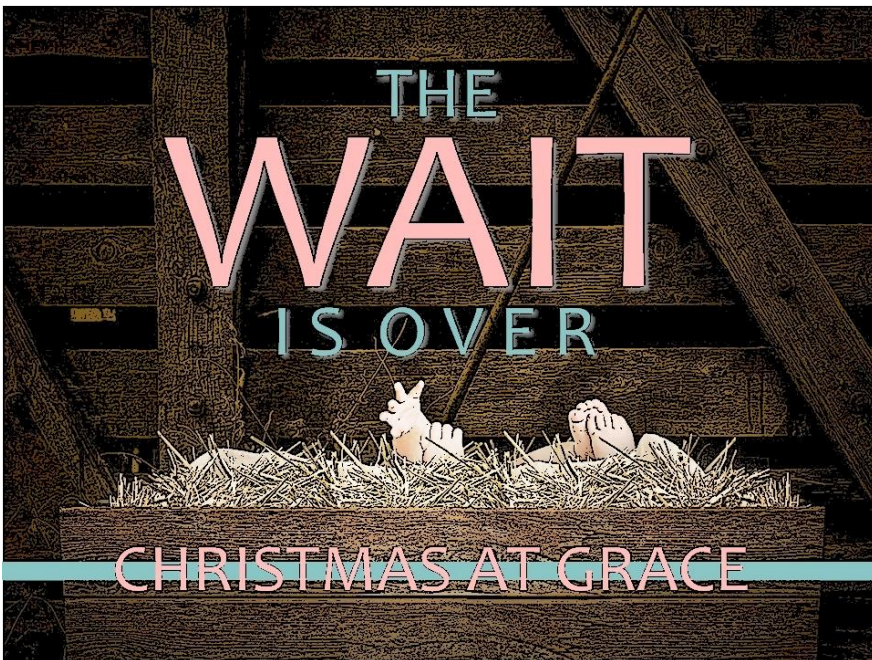


# grace notes

The December 2015 Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

## THE WAIT IS OVER

### Christmas at Grace



Advent... it's all about the LONG wait of winter as we count down the days before Christmas. In the midst of all the hectic preparations, we wait like expectant parents for the birth of a child. It's a hard wait! It's a wait of darkness! It's a challenging wait! But is it a good wait?

There is so much to do, isn't there! We want to avoid the Advent waiting when we're so busy with holiday preparations! There are cards to be addressed and mailed. Our homes wait to be decorated both outside and inside. Packages and gifts have to be bought and wrapped while we also try to bake cookies and prepare Christmas treats. Then there's the trees to be bought and decorated! Family gatherings have to be planned. Whew! Who has time to wait with all that has to be done!

In all this busyness, we invite you to take time to come to church each week and pause for just an hour or two to worship and prepare for Jesus' birth. As we focus each week on how God's people waited for the promise of the Savior of the world, perhaps we too can use these weeks of waiting to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas once more.

For those who are new to Grace, we celebrate Christmas in a "big way." We have five different worship services on Christmas Eve to give everyone an

opportunity to include worship amid all the family activities. Here is a brief summary:

- Family Services (2:00 & 4:00 pm) which offer an extended children's sermon and a special gift for children.
- Contemporary Spirited Service (7 pm) has a more "contemporary" feel to it as well as candlelight singing.
- Traditional services (9 & 11:00 pm) will be joyous traditional candlelight services with special choral music.
- Christmas Day (10:00 am) Quiet Communion

The long wait of Advent is over! Now is the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### What's Inside

Children's Ministries.....	Pg. 8,9
December Schedule .....	Pg. 12
End of Year Appeal.....	Pg. 6
Outreach .....	Pgs. 5, 11
Pastor Mark.....	Pg. 3
Pastor Steve.....	Pg. 4
Serve Update.....	Pg. 10
Vision Board .....	Pgs. 7

