that! In fact, it's going to be a whole month-long as we countdown 500, 400, 300, 200 and 100 in our November marathon of **SERVING!!!**

I can't remember another November when we've planned to serve in so many different ways. In the past couple of years, we have chosen a Feed My Starving Children Marathon weekend as a major way to grow our discipleship habit of **SERVING**. Each time, I have been amazed at the large number of people who show up to help pack meals to feed hungry children. But more than that, I'm amazed that we learn a bit more about what it means to serve beyond ourselves. I'm convinced these yearly November marathon serving events have been important spiritual tools God has used to teach us that we have too much, while so many in our world have so little!

And now we want to grow our serving to include 400 Operation Christmas Child boxes, 300 used coats for Hope 4 Youth, 200 mittens for our caring partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School, and 100 volunteers for Family Promise during Thanksgiving week. And I can't help but think this month of serving will make a huge impact in our community, as well as in our own lives. Let's face it, one of the chief ways in which God's Spirit grows us deeper, is in the ways we empty ourselves in order to serve and love others!

For me, serving is connected to following Jesus. One of the Bible verses I use most to center and focus myself is Mark 10:45. It comes as the disciples argue about greatness. Jesus' words to them always cut me to the heart: **"Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

I believe, if we are going to follow Jesus we must be like him and SERVE.

This is why I'm excited about November's countdown to serving! I believe God can do great things in us as we follow Jesus' example to serve beyond ourselves. So...join me as we begin the countdown! 500! 400! 300! 200! 100! Blastoff to serve!!

In Him,

Pastor Mark



## Associate Pastor Steve Thomason

Are you interested in *Spiritual Formation*?

Does the idea of gathering with people from other congregations, engaging in an interactive, action-based learning environment and learning more about spiritual formation in the suburbs sound interesting to you? Do you have six Monday nights--starting February 24 through March 31, 2014--available to gather with this group? Are you willing to lead a project in our congregation next year that will help Grace grow in spiritual formation?

If you answered "yes" to the questions above, then I have an exciting opportunity for you. Next year I will be launching a research project that will become the core of my PhD dissertation. I will gather a group of people from three ELCA congregations to learn about spiritual formation in the suburbs. This group will come up with a plan to help each local congregation to engage in an action project that will help the congregation experience spiritual formation in a new way. This process is called *Action Research* (you can Google it if you want to see how it is used in research all around the world).

The research project is called *Deep in the Burbs*. I will be posting all my findings on the website [www.deepintheburbs.com](http://www.deepintheburbs.com). The site is already up and contains all of the research I've been doing during my two years in the PhD program at Luther Seminary. If you are interested in joining me in this adventure, please contact me at [stevet@graceandover.org](mailto:stevet@graceandover.org). The group is limited to twelve people from Grace. We will have an informational meeting in the next few weeks. Please watch for this announcement.

### History Buffs Needed!

There is another way you can be involved in the *Deep in the Burbs* project. I will be doing historical research on the cities of Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Andover. If you like history, research, and good conversation, then I invite you to be a part of my history research team. We will gather every other week to share our findings, have good coffee, and learn more about what God has done in this area. This team is separate from the Action Research team mentioned above.

### A Special Thank You

I would like to thank you, the Grace Congregation, for your continued support over the last two years as I have been buried in classes, books, and papers. Your kindness and your willingness to let me be distracted by this process has been so encouraging to me that words cannot describe it. Please know that I believe God is going to use the *Deep in the Burbs* project to help the churches in Anoka county take another step toward being truly missional as we participate in God's work in the world. Thank you!



## Church Administrator Ralph Holbrook

Can you believe there are snowflakes in the air? The beautiful colors of fall are nearing an end as we prepare for the onset of colder weather. As we count down to winter, we are at work preparing our grounds and facility. The Garden Ministry Team and several volunteers have been cleaning the gardens. The Property Team has been working on our building. The sprinkler systems have had the water blown out and furnaces have been checked.

The Free 2B Grace Team is counting down on Phase 1 of the stewardship campaign. As a community, we have been blessed with 153 families that have prayerfully discerned and have sacrificially pledged to support the Free 2B Grace Stewardship Campaign. This support will allow us to address the deterioration and safety issues along with our mortgage of \$1.4 million. Please accept our sincerest "THANK YOU" to the families who are giving prayerfully and sacrificially, so we may address these projects.

