



# Grace Lutheran Church

HILLTOP LIGHTS  
JANUARY 2020



*Making Believers, Growing Disciples, Developing Leaders*  
3300 E 18th Street 605-334-8625  
[www.gracelutheran-sfsd.com](http://www.gracelutheran-sfsd.com) [gracelutheransfsd@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheransfsd@gmail.com)  
Pastor Siri Sorenson



## WORSHIP IN JANUARY

January 5

2nd Sunday of Christmas  
Setting 6

January 12

Baptism of Our Lord  
Setting 8

God names Jesus the Son of God.



Milestone for those who were baptized in the past year. Milestone recipients are Kayla Weidenaar, Jaxson Chavez, Ryker Heaton, and Lucy Archer.

Kassidy Nipp and her class from Alison's Dance Studio will present a liturgical dance.

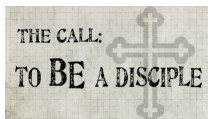
January 19



John the Baptist names Jesus as the Lamb of God.

2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
Setting 10

January 26



3rd Sunday after Epiphany  
Service of the Word

Jesus is the Master who calls us to follow.

Annual Meeting at 12:00 noon. Youth will serve a light lunch following the 2nd service.

The Annual Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church will be held at 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Annual Reports are available on Sunday, January 19. Business includes Long Range Goals, adoption of the 2020 budget and election of people to serve as officers and committee members. The youth will serve a light lunch immediately after the 10:30 AM worship. The free-will offering goes toward youth activities.



CELEBRANT CHOIR resumes rehearsals Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm.

THE ADULT CHIMES rehearse again Wednesday, January 8th at 6:20.

YOUTH CHIMES begin again on January 5th when Sunday school resumes.

SPECIAL MUSIC SOLOS AND GROUPS are always welcome to share music.

Talk to Pastor Siri.

The Choir Director position is posted and we are accepting resumes and letters of application.

**A Prayer for Epiphany:** O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory. Amen.



One of the themes of Epiphany is that Jesus comes for the whole world. As the magi from the east travel to find the baby, we discover that he is not just the promised one for the Jewish people, but for all. The heavens themselves proclaim that Jesus has come. And so, during the season of Epiphany, we will be singing a global hymn each week. These hymns have been included in the ELW. They may not be familiar to us, but they will help us to connect with our brothers and sisters in faith across the globe. God has drawn us all together into one community, the body of Christ.

Epiphany is also a season when we learn who Jesus is and what he means for us. So the gospel readings in January tell us about him from God naming him *Beloved Son* at his baptism, to John the Baptist pointing him out as the Lamb of God, to the disciples discovering that he is the Master they are called to follow. Jesus leads them into the world that they might share him with all they meet.

We, too, live in the life of the Beloved Son also called sons and daughters of God. We, too, are called to point to Jesus as the Lamb of God who forgives sins that others might know grace. We, too, are called to follow Jesus the Master who will lead us into the world to serve others in the places where we live and work and play.

Jesus, the Light of the World, has come for you. In these dark days of January, know that the light shines and no darkness can put it out. This is the word we hear as we begin the month. This is the word we live as we move into this month.

I encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting which is on January 26 at 12:00 noon. We will receive a long-range planning report with ministry goals for the congregation encouraging us to grow spiritually, connect with each other, connect with the world, develop leadership across the congregation, and look at facility needs to make it all happen. Your participation in the meeting is important as we seek to serve our Lord and Master together.

A Blessed Epiphany to you All!

Pastor Siri Sorenson

**Thank You** so much for the cards, greetings and gifts for Christmas. I am grateful for the support and encouragement they show for our ministry together. You all are a gift to me.

#### Administrative Notes:

- **Nominating Committee:** We have a few spots open on committees. If you would be interested in serving, talk to Pastor Siri or Jeff Eckhoff. Thank you!
- **2020 Offering envelopes** are on the table in the hallway outside the offices for those who use them. If you do not find yours in the box, check with Sue in the office and she will get you envelopes. Those who use *simply giving* or other electronic forms of giving do not have envelopes assigned. But they are available to you if you would like them.
- **The Grace Lutheran Phone Book and Women of Grace Information** is included in this newsletter. If you have phone or address changes, please update them with Sue in the office

**Thank you** to all the musicians who made our Christmas services so meaningful. Your ministry is deeply appreciated.

**Thank you** to Becky Smith, Technology Coordinator, for the beautiful worship slides and for the extra tech that comes along with the season and to Brian Penn youth/young adults director, for building the set for the Christmas program.