**Staff Contacts**  
**Phone - (763) 421-6520**

**Senior Pastor**..... Mark Hellmann  
Ext. 110..... markh@graceandover.org  
**Pastor of**  
**Spiritual Formation** .....Steve Thomason,  
Ext. 105..... stevet@graceandover.org  
**Dir. of Outreach &**  
**Women’s Ministries**..... Jeannie Hellmann  
Ext. 122.....jeannieh@graceandover.org  
**Visitation Pastor** .....Gene Heglund  
**Dir. of Youth Ministry** ..... Kristi Larson  
Ext. 100..... Kristi@graceandover.org  
**Coord. of Youth Ministries**..... Tom Baker  
Ext. 123 .....tomb@graceandover.org  
**Co-Directors of Children’s Ministries**  
Monica Allen..... Ext. 116  
Monicaa@graceandover.org  
Kim DeVries ..... Ext. 112  
kimd@graceandover.org  
**Dir. of Worship & Music** ..Jonathan Orwig  
Ext. 113..... jonathano@graceandover.org  
**Worship Coord. & Organist**..Carroll Potter  
Ext. 109.....carrollp@graceandover.org  
**Connection &**  
**Volunteer Coord.** ..... Kate Morphew  
Ext. 120.....katem@graceandover.org  
**Dir. of Praise Team** .....Jenn Hubal  
Ext. 114.....jennh@graceandover.org  
**Dir. of Grace Choir**.....Doreen Hutchings  
.....doreenh@graceandover.org  
**Secretary** .....Kris Miller  
Ext. 101.....krism@graceandover.org  
**Bookkeeper**..... Bonnie Trembath  
Ext. 111.....bonniet@graceandover.org  
**Parish Nurses** . Lily Tunby & Lori Ackerson  
Ext. 100.....parishnurse@graceandover.org  
**Head Custodian** .....Mark Kempenich  
Ext. 117..... mark@graceandover.org  
**Dir. Of Golden Rule**  
**Child Care Center**..... Tami Mielke  
421-1996..... tamim@graceandover.org

# 2016

*20 years and 16 sermons (or so) ago, Pastor Mark Hellmann accepted a call to lead us here at Grace!*

*We would LOVE to celebrate those years---NO, HE’S NOT GOING ANYWHERE---we just want to celebrate his 20 years of ministry among us! Please stop in for cake and fellowship between services **on Sunday, January 3, 2016** to say “thanks” and “see you next week” for years to come!*

*If you can’t make it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, please feel to contact Pastor Mark with a card, email, text, or hearty handshake for his “2 decade anniversary at Grace!” We are so blessed to have him here caring for us personally, and helping us grow spiritually!*

## GIFTS of GRACE this CHRISTMAS

As God calls us to cultivate his promise of love in our world, we'd like to bless people in our local community by sharing GIFTS of GRACE with those who need to receive a gift. Once again, we are saving up benevolence dollars to give financial gifts to those in need.

In order to share these GIFTS of GRACE, we'd appreciate your honest input. If you know of a struggling family who would be blessed by a financial gift this Christmas, please contact the church office. If you and your family needs some financial assistance, please contact the church office. A church staff member will contact you with more information in the next week. Thanks for your honesty!

We have been blessed at Grace and during this time of celebrating the birth of the best Gift in the world, we feel we need to share our blessings with others.

Finally, if you would like to give a financial gift to be used for the “Gifts of Grace” ministry, please call the church office.

Thanks!

# Advent - A Time to Practice the Third Discipleship Habit

## Pastor Mark's Remarks

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. (Col. 4:2)*

I've had some of my greatest successes and biggest defeats with Grace's third Discipleship Habit: Pray and Read Scripture Daily. I don't know if I'm normal or not . . . but I find this habit particularly challenging in the midst of a busy family life and hectic schedules.

### I STRIVE to:

- wake up early in the morning, grab a cup of coffee and head to the family room for a time of Bible reading. I have used for years, a devotional based on the Common Lectionary. It's my time for connecting with God.
- join the church staff for weekly prayers on behalf of the congregation.
- pray nightly with Jeannie before bed and I usually succeed, unless I fall asleep before we can get to prayer.
- pray every time I pass a church, lifting up the needs of the pastor, staff and the congregation.
- keep a favorite hymn or praise song in my head all week-long so that I can continually praise and give thanks to God.

I find the word "strive" particularly important to me because at times, this habit is so hard to do consistently. This is why Advent is so important to me for it reminds me how important this habit of daily prayer and scripture is to my spiritual walk.

