

# grace notes

The November Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

## SERVING TOGETHER...IMPACTING the WORLD

SERVING is our focus this NOVEMBER

During November, our entire church community will focus our energy on SERVING! We encourage every person at Grace to participate in one or two (or ALL) of these opportunities to serve others.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”  
1 Peter 4:10



The truth of God's word speaks to our hearts – and then our hands and feet respond as we SERVE! So please join the energy and excitement during November as our Grace family strives to be a good stewards and use the gifts we have received from God. Embrace these opportunities to share God's amazing grace through SERVING one another!

SERVING TOGETHER . . . IMPACTING the WORLD

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## Marathon Packing Weekend at Feed My Starving Children

Grace Goal = 500 volunteers & 150,000 meals

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Friday, Nov. 20   | 6 – 7:30 pm<br>8 – 9:30 pm                              |
| Saturday, Nov. 21 | 9 – 11 am<br>11:30 am – 1:30 pm<br>2 – 4 pm<br>7 – 9 pm |

YOU will make a difference in this world, especially in the life of a starving child!

Three ways to REGISTER:

- On line at [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) (click Join a Group, then type “Grace Lutheran” then choose shift)
- On blue opportunity page in worship
- Call the church office 763 421-6520

FMSC warehouse is located at 401 S. 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids. Please arrive 10 minutes before your shift begins and please wear close-toed shoes. For more information, please call the church office 763 421-6520 or contact Jeannie Hellmann [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org)

### FAMILY PROMISE

The week of Nov. 29 - Dec. 6, we will once again host families experiencing homelessness. Join the team of grace-giving volunteers who cook meals, drive vans, make beds, donate supplies, sleep over at church one night, or dine with our guests. *This is a great opportunity to serve!*

## GRACE 4 RAKAI

GRACE4RAKAI is a newly formed ministry team within our church – and we are passionately striving to listen, support, and love the people of Rakai, Uganda, especially vulnerable women and children.

As you may remember, our church has been reaching out to people in Rakai over the past few years by funding the Bakery Project, building two water containments, and supporting the Nutritional Farming Initiative. And now we are seeking to do MORE – to share more grace, to offer more support, to help those in need. As a ministry team, we are holding close to our hearts (and praying fervently) this verse from Ephesians 3:20 “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is within us, to him be the glory.”

So you won’t want to miss worship on Nov. 14/15 when we share more about this outreach ministry, GRACE4RAKAI. Ann Hill from Feed My Starving Children will give the sermon, sharing a video from Rakai and also some possible next steps for the future. Could God be calling our church members to sponsor children in Rakai, or support the building of a new school for vulnerable children, or possibly even send a mission team to Uganda in 2016?

Please join us in prayer – and please join us in action – as we trust that “God can do immeasurably more” in and through us as we seek to share God’s grace with people in Rakai. Please contact anyone of us on this ministry team – we’d enjoy sharing the stories, the dreams and the passion that God is stirring up within us . . . all for his glory!

Stacy Surratt, Scott Christensen, Sally McPhillips, Taisa Diedrich, Colleen Klair, Jessica & Jason Neal, and Jeannie Hellmann

## LOVING GENEROUSLY - through Operation Christmas Child



Demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children around the world this holiday season! Please join the all-church effort this November as individuals, families, and small groups fill

shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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, coloring books, 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 22. 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

We also have two opportunities to serve as volunteers at the OCC warehouse where the boxes are prepared for shipment to children all over the world. Please sign up on the blue sheets to volunteer on Friday, November 27 from 10am – 2pm or Friday, December 18 from 6pm – 10pm. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. Please contact Tom Baker 763 754-7030, tomb@graceandover.org for more information.

## CIRCLE of GRACE

There’s a special ministry team at Grace, called the CIRCLE of GRACE, with the sole purpose of enhancing the care & connections within our church family during challenging moments. What are we talking about?