Please take a moment to check out the new carpet in the Toddler, Preschool, and Nap Rooms! The rooms look and smell wonderful! Golden Rule has been saving funds to remove and replace the worn out carpeting for quite some time. Watch for more changes in the spring! If you get the opportunity, show your appreciation to Tami Mielke, Debbie Wallace, Wendy Teigen, and Jessie Crooks for their leadership.

God is doing incredible things here at Grace! Join us as we count down a month of incredible serving during November! Your prayers and support are vital as we continue *being a ministry of Grace in the Heart of Andover and beyond!*

In Him,  
Ralph



## The November Countdown to Caring:



### 500 Volunteers ... Let's do a 'Marathon' at Feed My Starving Children

Ok, I wish I could run a marathon, but it's not my gift (nor my desire, to be honest). But I invite you to join us at another type of 'marathon' event that uses LOTS of energy with fabulous results (and it's a marathon I can survive).

It's a 'marathon' packing event at Feed My Starving Children on Nov. 22/23. PLEASE join this marathon packing event at FMSC . . . and be one of 500 Grace volunteers to cross the finish line with the JOY of serving together as we pack meals for starving children around the world.

- ◆ **Fri. Nov. 22**            8 – 9:30pm
- ◆ **Sat. Nov. 23**            9 – 11 am; 11:30 – 1:30; 2 – 4pm

Please register on-line at [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)

1. Go to website for Feed My Starving Children
2. Click "Register to volunteer"
3. Click "Permanent site" to register on line
4. Click "Join an existing group or family"
5. Under group name, type in "Grace Lutheran"
6. Choose the date and time that you'd like to volunteer, then click "join"
7. Click "confirm"
8. You will be prompted to set up an account the first time you register, then it will be easy to reserve or change your volunteer spots on line.

If you do not have access to a computer, please call the church office to register at 763-421-6520.

For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org)



### 400 Shoe Boxes - The power of a simple gift!

Please join the all-church effort in November as we hope to donate 400 shoe boxes this holiday season! What a tangible, real way to share God's love to children around the world!

Through the efforts of Samaritan's Purse Ministry, millions of children in over 130 countries have received these gift-filled shoe boxes. Each child is blessed by simple gifts such as crayons, writing paper, harmonicas, jump ropes, toothbrush and hair combs. The boxes serve as reminders that there is a God who loves each child and He sent his best gift, Jesus, to be our Savior.

**Please return the filled shoe boxes to the church lobby by Sunday, November 24.** Shoe boxes will be available at the Welcome center or you may use any shoe box or similar size container. For more information, please contact Dawn Perra 763 370-4869, [dawnperra@gmail.com](mailto:dawnperra@gmail.com).



### New Angel Tree Ministry at Grace

Grace is getting involved in Angel Tree Ministry and sponsoring 15 children this holiday season. We are seeking individuals or families to sponsor a child (ren)

of incarcerated persons in the Minneapolis area .

Sponsorship involves attending a holiday party with the sponsored children in December at Grace, and purchasing gifts for each child. Gifts need not be expensive, and suggestions will be provided, but the best gifts we will share are our time and compassion.

For more information on sponsorship, or the Angel Tree program, please contact Sonja Ebling at [sonjaebling@gmail.com](mailto:sonjaebling@gmail.com) or visit [www.angeltree.org](http://www.angeltree.org).





**300 COATS and  
200 Pairs of MITTENS  
to be donated this  
N O V E M B E R !**

PLEASE go through your closets and bring your gently used coats and mittens to Grace during the month of November.

You will feel better having clean closets, and you will also bless people in our local community who have a need for warm clothing this winter.

All sizes of clean, gently used coats & mittens are needed! We hope to collect 300 coats and 200 pairs of mittens this month. You may also purchase new mittens and donate these as well.

Please bring coats and mittens to Grace by Sunday, Nov. 24 and place in designated container in the church lobby.

All donated items will be taken to one of these three local ministries: Hope 4 Youth in Anoka (for youth in transition or homeless situations); Sand Creek Elementary School (for local students through our Faith & Community Partnership); ACBC Food Shelf (providing emergency food and clothing for Anoka County residents)



**Advent Wreath Making Event  
Dec. 1st at Grace!**

Please join us for the **Advent Wreath Making Event** Sunday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share and we'll enjoy an ole fashioned potluck at 5 pm (green Jell-o anyone?). Then we'll create our advent wreaths and conclude the evening with singing carols together.