As I reflect upon this habit, consistency makes my walk with the Lord more significant. When I connect consistently with the Lord in prayer and his Word, I can handle better the extremes of my days – the challenges, problems, interruptions, mistakes as well as the joys, successes and celebrations. I also believe that people around me find it easier to be with me when I connect regularly with the Lord. How? Well, I find forgiveness easier to share when I meditate and read about God's

forgiveness. I find it simpler to adjust my daily agenda when I read in the Scriptures about obedience and trust in God. I can handle the anxieties and worries better as I read about Peter walking on the water, or the disciples seeing Jesus multiply bread and fish into a meal for thousands.

In addition to having a quiet time to read scripture, I have discovered that prayer is a time for realignment . . . of taking the concerns, worries and problems to the Lord for his help, insight, wisdom and encouragement. It's a time of asking for help, remembering Jesus' own prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Not my will, but your will be done." It's not easy to do at times, but when I do, I see my concerns more from his view and not only mine. It makes my life easier.



So why am I still striving to be more consistent in my daily devotional life after years of being a Christian? Good question! I guess I'm like a lot of people. There's always at least one of the Seven Habits of Effective Disciples that we need to work on. However, I'm not going to simply give up striving for more consistency in prayer and daily Bible reading. I think it's something God is going to have to change and grow in my life. I guess this is why Advent is so important to me. It's the season that emphasizes prayer, self-reflection, and centering on God's Word. It's a time to slow down and wait, quietly preparing for Christmas. It is truly the season that God can use to shape and remold our hearts. It's something we all need.

So . . . the words of Paul written to challenge the Christians in the early church are also the words for me. But my question is this – are they also the words for you?

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. (Col. 4:2)

Peace and grace to you,

In Him,

*Pastor Mark*

# Exploring the Habits of Bible Study and Prayer

**Pastor Steve**

We have so much for which to be thankful this year at Grace. I'm still in awe at the way God worked through many hands of service throughout the month of November. Now that the Turkey is digested and November has turned into the cold and dark days of December, we shift gears and enter the season of Advent. It is a season of waiting. It is a season of growing darkness that can become overwhelming. It is dark on so many levels. The days physically grow darker as we approach the Winter Solstice. The constant fighting and violence between various factions casts an ever-darkening shadow on the geo-political scene. It is a time of emotional darkness for many who struggle with mental illness or grief of various kinds.

How do we fight against the darkness? There is one word. HOPE.

This season we want to continue our big theme of CULTIVATE by exploring how the spiritual habits of Bible Study and Prayer can help us to stay grounded in the Word of God and the hope that comes through God's promise made real in Jesus Christ. If you do not already have a daily Bible reading plan, I invite you to check out our Narrative Lectionary Devotional page at our website (<http://www.graceandover.org/resources/devotions/>). Each week we provide a brief overview of the text between weekend sermons and offer a daily reading that will link the stories together.

Take the time—both alone and with others—to read the scripture, and wait on God's word this Advent.

Blessings,

*Pastor Steve*



## Suggestions for Your Advent Prayer Time

The following prayer needs are suggestions you might consider during your quiet times.

**Those with Loss:** Christmas holidays are a difficult time for people who have lost loved ones. Please pray for:

- Orin Simonson & family upon the death of his wife, Bettie;
- Sandy Slavik & family upon the death of her father, Charles;
- Jeremy & Kendra Mattke & family upon the death of Jeremy's grandmother;
- Lisa Norbeck upon the death of her mother;

**Those with Chronic Illness:** Not only do we pray for those who are sick, but we also pray for the families who care for them. Chronic illness affects the whole family. Please pray for strength, encouragement, hope, and healing for:

Cancer: Les Barthel; Julie McGowan, Rick Breyette, Norma Vangstad;

Muscular Diseases: George Cowman, Jerry Rupp, George

Rongere, Ray Barker, Luke Davich, Bob Shields, Kim Burnham, Emmanuel Neal;

Leukemia/Blood Disorders: Hunter Danielson, Nate Gfroerer, Aimee Fischer; Colleen Wernimont

Other needs: Mary Slinde, Shirley Kirkendall, Charlie Thrane, Tyler Emberland, Nancy Coughlin;

**Those who Serve in the Military:** Kalob Haynes, Jesse Simons, Anthony Bush, Dylan Chavez, Emily Dorumsgaard, Mike Fisher, Jeremy Malchow, Matt Miller, Mitch & Tyler Thomass;

**Others:** Bishop Ann Svennungsen, our police and fire protection, our Mayor Julie Trude and City Council members, those who serve in congress and our justice systems, etc.