Here are some possible scenarios:

- When you’re home from the hospital, the Circle of Grace team will arrange for you to receive meals - lovingly prepared and delivered by fellow Grace members.
- When you need rides to physical therapy or medical treatments, the Circle of Grace team may coordinate rides for you to and from appointments.
- When your family may be going through a crisis, the Circle of Grace will reach out to you with care and a kind question, ‘how may our family of Grace help?’

And when you are feeling strong and healthy again, then maybe you will be the one to deliver a meal, send a card, or reach out to others within our church family – thus continuing this CIRCLE of GRACE.

You won’t be asked to help every week (or even every month), but as the need arises within our congregation, would you be willing to reach out to others and continue this CIRCLE of GRACE by preparing a meal or sending a card or providing transportation when needed?

For more information, and to hear about ways you may share God’s grace through this CIRCLE of GRACE ministry, please contact BreAnn Haugrud breann.haugrud.com or contact Kris Miller in the church office, 763 421-6520

# Serving Beyond Ourselves – Growing the Habit of Serving

## Pastor Mark's Remarks

"*Serving Beyond Ourselves*" sums up quite nicely November's focus on the Habit of Serving. When we talk about serving in some way or fashion, we no longer focus primarily on ourselves, but beyond...we live and serve beyond ourselves. And I believe that if we are serious about being disciples of Jesus who came "not to be served but to serve and gift his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45) then we can't do anything else but serve and live beyond ourselves.

Rick Warren in *The Purpose Driven Life* says it so well:

You were put on earth to make a contribution.

### You weren't created just to consume

resources –to eat, breathe, and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life. While many best-selling books offer advice on how to **'get' the most out of life, that's not the reason God made you.** You were created to add to life on earth, not just take from it. God wants you to give something back. (Page 227)

It's exciting to think in terms of this kind of living... intentionally making choices and decisions in life that add to life, not subtract. There are many who act as if they are here only to gratify and meet their own needs and wants. **What's more, there are environmental, economic, justice, and moral problems and issues which are so difficult and complex to solve, that if we don't have more people, and specifically Christians making a concerted effort to focus beyond ourselves, then we will consume and consume, and consume some more until we reach a point of no return and face a disastrous future.**

It's refreshing to admit, but the older I get the more I want to make a difference in the world. I don't know how many more years the Lord will give me, but when I read a Bible

verse like: "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life," I hear God calling me to a WAY of life...a way of living beyond myself.



I want to do everything I can to make a real difference. In a hundred years, no one will care that I bought and cared for a home in Andover, Minnesota. I'm sure that in a hundred years, no one will know the hours I put into my gardens or the hours I spent in reading my science fiction books or even all the time and money I invested in my pastoral library. But I do believe that **the time I have invested in Jesus' name to help care for others, tell them about God's love, and listen to people in crisis will bear all kinds of fruit which will**

make a real difference now as well as in a hundred years.

During this month, I would ask you to do several things as we focus on SERVING...choose one or two:

- Make a real effort to attend worship and hear some inspiring messages about serving.
- Sign up for our culminating Servant Event – Feed My Starving Children on November 20th & 21st.
- Pick up a Feed My Starving Children M&M Candy Tube and fill it with quarters.
- Choose one person at work, school, or in your neighborhood that you can serve in a significant way.

And may you join me in praying for the Lord to teach us all about "serving beyond ourselves!"

In Him,

Pastor Mark

## Thanks for the Art Show

We need to give a special thanks to all the artists who contributed to the Octoberfest Art Show last month. It was wonderful to see the wide range of media and the wide range of ages represented in the artwork. We hope this will be the first annual art show. Please take a moment to give special thanks to Gayle Pacholl and Carla Renner for taking charge of the show and making it happen!



Speaking of art, everyone is invited to join the Art of Grace group on the first Thursday of every month. The Art of Grace is a community of creative people who gather together to explore how we can use our God-given gifts of creativity to experience God's presence in the world and share God's love and grace with our neighbors. Each month we highlight one creative person who shares his or her creative process. We also dream about how we can expand our creativity to connect with God, our congregation, and our community.