**Thank you** to the ushers, liturgists, lectors, communion servers, greeters, and all who ensure that Sunday worship goes so well.

**Thank you** to all who have served in so many ways this holiday season. Your work — upfront and behind the scenes — brought joy to many.

**Thank you** to Christine Verba, Alicia Peterson, and the Sunday school teachers for their work with the Christmas program. It was great!



Members Present: Christine Verba, Dave Dierks, Roger Peters, Rita Blake, Brian Penn, Lisa Jasmer, Sherry Archer, Brad Schriber, Deb Schriber, Mark Conrad, Pastor Siri Sorenson

**Devotions:** Led by Vice President Christine Verba for the Executive Committee; devotions in January will be Pastor Siri Sorenson

**Secretary's Report:** Corrections noted: Becky Smith attended the October conference, not Lisa Jasmer. More explanation was asked about the evangelism report regarding having ushers and greeters be more hospitable. This was not meant to reflect and inhospitality present, but was related to learnings from the hospitality conference on how we can better use people to be even more welcoming of visitors. MSC to accept the report as corrected.

**Old Business:** 1. Reminder that Annual Reports are due December 15. 2. Reminder that Annual Meeting is set for January 26 at noon with lunch served prior. 3. Received a draft report from the Long Range Planning Committee which outlined the process for getting feedback and priorities for the coming years. These included priorities in the areas of Connecting to the World, Youth Involvement, Growing Spiritually, Facilities, Leadership, and Connecting People. Long Range Priorities Plan will be an item at the Annual Meeting.

**New Business:** 1. MSC to approve the revised Choir Director job description forward from the Personnel Committee. We will advertise the position on our website and Facebook page, through the SD Synod email newsletter, at Augustana University, the University of Sioux Falls, and through professional networks. 2. The Annual Meeting agenda will include voting on a process for having an advanced line of credit so that if a suitable property becomes available for increased parking, the congregation is able to move in a timely manner.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Total deposits through November 30, 2019 were \$329,101.87. Expenses for the same period were \$335,533.65. Checking account balance at the end of November was \$12.50. Payroll taxes and Benevolences are up to date. We had to borrow \$1,725.00 from the Berg Fund.

**Pastor Siri:** Written report submitted. Had meetings with Personnel Committee, music staff, Long Range planning committee this month. Presided at funeral for Daren Miller. Mapping out worship for January-May. Lenten planning beginning.

**Stewardship and Management:** No report.

**Women of Grace:** Christmas Luncheon will be Saturday, December 7. 81 tickets have been sold. Deep kitchen cleaning will be a part of spring and/or fall clean-up day.

**Communications and Tech:** No report.

**Music Ministry:** December music events are scheduled. Nick Fosheim is covering choir in the interim.

**Faith and Family:** Written report submitted. November was a month of planning for December events – Christmas program, Movie Night, Grace Kids Christmas party.

**Parish Nurse:** Written report submitted. Lots of hospital visits and follow up visits this month.

**Youth & Young Adult:** Written report submitted. Shopping for the Sharing Christmas families will be Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 pm. \$1500+ received for the project. Any remaining funds will go to DSS to provide gifts for foster children. Brian Penn will take a week of vacation following Christmas.

**Executive:** No additional items.

**Church & Society:** Have received hats and toys from the penitentiary for Ideal. Need more mittens and a driver to deliver. Karen Shea will do a temple talk to request.

**Property:** Submitted a written report. Added sump pump in north storage area. Had fire sprinkler system cleaned and sprinkler heads replaced. Repaired and serviced riding lawn mower so ready for spring. Started elevator shaft sump pump project.