# Sharing Beyond Our Walls of Grace

## Adopt a Family at Sand Creek School

Would you like to share God’s grace in a very tangible and REAL way this Christmas? Then please consider ‘adopting’ a local family who would be truly blessed by your generosity. Through our Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School, we will connect families from our church with local students and families in need.

## The “GIVING TREE” + your Giving Spirit = Blessings for the Elderly

Share God’s grace and tangible gifts of love with the elderly in our community through the GIVING TREE this Christmas. This is an all-church effort to collect clothing, toiletries and gifts for seniors that will be given to Granny’s Closet in Anoka County. We invite you to take a gift tag from the Giving Tree in the church lobby during December, purchase the requested item, and bring unwrapped gifts to Grace by Dec. 21. Your generosity will truly bless the elderly in Anoka County!



a very giving  
*Christmas*

### Here’s how it works:

During December, you would be assigned a specific family for which you’ll be given the age and gender (but not names) of each family member, along with clothing needs and a wish list for a toy.

You would then shop for your ‘adopted’ family and bring the gifts to Grace by Dec. 20. The school staff will help us deliver gifts to your ‘adopted’ family by Christmas.

### Some other ideas:

- Invite a friend or family members to join you ... and ‘adopt’ a family together this year
- Shop & Pray... while shopping for toys and clothes, remember to pray for your ‘adopted’ family too
- You may include gift cards for gas stations or grocery stores, wrapping paper & ribbon

If you’re interested in adopting a local family this Christmas, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, Director of Outreach Ministries at Grace [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org) 763 421-6520, ext. 122

Granny’s Closet of Anoka County is a local non-profit volunteer organization helping to serve the needs of low income elderly. Partnering with Anoka County agencies, Granny’s Closet provides Christmas gifts to over 400 seniors at local nursing facilities and through city based senior programs. Also, Granny’s Closet hosts a warehouse site accessible year round by county staff to shop for and fill the needs of the elderly in our community.

For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, Director of Outreach Ministries at Grace. [jeannie@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannie@graceandover.org)

# The End is Near! (of 2015 that is)



As we come close to the end of the year, we want to celebrate the generous ways in which the people of Grace give. How could the many ministries happen without the generosity of people giving their

time, skills, energy, and finances? What would our church be without our outreach through Family Table, Till All Are Fed Food Pantry, Family Promise, Our Savior's, Vacation Bible School, Hope 4 Youth, if not for your support? The mission of Grace would be very different without the outpouring of your generous love.

With only five more weeks left until December 31st (as this article is written), how does it look as we end the year? Will our generosity continue to overflow and fund our ministries? Will we finish the year financially strong or will there be a short-fall impeding the start of the new year? These are some of the "business side of the church" questions the leadership continues to pray about.

Here is a quick financial snapshot at the offerings given up to the middle of November.

<b>Week 47 - November 22</b>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Operational</b>	\$644,573.91	\$631,098.02	\$590,344.63	\$600,556.02	\$601,126.95
<b>Capital</b>	\$90,180.00	\$88,524.50	\$77,163.00	\$72,367.00	\$68,257.00
<b>Other (Holiday)</b>	\$16,575.24	\$25,016.84	\$18,503.12	\$14,769.29	\$13,278.72
<b>Free 2B Grace</b>	NA	\$22,500.00	\$159,728.00	\$165,619.50	\$164,792.00
<b>Total:</b>	\$751,329.15	\$767,139.36	\$845,738.75	\$853,311.81	\$847,454.67

If you notice, our generosity is about the same as it was last year at this time. If this is the trend, then we can expect offerings to be about the same as last year's December:

- \$82,015.00 Regular Offerings
- \$16,900.00 Christmas Offerings
- \$11,850.00 End-of-the-Year
- \$110,765.00 Total Offerings in December 2014

The question that remains is this: Will the offerings be large enough so all the outstanding bills will be paid?

We are thankful that all of our financial commitment of \$38,000 to the ELCA has been completed as well the \$4,000 support to Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

For the rest of the year we will collect our benevolence tithe and repeat the same act of generosity of giving financial gifts to people in the surrounding area who are nominated by members of Grace. Whatever is left, the Vision Board will distribute it to ministries which already received Noisy Offerings during the year.