## Fuel for Service

Our theme this month is service. That is one of the 7 Habits of Effective Disciples. While service is absolutely vital to our spiritual formation, I want to continually remind you to keep up your Bible Reading and prayer time. Think of it like this: Service is the activity and Bible Study and Prayer is the food that fuels the activity.

We provide a daily readings schedule on the website that will help you fill the gaps between the weekend sermons. The reading schedule is updated by Sunday evening each week. Visit the reading schedule on the church website under Resources>Narrative Lectionary Devotions (<http://www.graceandover.org/resources/devotions/>)

May you continue to cultivate the soil of your heart so that **God's Promise of new life can grow and bear fruit through your acts of service this month.**

Pastor Steve

## Youth Ministry News

### 2016 Summer Youth Mission Trip Information:

Details for our two mission trips for next summer are now posted on the Mission Trips page and will be available in the Youth Office.

Please look over our opportunities for your son/daughter to grow and serve with us next summer.

There will be a meeting for parents on Wednesday, November 18 at 7pm in the narthex to outline our plans and discuss any questions you have prior to the registration deadline. If you cannot attend please contact Tom Baker ASAP....space is limited for both adventures!

The registration deadline for both trips is Sunday, November 29.

- Lincoln County, West Virginia High School Adventure is July 23-30
- Lake Traverse, South Dakota Adventure for 7th – 9th grades is June 25 – July 1



### Your Story So Far:

Planet Wisdom 2015 is December 4 & 5

PW is a gathering of students for a great mix of teaching, worship, laughter, and fun as we get away to grow together and discover our part in God's unfolding story.

2015 Theme: Quest: Discovering Myself in the Light of Christ

Teenagers are on a quest to understand who they are and **where they belong. It's not until teens see themselves through Jesus—and what he did on the cross—that they can truly understand who they were created to be and why they matter.**

This year it happens at Grace Church in Eden Prairie on Friday night and Saturday, December 4th and 5th. We will leave Grace at 4pm, and stop for dinner on our way to the event. We will stay overnight in Eden Prairie at a hotel and will return home on Saturday around 5:30pm.

Cost is \$95 and you will need money for 2 meals. Pick up a registration form in the Youth office, at Dojo, or download from the youth website. Registrations are due by Sunday November 15th.



## Connect Class

Are you new to Grace, looking to connect on a deeper level or seeking Membership at Grace? If you are, join us for a delicious dinner, delightful conversation, and a time to learn more about Grace and the ministry areas we serve. The next Connect Class will take place on Sunday, December 6, 5:00-7:30pm. Please let us know if you are planning on coming by calling the church office at 763-421-6520. You can also sign up on the blue opportunity sheets found in your weekly bulletins, or e-mail me at [katem@graceandover.org](mailto:katem@graceandover.org). I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the Connect Class.



## Special Advent Choir

Advent and Christmas are coming, and the Grace Choir would love to have you join us

to help celebrate the season. We'll be presenting a special time of Celebration in Music the 3rd week of Advent (Dec. 12 and 13) during all of the Worship services, and we'd love to have you participate. You are invited to join the choir during the months of November and December to prepare. We will also have some Saturday rehearsals (Nov. 21, 10am-noon; Dec 5, 10am-noon; Dec. 12, 2:30pm-4:00pm), so if you cannot make many Wednesday rehearsals, you still will have the opportunity to participate. Please let Jonathan Orwig [JonathanO@graceandover.org](mailto:JonathanO@graceandover.org) or Doreen Hutchings [dlhsing2me@gmail.com](mailto:dlhsing2me@gmail.com) know if you are planning to join us so we can have music set aside for you.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving meal preparation and join us on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm for Worship, followed by a pie social hosted this year by our Youth Ministry team. Our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service is a wonderful time to reflect on the many blessings we have received as a nation, a church and a family. We hope you will join us as we Worship and give thanks to God, then enjoy a time of fellowship with our Grace family and friends and have some great pies too.