**Evangelism:** No report.

**Worship:** Decorated the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Will sell poinsettias one more Sunday due to low attendance on Thanksgiving weekend due to the weather. Will provide breakfast for the choir on Cantata Sunday.

Adjourned with intercessory prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Siri Sorenson, secretary pro tem

## PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

Each week Pastor Siri prays for a shepherding group of families from the congregation. You are encouraged to pray as well. May God bless all the families of Grace and in these weeks especially :

### **December 29-January 4: Shepherding District 5, Zone B:**

Tony Buxcel, Sage; Jerry & Carla Erickson, Madison; Merlin & Judy Kock; Jim & Marilyn Robertson

### **January 5-11: Shepherding District 5, Zone C:**

Brian Conrad; Terry & Grace Finch; Ester Jerden; Walt Ree; Mike & Christine Verba, Tessa; Bill Wright

### **January 12-18: Shepherding District 6, Zone A:**

Delayne Bickett; Delores Mullen; Marge Olawsky; Daryl & Rose Sagness

### **January 19-25: Shepherding District 7, Zone A:**

Christine Bauer; Dennis Goldammer; Teri Hanson, Katelyn, Jazlyn; Ray & Rosella Hanson; Jeff Malwitz, Katelyn, Jazlyn; Kay Schoppers

### **January 26-February 1: Shepherding District 7, Zone B:**

Kaye Henle; Charlie & Sharon Pedersen, Scott & Nicolle Rasmussen.



The Email Prayer Chain is prays for members' requests and concerns. Contact Sharon Dierks with your requests at dsdierks2@gmail.com or 271-0359 with requests. Contact her to be added as a member of the prayer chain.

# Small Groups



## AGING GRACEFULLY

Aging Gracefully meets Thursday, January 9 at 9:30 AM. Our program is a speaker from Prairie Rehab. They are bringing the treats.

**Let's Bake!** meets Saturday, January 11 at 1:00 pm in the downstairs kitchen to make coffee treats for January 12.



**Grief Support Group** meets Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00 AM in the meeting room at church. This group provides support for those who have suffered a loss of any kind.



JOIN OUR  
**STUDY**

The Adult Bible study will resume meeting on Jan. 5th at 9:15 AM. We begin a new study in the book of Galatians. You are invited to join!! "In Galatians, we discover what God does for people in Jesus Christ and how that changes their relationship to the law, and indeed, to any external standard or norm. We discover in Galatians how God has called us to be his own sons and daughters by sending the Spirit into our hearts crying, 'Abba. Father.' Finally, in our study of Galatians we explore what it means to walk by the Spirit, to live in Christ in ever facet of our lives." Come and join us in this study. If you have questions, contact Pastor Woody.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION IN JANUARY

Middle Schoolers meet on Wednesdays January 8, 15, 22, 29, and February 5 from 6:30—7:30pm for a confirmation unit on the Ten Commandments

Through art, reading, learning, discussion, and serving we will learn what it means to love God and our neighbors.

## First Communion Instruction

5th graders & parents meet with Brian Penn on Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5 at 6:30 pm for first communion instruction. The students will celebrate their First Communion on February 9 at the 10:30 am worship.



**Fourth Graders and Parents** meet on Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 6:30-7:30 pm with Robin Hofkamp for a class on the Sacrament of Baptism. What did God do? What do you do in response? You will learn about this gift of grace.

**A Novel Idea Book Groups** meets Sunday, January 26 at 9:30 AM in the Meeting Room. We will be discussing *Ashes in the Snow*. The novel for February is *The Day the World Came to Town*  
By: Jim Defede



H: Hostess  
C: Co-Hostess  
B: Bible Study

**Martha Circle** meets 9:30 AM Thursday, Jan. 16 in the Fellowship Hall  
H: Rita Blake C: Sharon Pedersen  
B: Gretchen Tweet

**Hannah Circle** Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:00 PM at Cindy Hofer's home  
B: Gretchen Tweet  
**Altar Guild**—Deb Schriber & Elaine Tatge  
**Kitchen upkeep & Acolyte gowns**—Sharon Dierks & Sharon Pedersen  
**Sunshine Card Person**—Robin Hofkamp

### Bible Study 2020

Martha and Hannah Circle Bible Study for January – April 2020 is called “We are Called!” This study from the Gather magazine is written by Katheryn A. Kleinhans. The four studies will be from the Old and New Testament about how people heard and responded to God’s call. We will learn about how God is calling us. And how do we respond!