As we prepare for a great start to 2016, we would like to ask those who are able to consider making a year-end financial gift to help us end this year strong. We believe if we do, we will be able to make an important spiritual step in the next year as we finally reach a full 10% tithe beyond the walls of our church. This has been a goal our church has been working on for at least 12 years gradually increasing the percentage of money we give for benevolences. We're almost there as we have tithe 9.5% in 2015.

In addition to this important spiritual step, we want to fully support the gifted staff we have gathered to lead and encourage us in this ministry of Grace. We took a huge step in 2015 to increase Pastor Steve's hours to full-time and hire a full-time Director of Youth and Family. At the same time, we realize that Pastor Mark is still shouldering many of the responsibilities formerly done by our Church Administrator who resigned more than a year and a half

ago.

You will soon receive a letter (and response card and envelope) to ask you to prayerfully consider a gift. Also, you can give online if you prefer. And, if you have appreciated stock, you can give that as well. Just make sure it is given before December 31.

Thanks again for your generous loving!

## A Word From Vision Board

It never ceases to amaze me how many things we have going on at Grace, and how many ministries we have in our church. Some of our outreach ministries are focused on our neighbors, like Family Promise, Family Table, our partnership with Sand Creek Elementary, Funeral Luncheons, Grace Quilters, Hope 4 Youth, May All Be Fed Food Shelf, the Pastoral Care Team, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry to name just a few. Some are focused on helping other who are further away, such as Feed My Starving Children, the Rakai Orphans, and our ongoing work and projects in Haiti. We are not a huge church, but we sure are busy!

It is humbling to be a part of a group of Christians who take their call to be the hands and feet of Christ literally. Especially when you consider that I have only mentioned about half of the ministries that our church is involved in!

I am writing today to talk briefly about another new ministry that has started in our church that many of you may not be aware of. On one of the Haiti mission trips that happened in March 2014, some of our church members met some children who had recently lost a parent in a landslide and had been abandoned. They were able to

meet the children and see them as they arrived out of the mountains; dirty and frightened.

During the last celebration of our Free 2 B Grace campaign, and the annual tithe of those offerings, the congregation elected to help support those same abandoned kids by paying for their housing, food, and education for one year. This is money that we were able to provide because of the generosity of our Grace family. None of this money came from our church budget, it all came from the tithe of Free 2 B Grace.

We now have a group of Grace members who have decided to make a longer lasting commitment to those same abandoned kids. We have a whole group of members working on creating a permanent home for those kids. There are currently 8 kids sleeping in a room the size of a closet. I am excited that we have the opportunity to create a “Place of Grace for our Haitian Children – our Abandoned Children Ministry”. Watch for more information as God’s plan for this ministry are discerned and take shape.

*Greg Ackerson*

*It is humbling to be a part of a group of Christians who take their call to be the hands and feet of Christ literally.*

## Vision Board Notes

The Grace Lutheran Church Vision Board met on November 10th, 2015 at the home of Tari Yates. All members were present except one plus Pastor Mark. A delicious meal was enjoyed and as always, lively conversation during dinner occurred. The meeting was then continued with discussion of the book, “The Agile Church.” The board discussed ways that Grace could make relationships with our neighbors, how to improve the area, and again, how to be Missional. We discussed ideas on how to connect with our neighbors in meaningful ways. We will continue the discussion next month with the final chapters of the book.

Business items were discussed, including the 2016 budget. The board first looked at the overall 2015-2016 church goals as a prelude to examining the Proposed 2016 Ministry Budget. The board recommended that Pastor Mark look at various ways in which to cut back the proposed budget. At the same time, the board discussed the possibilities of a major stewardship drive to help grow the financial resources needed to support the goals for a fully-staffed church. Since this is just the preliminary first steps of putting together the budget, the discussion will continue next month.

The meeting ended in a time of prayer.

Respectfully,

*Jessie Crooks*

Vision Board Secretary



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

The SONday School children will be presenting a program filled with songs, poems, and a Christmas play. All children are encouraged to participate.



### Dates to remember:

**Sat. December 12, 9-10:30 a.m.**

Grade 2-5 Actors & Actresses- Rehearsal: This rehearsal is for children with speaking and non-speaking parts only.

