



Grace Lutheran Church

HILLTOP LIGHTS

DECEMBER 2019

Making Believers, Growing Disciples, Developing Leaders

3300 E 18th Street

605-334-8625

www.gracelutheran-sfsd.com

gracelutheransfsd@gmail.com

Pastor Siri Sorenson



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT



December 1

Advent Begins

December 8

Chimes Sunday

December 15

Christmas Music Sunday

The Celebrant Choir presents A Shepherd's Witness

December 22

4th Sunday in Advent

One worship service at 9:00 AM this morning - Sunday school does not meet

December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM

Bells and Candlelight Communion

We begin this service with the ringing of bells to welcome the celebration and close with communion and candlelight as we give thanks for the gift who is the light shining in the darkness.

December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 AM

Service of Lessons and Carols with communion

December 29

1st Sunday of Christmas

9:00 AM

One worship service; Sunday school does not meet



Merry Christmas to all!

From The Grace Lutheran Staff

Pastor Siri

Sue, Secretary

Rita, Parish Nurse

Dana, Custodian

Gea, Jerry, Nick, and Kay

Music ministry

Brian, Youth and Young Adult Ministry

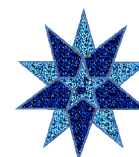
Becky, Communications & Technology

Lisa, Faith and Family Ministry

All are invited to

The Brightest Star

Sunday School Christmas Program



Mark your calendar's for this year's Children's Christmas Program titled *The Brightest Star!* It will be on Dec. 15th at 4:30pm. *For the offering this year we will be collecting breakfast foods or monetary donations for Food to You.* After the program there will be a meal provided for all to enjoy, free will donations will be accepted to help cover the cost. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

* There are two Christmas Program practices for children 3 Years Old through 4th Grade scheduled for December 4th and 11th. There will be a free meal provided for families at 5:30pm and then program practice will be from 6:00-6:30. Please let us know if your child is not able to make it to the practices..



Our congregation has experienced a great sadness. We have been mourning the death of our choir director, Daren Miller. I know that this has affected so many of you deeply. I, too, miss my colleague, my friend, a great musician, and inspiration to so many. But we do not grieve without hope.

As we celebrate Advent and Christmas, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to the world. Jesus was born for circumstances such as this. Jesus was born to defeat all that would do us harm and kill us. As the baby in the manger grows, he teaches us about the great love and grace of God. He goes to the cross and dies for us. He takes on the power of death and sin and evil and utterly defeats them. As Jesus rises, he triumphs over death. Jesus was born for this. As we light candles and read the good news we hear, "To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ the Lord. Jesus is born to save. Jesus is born for life. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Celebrate the birth of the one who gives hope and who gives life. Thanks be to God!

Congregational president Jeff Eckhoff, the personnel committee and I have reviewed the choir director job description and we will be moving forward to find our next choir director. We'll keep you posted as the process unfolds. Thank you to Nick Fosheim, Gea Eckhoff, Jerry Goddard, Christine Verba, and Kay Dahlquist our music leaders who are continuing to implement the music plan for December that Daren had put in place. Thank you, also, to them for their work in the coming months.

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to you all from me and Jeff, Anna and Jorey. Blessings on your December!

Pastor Siri



Administrative Notes:

- **Nominating Committee:** People are currently being nominated to serve on the committees of the congregation for 2020. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Siri or Jeff Eckhoff.
- **The Annual Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church** will be held on January 26, 2020 at 12:00 noon. The youth will serve lunch immediately following the 2nd service. A free-will offering will be received for youth ministry.
- **Annual Reports** from committees and organizations in the church are due December 15th. Please email them copy ready to Sue at gracelutheransfsd@gmail.com.
- **Offerings for 2019** must be received by December 31st to be credited toward your 2019 giving.
- **2020 Offering envelopes** for those who use them will soon be in the hallway outside the offices. Pick them up when you are next at church.

Stewardship
Update



Thank you for your generous commitment to Christ's ministry through Grace Lutheran for 2020. With your gifts we will be able to continue the strong ministry we do because of God's call in our lives and in the life of this congregation. To date, we have received pledges of \$237,952.00 which will touch the lives of others. If you like to make a pledge, cards are available on the usher table at the back of the church.

Members Present: Christine Verba, Pastor Siri, Mark Conrad, Becky Smith, Lisa Jasmer, Brian Penn, Darrell Griggs, Kip Eggebraaten, Rita Blake, and Roger Peters

Devotions: Led by Faith and Family Comm. **Devotions:** For December – Executive Comm.

Secretaries Report: Read and Approved

Old Business:

Most budget sheets that are due have been submitted.

Long Range Planning Committee is set to meet November 25th.