**Please note:** Catechism and Rockin' Kids Bible Club will not meet on Wednesday, November 25. The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving. Also, SONday School will not meet on Saturday, November 28th or Sunday, November 29, and Senior High DOJO will not meet on Sunday, November 29.



## The "Love of Grace" Bazaar

Plan now to bring your friends and enjoy the creative crafts, holiday shopping and festive food at our "Love of Grace" Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 am – 3 pm.

This is more than a craft fair . . . more than a holiday bazaar – it's an opportunity to share God's grace with our local community as we welcome vendors and visitors into our building. Also, proceeds of the "Love of Grace" Bazaar will support 'a little bit of grace' fund at Sand Creek School, established by our church to assist students and families in need within our local community.

THANKS for joining us as we share more of God's incredible, amazing, unending grace at the "Love of Grace" Bazaar!



The Women's Retreat will be Sat. Nov. 7 at Bunker Hills Activity Center in Andover, from 9 am to 4 pm.

REconnect with yourself, God and others as you enjoy a day away to refresh & recharge. Feel free to bring a friend with you – or come to meet new friends – as we grow in faith & friendship together!

Tickets are only \$20, with continental breakfast and lunch included. Please purchase your tickets at the Welcome Center or church office. For more information, contact Jeannie Hellmann 763 421-6520, ext. 122 [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org).

## A Word from Vision Board

### Mission vs. Missional: What in the World are We Talking About?

You may have heard some talk of this whole “mission vs. missional” idea. As a Vision Board, we are asking the question: “How can we become a missional church?” For many of you, the two words may seem synonymous. They did to me too! The distinction is subtle, but very important. Mission is nothing new. Churches have been doing mission work for hundreds of years. In this context, mission involves the idea that we have what you need and we will serve and help you. This is great in that it often involves selfless giving in serving and helping others. The down side to focusing only on mission is that it can and is often done at an arm’s length, without getting too involved relationally. We can often view ourselves as having it all without recognizing what those we serve have to offer.

Missional, however, is slightly different in that it involves recognizing that God is at work in everything and through everything. It involves the realization that those we serve have just as much, and possibly more to give. It is about ordinary people fostering relationships with other ordinary people, both inside and outside the church, and recognizing that God is working in and around each of us. It takes away the “us” versus “them” mentality.

I experienced the difference between mission and missional when I went to Haiti back in 2012. I went thinking that I was going to be the “hands and feet” of Jesus. I was going to serve people who didn’t have anything. I would carry rocks, sift sand, help build playsets, and serve a meal because that is what they needed. I was giving and they were receiving. Wow! I couldn’t have been more wrong. They didn’t need me to sift rocks (the Haitian workers were far faster than me!) They didn’t need me to serve a meal (I’m pretty sure they would have eaten that meal without me!) What they needed was to get to know me. And the really cool thing is that I needed to get to know them! It was the relationships we built with the Haitians that made it a rich experience. Don’t get me wrong, Haitians are very poor. When it comes to material possessions, they have next to nothing. But what amazed me so much was how rich they were in many other ways. Their sense of community, willingness to give even when they have so little, and their unwavering faith in God to meet their day-to-day needs, are just a few examples. I learned so much from them and God worked through them to bless me.

In this month of November, Grace will be focused on service and will provide many opportunities for all of us to serve in some capacity. From Operation Christmas Child to Feed My Starving Children, my hope and prayer is that I can approach these opportunities with a missional mindset. A mindset that is focused less on what God is doing through me and more on what God is doing through those around me.

Blessings,

Tari Yates



### Advent Wreath Making Event

Please join us for the Advent Wreath Making Event Sunday, November 29th from 5 to 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share and we’ll enjoy an old-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.

Please join us as we make our Advent Wreaths. Sign up on the opportunity pages in bulletin or call the church office 763-421-6520. For more information, please contact Jessie Crooks, JessieCrooks@gmail.com



### SONday School Birthday Offering

Our Birthday Offering this year will be going to Heifer International to purchase flocks of chicks. \$20 can buy a flock of chicks which could be 10 to 50 chicks.