If you have questions about the Bible study or about either circle, please contact Kay Schoppers at 261-6704.

*Thank You Note from Charis Ministry Partners, "Dear Grace Lutheran Church Body, Thanks so much for your fantastic donation of toilet paper in November for Necessities at Peace, 1st Lutheran, and for Food 2 You. You rock! All your efforts to be the Kings & Queens of toilet paper collection are greatly appreciated!!*

*Sincerely, Charis Ministry Partners*



We will be starting our pasta drive in January for the Food to You distribution in early February. There will be an online volunteer signup sheet for the distribution.

*Each month the church receives thank you notes from the various organization you support with your offerings. This past month we received sincere thanks for \$100 to Community Outreach and \$20 to St. Francis House. Their programs could not continue with your generous support.*



Thank you to Pastor Siri, Rita, and my church family for your thoughts and prayers as I recovered from my fall. I am home and healing well.

**Glenyce DeGeest**

I would like to thank everyone for prayers and cards when I was experiencing medical problems. Grace is a very caring congregation!

**Joan Olson**

## CONTRIBUTIONS, MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Date	Pledges, Loose, & Sunday School	Benevolence	Rent & Misc. Income	Special Funds & Memorials	Attendance
Nov. 24	\$2,507.00	\$20.00	\$250.00	\$1,705.00	161
Dec. 1	\$2,883.00	\$20.00	---	\$770.00	93
Dec. 8	\$2,935.00	---	---	\$10.00	178
Dec. 15	\$2,311.00	\$20.00	\$75.00	\$438.00	205
Dec. 22	\$2,791.00	\$20.00	---	\$140.00	118
<i>Simply Giving</i>	\$12,673.00			\$95.00	

**On-going Collections:** Grace Lutheran collects various in-kind donations throughout the year. These items may be placed on the table or in the 4-drawer cabinet just outside the sanctuary doors.

- **Yarn for St. Dysmas:** We provide yarn which inmates knit into caps for many ministries to people in need.
- **Baby-care Kits:** The Women of Grace put together baby-care kits for Lutheran World Relief. A list of the items is available on the table.
- **Personal Hygiene Kits:** The Women of Grace also put together hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief. Again a list is available on the table.
- **Items Collected in the 4-Drawer Cabinet:**
  - Eye Glasses for the Lion's Club , Labels for Education, Used printer ink cartridges,**
  - Hotel-sized toiletries, Pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, Old cell phones** to be given to people who need a phone for emergency purposes.
  - Cancelled postage stamps** trimmed with 1/2 inch of envelope on all sides for Sons of Norway



# Youth and Young Adult News



Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2020

PLEASE JOIN US

CONGREGATIONAL  
**MEETING**

Sunday, January 26, Following Worship

The Youth will  
be serving a  
light lunch before  
the meeting.  
Proceeds will go  
toward the trip  
to the National  
Youth Gathering  
in 2021.

Special points of  
interest:

- DINNER THEATER REHEARSALS BEGIN. SUNDAY'S AT 7:30PM. WEDNESDAY'S AT 7:45PM.
- 5TH GRADE HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:30PM.
- YOUTH SERVE LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26TH.

**YOU'RE INVITED**

**5th Grade  
Holy Communion  
Class**

Who: 5th Grade Students and Parents/  
Guardians  
When: Wednesday's in January  
Time: 6:30pm  
Where: in the Youth Room

**Actors Needed  
2020  
Grace Lutheran Youth  
Dinner Theater**

First rehearsal is Sunday,  
January 5th at 7:30pm.  
Rehearsals will Sundays at 7:30pm  
and Wednesdays at 7:45pm.  
Remember, this is a fund raiser  
for the Gathering. All 8th-11th  
graders are needed.