New Business:

Annual Meeting to be held January 26th at noon.

Reports and nominees for committee members are due by December 19th.

Covers for annual report have been ordered from Augsburg.

Becky, Darrell, Sue, and Christine attended conference for leaders, bringing back ideas as to how to be more hospitable at church and for outreach.

Reports:

Evangelism: Looking to set up core groups to welcome people and offer info about the church. Also, planning to teach ushers and greeters how to be more hospitable.

Communications & Tech: Noted that events need to be done to the “hilt”. Save the date, advertise, send teasers, and collect info. in order to be more intentional. Each event should look different than the year before. Planning should be directed to a target audience. Please have any info for the following church service in by the Wednesday before.

Treasurer’s Report: Total deposits through Oct. 31, 2019 were \$297,809.81. Expenses for the same period were \$302,514.54. Checking account balance at the end of October was \$16.91. Payroll taxes and benevolences are up to date. We had to borrow \$4,000 from the Berg Fund.

Pastor Siri: Report submitted. Confirmation for 2 girls, funeral for Dale Long, and planning for Daren’s funeral. (Stephanie noted that it was Daren’s hope that there would be a West entrance made for Grace Lutheran). Took a vacation to be with dad, who has a reoccurring cancer.

Worship: Rally Day included 100 people. Poinsettias for Christmas have been ordered with the Advent tree going up November 30th. Sign ups for volunteers have been going well. Motion was made to combine Bells and Candle light services at 5pm for Christmas. Motion approved.

Stewardship: Cookie Jar serving for Stewardship Sunday, with “Let’s Bake” providing dessert.

Women of Grace: Soup and Pie had 447 in attendance with \$4,700 taken in. Donations have been made to the Banquet, LWR, and Youth, as well as Trunk and Treat. The WOG Christmas Luncheon will be Dec. 7th @ 11:30. The theme is “Mangers” including a harpist for the program. Tony’s is catering, \$8.00 a person.

Music Ministry: Pastor Siri reported that the music for Advent is covered. Plans are being set for the Cantata and for Lent.

Faith & Family: Attended October Conference. Trunk and Treat was a success. Grace Kids has had an attendance of 17 children. Lisa has taken a long-term sub assignment at the Lutheran School.

Parish Nurse: Report submitted and working with a new computer. A Thrivent Card has been used for cookies and for personal care kits.

Youth and Young Adult: Written Report submitted. WiFi connecting point has been installed for all of the downstairs. Dinner theater work has begun as well as work with the Christmas Program.

Church & Society: 12,000 rolls of TP as been donated and distributed. The mitten tree has been set up for hats and mittens to be given to Ideal, as well as Cleveland Elem. A library box has been built by Don Schmidt to share books with the community.

Property Committee: Written Report submitted. Thanks to all who helped with Fall Cleanup!

Executive: No report.

Adjourned with prayer and Lord’s Prayer,

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Hofkamp, Secretary

PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES



Join Pastor Siri in praying each week for a shepherding group from the congregation.

God bless all the families of Grace and in these weeks especially:

December 1-7: Shepherding District 3, Zone B

Lee & Evelyn Friese; Sharon Malwitz; Aldon & Barb Meirose; Hayley Smith; Justin & Sara Waddell

December 8-14: Shepherding District 4, Zone A

Michelle Brandenburg, Elijah, Logan, Emily; Tammy Koch, Andrew Elizabeth, Jennifer, Kaylee, Nicholas; Sam & Jessica Weber, Jenni, Zoey

December 15-21: Shepherding District 4, Zone B

Deb Bowman; Joyce Cunningham; Miriam Garner; Harriet Grosz; Bev Horsted; Donna Lange; Ruth Lone; Nick & Diane Tieszen, Valerie

December 22-28: Shepherding District 5, Zone A

Riley & Laura DeGroot, Finlee, Wyatt; AlDean Fischer; Dallas & Cindy Hofer; Larry & Gloria Kindopp; Sara Lindgren, Krista; Dorothy Sand; Dawn & Gary Wulf

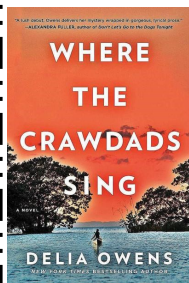
December 29-January 4: Shepherding District 5, Zone B

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

Contact the Prayer Chain with requests and concerns. Sharon Dierks (dsdierks2@gmail.com or 271-0359) is the coordinator. Please contact Sharon with requests or to be added as a pray-er on the chain.

ADULT EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A Novel Idea



The book study group will meet **Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 AM** at Christine Verba's home to discuss this month's book which is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. *Goodreads says: For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.*

January's book is Ashes in the Snow (Between Shades of Gray) by Ruta Sepetys.