**Sat. December 19, 9-10:30 a.m.**

All Grade 2-5 Children - Rehearsal: This rehearsal is for Grades 2-5.

**Sunday, December 20 at 2 p.m.**

(Please have children here by 1:40)

Preschool -1st Grade children will rehearse during their Large Groups. Information about songs and finger plays will come home in November.

### We need your help to make a program a success:

- December 19 & 20 – move altar and help set up risers.
- December 20 – Serve refreshments following the program.
- Props and Costumes – coordinate and locate items.
- All families are encouraged to bring JUST 1 dozen cookies to share.

### Rockin' Kids Bible Club



Our Secret Agent adventures continue. Each week, we have a theme that the kids can live out in their lives. Our weekly Chief videos on the Children's Ministry Facebook page help us apply our Bible stories to our daily lives with the "Codeword". Please check out our videos! It has been wonderful having our Chief Videos. Thank you to Tom Baker for being our chief and Kristi Larsen for filming.

Operation Cereal was a success! We collected over 20 boxes of cereal that we donated to our food shelf here at church! Thank you Toni Perrier for telling us about the food shelf and letting us help put together a bag!

Your kids can now tell you exactly what makes a great donation for our food shelf.

### Dates to Remember:

- **December 9**– Christmas Party and last RKBC of 2015.
- **January 6** – RKBC winter quarter begins



## What's New in SONday School

### Important Dates

December 26/27 No SONday School Weekend  
 January 3 Family Worship Weekend

Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School after the Children's Sermon. Join us for SONday School, we learn about the Wise men and their journey.

### SONday School Birthday Offering

We have \$34.57! We have a flock of chicks and well on the way to two! We have danced the chicken dance!

Chickens provide eggs for families that they can eat or sell, plus chickens eat bugs and provide fertilizer which helps provide healthy soil. 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.

### Baptism Workshop

Saturday, January 9th 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 Worship as well. Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.



### Dinner and a Movie

Friday January 22nd 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Families, with kids 3 years old-5th grade, are invited for dinner, movie, fellowship and fun! Parents must stay the entire evening. We will begin with a meal served in the Fellowship Hall and then we will head into the Theater (Worship Center) to watch the movie "Inside Out". Please watch the blue opportunity sheets to register your family.

Having great family fellowship opportunities takes a team of volunteers. Help is needed with table set up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up the theater following the movie. If you can help, please contact Kim DeVries or sign up on the blue sheets.

**We are in need of Nursery Volunteers on Christmas Eve, December 24, at the 2 pm, 4 pm, and 7 pm Services.**

Please come spend one hour of your day sharing your love with a child! Please contact Kim DeVries (kimd@graceandover.org) or call the church office.

### Please Remember!

"Like" our Facebook page "Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry" 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

## Christmas Eve Volunteers

It is not too late to volunteer to serve God and to serve others on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in serving, there is a place for you at Grace. Please sign up on the blue sheet or contact Kate Morphew at katem@graceandover.org

# Thank You to Our Grace Family

God continues to encourage & empower us to...



## During our November emphasis of **SERVING:**

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

- 199 Operation Christmas Child boxes collected

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

**Thank you** for participating in our marathon packing event on November 20/21. We also want to thank Thrivent Financial Services for supplying the M&M tubes for our church. We know it's not all about the numbers, but we wanted to share these numerical results with you since every **ONE** precious child of God who eats this food will receive God's grace through your efforts and your donations:

- 400 Grace volunteers packed 207,144 meals
- This will provide a daily life-saving meal for **567** children for a year!
- Noisy Offering for FMSC was \$4,304.85 including 220 returned M&M tubes

### GRACE 4 RAKAI

- **49 more children** sponsored in Rakai, Uganda. Now there is a total of 72 kids sponsored by Grace families.

### SAND CREEK "A Little Bit of Grace Fund"

- A "little bit" over \$3,900 raised during the Octoberfest Silent Auction and the Grace Bazaar.

## THANKS from The Love of Grace Bazaar

Heartfelt THANKS to our Grace family for all the energetic volunteers, donations of food, and your amazing support (and shopping J) at the Love of Grace Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 14. What an amazing and fun day of sharing God's grace with vendors, volunteers and our local community!