Did you know that a good hen can lay 200 eggs a year? Birthday offerings will be taken the 2-5 weeks of the month in Large Group. Kids can bring their money from home on those weeks and be recognized, get a chick on the door, and a birthday pencils.

## November News



No SONday School Week-ends

- November 28/29
- December 26/27

### Rockin' Kids Bible Club

Our Secret Agent adventures continue. In November, we will learn about Choices, Generosity, and Bible Training. Through our Chief Talks, Bible Story, and Unpack Sessions, we will see how we can live our lives for Jesus and serve Him faithfully with what we say and the choices we make.



### Dates to Remember:

- November 8 – RKBC sings in Worship – Meet in Room 106 at 9:35 to rehearse and we will sing at the end of the 9 a.m. and the beginning of the 10:30 Services.
- November 25 – No RKBC
- December 9– Christmas Party and last RKBC of 2015.
- January 6 – RKBC winter quarter begins

### Baptism Workshop Saturday, January at 9 am

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. During the workshop, we learn how God is at work in baptism. Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith. We will also share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God.



Baptism Sunday will be January 17 and Families can schedule baptisms at either the 9 am or 10:30 Worship Services. Baptisms can also be scheduled for most Saturday Night Worships as well. Please contact Monica Allen at [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

### November Bible Verses

Each month, we memorize Bible verses. For Grades 2-5, our Bible Verse is Micah 6:8. **“What does the Lord Require of You but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”** Our Bible stories this month focus on Bible Heroes who stand for God like Esther, Hezekiah, and Josiah. It isn't always easy, but God calls us to make choices that reflect justice and kindness. We do this not for ourselves, but for God so that he may be seen by others through us.





# SONday School Christmas Program – Sunday, December 20 at 2 p.m.

Contracts and information for Grades 2-5 went home October 25th. Kids wanting a speaking or non-speaking part for the program need to return their contracts by November 15. Scripts will be given to kids on November 22.

## Dates to remember:

REHEARSAL: Sat. December 12, 9-10:30 a.m. This rehearsal is for children with speaking and non-speaking parts only.

REHEARSAL: Sat. December 19, 9-10:30 a.m. This rehearsal is for Grades 2-5.

PROGRAM: Sunday, December 20 2 p.m. (Please have children here by 1:40)

Preschool and Kindergarten children will rehearse during their Large Groups. Information about songs and finger plays will come home in November.



Help will be needed for serving refreshments following the Christmas Program, creating our sets and props. If you can help, please contact Monica Allen or Kim DeVries.



## Grade 3-5 Lock In

### Family Worship Weekend December 6



#### When:

Friday, November 7, at 8 p.m. -  
Saturday, November 8, at 8 a.m.

#### Who:

Kids in Grades 3-5 and their friends



Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon.

#### Cost:

\$5 includes snack and breakfast

Secret Agents your mission begins at 8 pm. Come dressed. **No PJ's until bedtime. We will spend an evening in training exercises.** From decoding, finger print analysis, and yes, you will work your first case.

Mission Supplies: Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, comfy clothes for sleeping, and friends. Families, who invite more than 2 friends, will need to have their parents be an overnight chaperone.

Do not bring: video games, cell phones, I-pods, mp3 players.

#### \*\*Help is needed for

- Overnight Chaperones
- Evening Helpers
- Breakfast Chefs



#### **“Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry”**

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

You and families will find:

- Weekly lesson reviews for families
- Newsletters from SONday School
- Updates from Rockin Kids Bible Club
- Latest events happening in Children's Ministry

# 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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- 3rd - 5th Grade Lock-In - 8 am
- Okoboji Catechism Retreat - Friday, Saturday, & Sunday - November 13-15
- Grace Bazaar - Saturday - November 14th - 9 am - 3 pm
- Feed My Starving Children Marathon Serving Event - November 20 at 6 pm & 8 pm & November 21 at 9, 11:30 am, 2 pm, 7 pm.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Social - Wednesday - November 25 at 7 pm
- Advent Wreath Potluck - Sunday - November 29 at 5 pm