The Advent wreath kit, including candles and evergreens, will be provided for a cost of \$12. Please bring your own pruning shears or scissors, and also decorations such as ribbon, pine cones, etc.

The advent wreath in our homes will be a reminder to prepare our hearts for Christ's birth. As we light another candle each week, and as we share in family devotions around the advent wreath, we will focus on the true meaning of Christmas.



**100 Volunteers to  
serve with Family  
Promise!**

We are seeking 100 people who want to share God's grace in very tangible ways as we host Family Promise guests the week of Thanksgiving this year (Nov. 24-30). As a faith community of willing volunteers, Grace will provide lodging, meals, caring hospitality and overnight security for families in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

**Family Promise in Anoka County (FPAC)** is an interfaith hospitality network which provides temporary shelter, hospitality, and case management for families with dependent children. In collaboration with 15 local congregations, Family Promise helps families to regain housing, independence and dignity during a time of need.

**So how can you help?**

- ◆ Be an Overnight Host from 8:30 pm to 7 am one day (yes, you get to sleep)
- ◆ Cook an evening meal for 16 people one evening
- ◆ Be an Evening Host – dine with our guests and chat with families (5 – 9 pm) one evening
- ◆ Transport guests in the Family Promise van, either at 6:30 am or 4:30 pm
- ◆ Cook a Hot Breakfast for our 14 guests on Sat. morning, Nov. 30
- ◆ Set up beds (Sun. Nov. 24)
- ◆ Donate food supplies
- ◆ Donate a gas card (any amount) for transportation costs

PLEASE join us in living out our name of 'Grace' as you volunteer to serve with Family Promise. Please sign up on the blue opportunity pages during worship or contact Jeannie Hellmann, 763-421-6520, ext. 122, jeannieh@graceandover.org



## Coming Up:



We invite women of all ages to join us for one (or more) of the following women's fellowship and Bible study times at Grace . . . a place to connect with others, a space to be real, a time to be encouraged, and a chance to grow in faith and friendships!

**Monday Night Group** – This women's group meets from 7 – 8:30 pm Monday nights at Grace. Experience the encouragement of women while learning more about Biblical truths for everyday living. Contact: Joan Hackleman 763-753-4191

**Ruth Circle** – This Bible study group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1 pm at Grace. Come and join this gathering of ordinary women to learn more about our 'extra-ordinary' God. Contact: Jan Galvin 763-421-0668 cricket2005@usfamily.net

**W.O.W. (Women on Wednesdays)** – W.O.W. meets from 9:30-11:30 am each Wednesday during the school year, with childcare provided. A variety of studies will be offered, as the laughter, learning and 'wow' moments continue. Contact: Jeannie Hellmann in the church office at 763-421-6520, ext 122 or she can be contacted via email at jeannieh@graceandover.org.



The Go-To Place for Moms

Here is a WONDERFUL, local opportunities for women to connect and grow in faith & friendships . . . Don't miss out!

**Hearts at Home Conference** for Moms will be held in Rochester, MN on Nov. 8 & 9. Through drama, music, and speakers who understand the real challenges of motherhood, you'll find your vision refreshed and your heart full. Learn more at [www.hearts-at-home.org](http://www.hearts-at-home.org) or contact: Jeannie Hellmann, at 763-421-6520 in the church office or via email at jeannieh@graceandover.org for more information.



Join the fun & festivities at the **Women's Retreat**  
9 am to 4 pm  
Saturday, November 2

'Retreat' from your daily routine . . . be refreshed by laughter and God's love!

All Ladies --- Please join us at the WOMEN'S RETREAT Sat. Nov. 2 from 9 am to 4 pm at Bunker Hills Activity Center in Andover. The theme of LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE will launch us into lots of laughter as well as deep-heart discussions about living and loving (even with our imperfections). Please purchase your advance ticket (\$35) at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Continental breakfast and lunch (yum) will be served.



## Calm the Christmas Chaos!

Join us for a 'calm' discussion about reducing the 'chaos' of Christmas preparations. Join us around the lunch table, noon to 2 pm on (Black) Friday, Nov. 29 as we share ways to decrease the chaos and increase the JOY in the Christmas season ahead.

Lunch is only \$5. Calming the Christmas chaos . . . PRICELESS!