# JANUARY 2020



Jan. 1 George Olson  
 Jan. 2 Dick Naatjes  
 Jan. 3 Judy Eide  
 Jan. 4 Steven Eide  
 Jan. 8 Ethan Anderson  
 Jan. 8 Anna Sorenson  
 Jan. 9 Karen Jorgensen  
 Jan. 9 Brady White  
 Jan. 10 Dick Neish  
 Jan. 11 Carolyn Erdmann  
 Jan. 11 Clay Lippert  
 Jan. 13 Rhonda Bruggeman  
 Jan. 13 Mary Peltier  
 Jan. 15 Sharon Hetland  
 Jan. 15 Lucille Thompson  
 Jan. 16 Marie Daniel  
 Jan. 17 Linda Olson  
 Jan. 18 Chloe Lippert  
 Jan. 19 Taylor Hixson  
 Jan. 20 Colter Wagner  
 Jan. 24 Walter Ree  
 Jan. 25 Josh Blake  
 Jan. 25 Shirley Ziebarth  
 Jan. 26 Jan Camp  
 Jan. 28 Dallas Hofer  
 Jan. 28 Dee Westley  
 Jan. 28 Tara White  
 Jan. 29 Rich Finley  
 Jan. 29 Glenn Hooyer  
 Jan. 31 Leah Anderson  
 Jan. 31 Jennifer Jonnes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Holy Communion</b> <b>Day of Epiphany</b> 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday school & Adult Bible study 7:30 PM Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 PM Committees 7:30 PM Council 7:00 PM AI-Anon	<b>8</b> 6:20 PM Hand chimes 6:30 PM Grace Kids 6:30 PM 4th grade baptism class 6:30 PM 5th grade communion class 6:30 PM 6-8th grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir 7:45 Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Aging Gracefully	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Let's Bake 1:00 PM
<b>12 Holy Communion</b> <b>Baptism Milestone</b> 8:00AM & 10:30AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Grief Support group 7:00 PM AI-Anon	<b>15</b> 1:00 PM Craft & Chat 6:20 PM Hand chimes 6:30 PM 4th grade baptism class 6:30 PM 5th grade communion class 6:30 PM 6-8th grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir 7:45 Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Martha Circle 7:00 PM Hannah Circle	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9-3:00 PM Foot Clinic 7:00 PM AI-Anon	<b>22</b> 6:20 PM Hand chimes 6:30 PM Grace Kids 6:30 PM 4th grade baptism class 6:30 PM 5th grade communion class 6:30 PM 6-8th grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir 7:45 PM Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:00 AM & 10:30AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM A Novel Idea book club 11:30 AM light lunch 12:00 PM Annual Meeting 7:30 PM Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM AI-Anon 7:00 PM Norwegian Genealogy in Fellowship Hall	<b>29</b> 6:20 PM Hand chimes 6:30 PM 4th grade baptism class 6:30 PM 5th grade communion class 6:30 PM 6-8th grade Confirmation 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir 7:45 PM Dinner theater rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**3300 E 18th Street**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57103**



**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**SIOUX FALLS SD**  
**PERMIT #427**



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Brian Penn Youth & Young Adult Ministries Office 334-6066 Cell 366-7055 Gracelutheran.brianp@gmail.com	<b><u>Executive Board</u></b> Jeff Eckhoff, President Cell 553-6724
	Christine Verba, Vice President Cell 201-3646

Lisa Jasmer Faith & Family Ministries Home 271-6663 Lisa.mathiasonjasmer@gmail.com	Roger Peters, Treasurer Cell 359-8868
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**Stay connected on-line.** Check out the Grace Lutheran web page for on-line access to the newsletter and other information. The address is [www.gracelutheran-sfsd.com](http://www.gracelutheran-sfsd.com). You can also “like” Grace Lutheran’s Facebook page for weekly updates and notes from members. Search on Facebook or Google “Grace Lutheran Sioux Falls” to get to the page.

**Weather Cancellation Policy**

If school is cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather, children and youth activities do not meet at Grace Lutheran. Adult activities may be cancelled. Contact the adult group’s leader to find out if your event is cancelled. If Sunday worship is cancelled due to inclement weather, notice will be on the church answering machine, the Grace Lutheran Facebook page, KELO and KSFY TV and KELO radio.