We are pleased to announce that all proceeds from the Bazaar will be used in these two ways: to purchase Bible for 3 year olds and third graders at Grace, and also to fuel the 'little bit of grace' fund at Sand Creek Elementary School. This newly formed 'little bit of grace' fund is an outreach ministry through our Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek to help meet the needs of students and families in our local community. Some examples might be to provide funding for field trips, to purchase snow pants or bike helmets, or to supply groceries for a family - as needed and discerned by the school principal and staff.

THANKS again for your donations of time and talents, energy and resources! THANKS for once again living out our mission to be a 'ministry of grace in the heart of Andover... and beyond!'

We are so blessed by our Grace family!

From the Love of Grace Bazaar Ministry Team: Ann Lange, Mary Jo Trapp, Jamie Zupon, Penny Walters, Karen Fisher, Renee Miller, Karen Roche and Jeannie Hellmann

# GRACE 4 RAKAI

## GRACE 4 RAKAI updates

**NEWS FLASH & PRAISE GOD:** 49 more children in Rakai, Uganda are being sponsored by people at Grace... in just the past two months! WOW – what a BLESSING! To date, friends and families of Grace are sponsoring 72 beautiful children in Rakai, providing monthly financial support for education and medical needs to orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda, Africa.

**VIDEO from UGANDA:** Please go to front page of our church’s website (graceandover.org) to view the video from Uganda “grace in mission.” This video was shown in worship Nov. 14/15 and highlights the impact that is possible as we strive to share God’s grace around the world.

**MINISTRY TEAM:** Just so you know, there is a ministry team called GRACE 4 RAKAI who is striving to listen, support, offer hope and love to the people of Rakai, Uganda, especially vulnerable women and children. Over the last four years, our church has been reaching out to Rakai by funding the Bakery Project, building two water containments, supporting the Nutritional Farming Initiative and sponsoring children through the African Children Today ministry.

**FUTURE STEPS:** So what is our next dream? What might be our next steps of sharing God’s grace with the people in Rakai? We have begun praying for the means to build a school and dormitory for children in Rakai. And God is already blessing us with compassionate hearts and generous donations. And we are also exploring the possibility of a mission trip to Uganda next October.

**JOIN US:** Please join us in prayer – and please join us in action – as we trust that “God can do immeasurably more” (Ephesians 3:20) in and through us as we seek to share God’s grace with people in Rakai. Please contact us if you’d like more information – or if you’d like to join our GRACE 4 RAKAI 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 and Scott Christensen  
GRACE 4 RAKAI Ministry Team Co-leaders

Stacy: stacysurratt@yahoo.com 317 506-6362; Scott: scottc@nuaire.com 612 247-3599

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING: ONE MISSION

### Grace 2Haiti

Be on mission while shopping this holiday season!



Do you want to get your Christmas shopping done quickly and easily while supporting a variety of good causes at the same time! World Wide Village is teaming up with One Mission Fundraising to give you the opportunity to be on mission while shopping this holiday season! You may recognize World Wide Village as the organization we partner with in Haiti.

One Mission Fundraising is an organization in Mt. Vernon, Iowa that creates and sells amazing custom products. 40% of every purchase made through One Mission Fundraising will come back to World Wide Village to help support our mission in Haiti! You have an opportunity to purchase great products such as inspiring apparel, soy candles and wax melts, castile soaps and body washes, adorable greeting cards, creative art prints and custom canvases! These are great gift ideas for those hard-to-shop-for family and friends.

[https://onemissionfundraising.com/fundraisers/world-widevillage/?shopfor=22707#tab\\_fundraiser\\_support](https://onemissionfundraising.com/fundraisers/world-widevillage/?shopfor=22707#tab_fundraiser_support)

Visit ONE MISSION FUNDRAISING to start shopping today! Place your order by December 16th to receive your products before Christmas and be sure to share this opportunity with friends and family!

# Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW. Andover, MN 55304

*A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!*  
[www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Anoka, MN 55303  
PERMIT No. 118

Address Service Requested



## SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES

December 12/13	5pm, 8, 9, 10:30am	Advent Choral Services
December 20	2pm	Children's Christmas Program

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 24	2:00 & 4pm	Family Christmas Service
	7pm	Contemporary Candlelight
	9 & 11:00pm	Traditional Candlelight

## CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

December 25	10 am	Quiet Communion Service
-------------	-------	-------------------------