For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, 763 421-6520 jeannieh@graceandover.org





Join us on Saturday, November 16th from 9-4pm for our Love of Grace Bazaar & Craft Fair! There will be many vendors bringing their home-made crafts such as jewelry, mittens, quilts, jams and toys galore. There are a limited amount of spaces for vendors who would like to sell their wares. If you would like information on selling, please contact Caroline Butterfield at 612-875-3567.



We hope you will join us in a series of Holy Conversations as our church begins the process to talk, share and pray about a challenging topic: same-sex marriage and how it affects our ministry at Grace. It is our hope that the following steps will encourage everyone at Grace to have a place to be heard and affirmed as we consider this issue.

- ◆ **Holy Conversations I** - Was held *October 24 & 29 at 7:00pm*. During these sessions, the question, “How do we agree to disagree and still find unity in our church?” was discussed.
- ◆ **Holy Conversations II** - to be held *November 19th; December 3; January 7 & 16 all at 7:00pm*. During these sessions we will study scripture to find out what the Bible says about sexuality, homosexuality and marriage.
- ◆ **Holy Conversations III** - to be held during the months of *February & March* (dates to be determined). These meetings will help us process and discern what we have learned throughout our journey.
- ◆ **Holy Conversations IV** - to be held during the months of *March & April* (dates to be determined). We will meet to discuss and share all the information we have gathered in the Holy Conversations process for the congregation to review and discuss.
- ◆ **Vision Board Decision - May** - during this time the vision board will meet to make a decision about Grace’s policy regarding same-sex wedding ceremonies at our church.

We hope you will support our congregation with your prayers, presence, and conversations as we explore what God’s plan is for Grace.

## Graceful Seniors:



According to the Grace Lutheran roster, there are 88 senior members at the present time.

Recipients of the prayer shawl ministry are so appreciative of the efforts of those who knit and crochet the shawls, but as with so many outreach programs, funds are needed for the purchase of yarn. As you shop at Grace’s fall bazaar, please stop by the prayer shawl booth so you can not only make a purchase, but also appreciate the efforts of these volunteers. Your purchase will allow them continued funding of this worthwhile mission.

This past month the property team painted trim in the building, repaired and re-routed AV cables in the Nursery and repaired the Puppet Stage that is used for Sunday School. On the outside of the building, painting has begun on the pillars and around the window at the main entrance.

In support of Grace's ongoing outreach with Family Promise, two of our members installed a new front door on their Day Center.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Pastor Gene Heglund leads the “breakfast” seniors in a Biblically-related study at the Farmstead in Andover. The current charge for a delicious breakfast buffet served by the Farmstead staff is \$6.50. The meeting begins at 8:30 and is usually completed by 9:45am. Reservations need to be made for the breakfast and there is a calling committee who does this each month. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Kris at the church office at 763-421-6520. If you are a senior and would like to know more about programs for seniors, call Kris Miller at Grace’s office



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

## Be Part of Thrivent Choice!

Thrivent is excited to announce Thrivent Choice Dollars. All Choice Dollars made to enrolled churches will be doubled between October 1 & November 30th until 15 Million dollars have been donated to churches.



## Children's Ministry:



**Kim DeVries**  
Co-Director of  
Children's  
Ministry



**Monica Allen**  
Co-Director of  
Children's  
Ministry



## Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry

Like our new Facebook page and keep up with everything happening in Children's Ministry here at Grace!



### November Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace, on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:00am. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God. The next Baptism Workshop will be January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or the church office to sign up for the workshop.



### Grade 3-5 Lock-In!

On November 2nd at 8 p.m. – November 3 at 8 a.m., kids in Grades 3-5 are invited to a Lock-In. The evening will include games, crafts, snack, devotion, movie, and tons of fun! Kids may bring a board game, sleeping bag, pillow, and comfy clothes for sleeping. Please do not bring mp3 players, I-pods, or cell phones. Children must be able to stay the night. This is a great opportunity to bring friends! Help is needed for Overnight Chaperones, Evening Helpers, and Breakfast Chefs. If your child brings more than 2 friends, you will need to be an Overnight Chaperone. Cost of the evening is \$5 per child. If you sign up on Facebook you can pay at the door. Please contact Kim DeVries or Monica Allen if you have any questions at 763-421-6520.



### Rockin' Kids Bible Club

This fall, we are going to **Rejoice in the Lord**, as we meet Moses and Jonah. We will explore what we learn through storytelling, music, games, crafts, Bible Discovery, and Malt Night. We will also be learning music to share in worship each month. Children can still register at any time.

#### **Upcoming dates:**

- ◆ **Wed. Nov. 6 – Bible Discovery** – Kids in Grades 3-5 need to bring their Bibles.
- ◆ **Sun. Nov. 17 – Sing in Worship** – We sing at the end of the 9am and start of 10:30 services.
- ◆ **Wed. Nov. 20 – Malt Night**
- ◆ **Wed. Nov. 27 – NO RKBC**



### **Nursery!**

Sunday mornings are FUN in the nursery! Nursery is available at all services, and is staffed with fully trained volunteers who have a gift and love for our littlest ones. We love having your children in the nursery and the younger your child is, the easier the adjustment will be! Two helpful pointers: **Remember that adjustment times vary.** No matter how loving and patient you are, leaving kids in the nursery can be stressful. You have to be willing to go the long haul. **Consistency works best.** Your child needs to get in to the routine of attending church. Missing just one week can make it more difficult for the child and can extend the adjustment period. Try to be there every week. (I know it's tough at times, but do try!)





**SONday School Memory Champs** – In addition to our year long memory work, every two months, we are learning a Bible verse set to music in our Large Groups. For Sept./Oct., our verse was Proverbs 3:5&6. We have had over 40 children put their heart on our Bulletin Board. Our Memory Verse for Nov./Dec. will be Luke 2:14. Check out our video link on the Grace Lutheran Children’s Ministry facebook page in November.

**No SONday School during the weekends of: November 30/December 1 or December 28/29**



**Family Worship Weekend - November 3rd & December 8th**

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children’s Sermon. The SONday School children will be sharing a special song in worship. Children may just come forward when it is time to sing.



**First Communion Class - Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am - Noon.**

Pastor Mark and Kim DeVries teach students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the 5:00 service, or November 10<sup>th</sup> at the 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Call the church office to sign up.



**SONday School Christmas Program – Sun. Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.**

Our Christmas Play this year is **Wee Three Kings**. Join us as we travel through time, to King Herod’s court and see the journey of Kings as they meet the Messiah.

**Dates to remember:**

- ◆ **Sun. Nov. 10:** Contracts due for all kids in Grades 3-5 who wish to have a part in the play.
  - ◆ **Sun. Nov. 17:** Scripts will be handed out.
  - ◆ **Sat. Dec. 7 at 9 a.m.:** Rehearsal for Grades 3-5 who have a part in the play.
  - ◆ **Sat. Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.:** Rehearsal for ALL children Grades 1-5.
  - ◆ **Sun. Dec. 15-**Program begins at 2 p.m. Children need to be here by 1:40 p.m. Please bring Preschool and Kindergarten children to the Nap Room and Grades 1-5 to the Fellowship Hall.
- Preschool and Kindergarten children* will rehearse during their Large Groups. Information about songs and finger plays will come home in November. You may also see videos demonstrating of the actions for finger plays and songs on Facebook in November.



Help will be needed for serving refreshments following the Christmas Program, creating our sets and props, and cutting crowns for Preschool and Kindergarten Children. If you can help, please contact Monica Allen or Kim DeVries at 763-421-6520.

**Congratulations:**



Congratulations to Bill, Jenn & Hannah Hubal on the birth of their son (and Hannah’s little brother) Aaron Paul, on September 20th, 2013. Jenn is our Worship Leader at the 5 and 10:30am worship services, here at Grace. We are excited to share in this special time with the Hubal family!



## Youth Ministry Happenings: Steve Thomason & Tom Baker



### Okoboji RECHARGE!



Our middle school students will spend 48 hours of high-powered spiritual recharge at Okoboji Bible Camp in Iowa. They leave on Friday afternoon, November 15 and return Sunday afternoon, November 17. The theme this year is *Aliens* from Hebrews 11:13. The Bible tells us that we are strangers and aliens in the world. We are called to be different and to shine the love of Jesus to the world. Pray for these students and adult leaders as they spend this weekend away.

### Planet Wisdom: a 24-Hour Turbo Boost for Your Soul!



“PlanetWisdom has always been focused on discipleship, but this year we’re digging deeper into what it means to grow in Christ. As we begin with the basics of what it means to follow Jesus, we’ll progress into an understanding of the fruit of the Spirit, how to break bad habits that keep us from Jesus, and what new disciplines we can embrace to help us become more like Jesus—to really thrive in our faith.” *(from the PW website)*

**Friday night, December 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** at Grace Church in Eden Prairie with *Mark Matlock, Heather Flies*, the *Skit Guys*, and worship led by the *Chris Coleman Band*. We will leave at 4pm on Friday and stay overnight at the Hyatt Place in Eden Prairie. We will return by 5:30 on Saturday. **The cost is \$80 with a \$25 deposit due by Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Register online at [www.graceandoveryouth.org](http://www.graceandoveryouth.org).**

### Grace High School Youth are going BEYOND our borders in 2014!



During the summer of 2014, our high school youth will be challenged to go beyond their comfort zones to serve and grow. For those who have previously attended a YouthWorks site, we are offering a week at the YouthWorks Beyond site in Puerto Rico from June 21-28. This Beyond site offers a deeper understanding of the people and communities we will serve along with the challenges of a different language and environment.

For those who have never been on a mission trip, we will be heading north from July 19-26, to serve in the communities near Thunder Bay, Ontario. This trip is open to all youth currently in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school seniors. Check out the website below for more information and to register.

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Have you visited the youth website yet? All the up-to-date information is there:

[www.graceandoveryouth.com](http://www.graceandoveryouth.com)



### Parents Need A Place to Meet, Too!

Parent University is a chance for parents of Catechism students to get together for three reasons: (1) to connect with other parents and build relationships, (2) to find out what your students are learning in Catechism in order to have meaningful conversations as a family, and (3) discuss difficult parenting issues we all face during the middle school years. Please join us. Parent University meets from 6:30-8:00pm on the following dates:

- **November 20**
- **January 29**
- **February 26**



### Okoboji RECHARGE is coming!

Mark your calendars Middle School students. We will be RECHARGING at Okoboji Bible Camp in Iowa the weekend of **November 15-17**. The estimated cost is \$125. Check the website ([www.graceandoveryouth.com](http://www.graceandoveryouth.com)) for details and registration information. This weekend is an important part of your catechism experience, so be sure to carve out that weekend on your family calendar. More information is available on the youth website: [www.graceandoveryouth.org](http://www.graceandoveryouth.org).

### Our First SWAT was a Big Success!



A special thanks goes out to all those students and adults mentors who made the first SWAT a great experience!

SWAT stands for *Students Worshipping All Together*. On the second Saturday of every month, high school students will *plan* and *lead* the 5:00 worship service. After the service we'll grab some food and hang out in the Youth Room and Fellowship Hall.

This is an excellent opportunity to step up into leadership, take the next step in your worship experience, get connected to more people at church, and invite your friends to a unique worship experience. There will be an opportunity for musicians, artists, ushers, communion servers, scripture readers, testimonies, sound techs, and party planners to serve at this event each month.

### It's Not Just a Place to Serve, It's a Place for Students to Worship

Let's see how many high school students we can get to attend the next SWAT on **Saturday, November 9** at the 5:00pm service.

The SWAT team is led by *Noah Vaillant* and *Kari Trembath*. If you would like to participate in this service contact Pastor Steve, Noah, or Kari.

### Serve Pie After the Thanksgiving Eve Service

Our youth are serving at the pie social immediately following the Thanksgiving Eve Service on **Wednesday, November 27**. Attend the service as a family and then come enjoy the pie. This is a great opportunity for catechism groups and Dojo Tribes to serve together. Contact Tom if you want to serve that night, or if you would like to donate a pie, please contact the church office at 763-421-6520 or fill out a blue sheet in worship.





# Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304  
*A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!*

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*Don't forget to  
"FALL BACK"  
when Daylight  
Savings Time ends on  
Saturday, November  
2nd at Midnight!*

Join us during the month of  
November when we count  
down a month of  
**"Sharing & Caring" at Grace!**  
*Our prayer & our goal....*

- ◆ 500 Volunteers at Feed My Starving Children
- ◆ 400 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
- ◆ 300 gently used Coats for Hope 4 Youth in Anoka
  - ◆ 200 Pairs of Mittens for Sand Creek Elem.
  - ◆ 100 Volunteers to serve Family Promise guests

Join us as we serve others!