Coffee & treats provided. All are welcome!

AGING GRACEFULLY

meets Thursday, December 5 at 9:30 am. Bring a favorite ornament to share the story of as we gather for fellowship. Also bring treats to share.



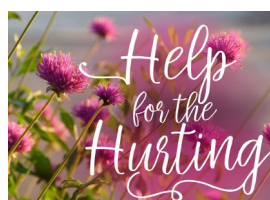
Adult Sunday School taught by Pastor Woody meets Sundays at 9:15 am in the Gathering Place across from the nursery. Coffee provided in the classroom. The class will NOT meet on December 15, 22, or 29.

Let's Bake

Meets on Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 pm in the downstairs kitchen to make treats for Sunday coffee



CRAFT AND CHAT meets Wednesday, December 18 at 1:00 PM.



Grief Support Group meets Tuesday, December 10 at 10:00 AM in the meeting room at church. This group provides support for those



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

Martha Circle meets 11:30 AM Thursday, Dec. 12 in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck

H: Missy Lemme C: Sherry Archer
B: Pastor Siri

Hannah Circle Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck
B: Sharon Dierks

Altar Guild—Gretchen Tweet & Dave/Sharon Dierks

Kitchen upkeep & Acolyte gowns—Jan Camp & Elaine Tatge

Sunshine Card Person—Robin Hofkamp



I want to thank the Women of Grace General Board for all of their hard work and devotion this past year.

Circle Chairpersons: Sherry Archer & Sharon Dierks

Vice-Chairpersons: Karen Jorgensen & Kay Schoppers

Mission Growth: Jan Camp & Gretchen Tweet

Mission Action: Marie Nesson & Elaine Tatge

Librarians: Jen Beyer and Robin Hofkamp

Wedding Coordinator: Dawn Stephens

Sunshine Person: Robin Hofkamp

Service Group Coordinator: Karen Shea

Women's Historian: Kay Dahlquist

Executive Board: Sherry Archer, Joyce Cunningham, Kay Schoppers, Rita Blake, and Elaine Tatge

Sharon Dierks

Women of Grace Coordinator

CONTRIBUTIONS, MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Date	Pledges, Loose, & Sunday School	Benevolence	Rent & Misc. Income	Special Funds & Memorials	Attendance
Nov. 3	\$7,000.00	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$1,398.00	202
Nov. 10	\$1,276.00	\$25.00	---	\$2,384.00	154
Nov. 17	\$1,958.35	\$10.00	---	\$155.00	192
Nov. 24	\$2,672.00	\$20.00	\$125.00	\$1,705.00	161
Simply Giving	\$11,808.00			\$75.00	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Laura Eiesland
1211 E Plum Creek Road 57105

Dick & Barb Graff
4600 N Louise Ave 57107

Rita Blake
Trail Ridge
3408 W Ralph Rogers Road
Apt. B101 57108

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You don't pay any extra. The donation comes from the AmazonSmile Foundation.

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Youth and Young Adult News



Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 5, Issue 12

December 2019

2021 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Eph. 3:19

**Calling all current
8th-11th grade youth!
Time to start planning for
Minneapolis Jun. 29-Jul. 3, 2021!**

Special points of interest:

- NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ON DEC. 1, 22 & 29
- NO MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH ON DEC. 25 & JAN 1
- DECEMBER 8TH, 7:30PM, DINNER THEATER READ THROUGH
- 5TH GRADE HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES WEDNESDAY'S IN JANUARY @ 6:30PM.
- YOUTH SERVE LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26TH.



Who: 5th Grade Students and Parents/Guardians
When: Wednesday's in January
Time: 6:30pm
Where: Youth Room
Bring your Bible and Small Catechism



**First read through is
Sunday, December 8th at 7:30pm.
Scripts available now.**



Attention Kindergarteners through 5th Graders! Join us Friday, December 6th, 2019 here at Grace from 6:00-10:00pm for our annual Movie Night! Messiah New Hope will


be joining us for this free event (feel free to bring a friend)! Pizza and water will be provided. We will have devotions, games, and then watch the movie. Parents are welcome to stay but do not have to. Please sign up for this event on our website by clicking on the Sign up Central link, or by clicking "going" on our Facebook event.



December 18th, Grace Kids will have a Christmas Party at Air Madness! We will meet at Air Madness at 5:45 to sign in. Kids can jump from 6:00-7:00. After jumping, we will enjoy fellowship, pizza and a short devotion. Grace Kids and chaperones can jump for free. Siblings and other family members are welcome to join us as well at a cost

of \$15 per person. Please sign up for this event on our website by clicking on the Sign up Central link, or by clicking "going" on our Facebook event so we have an idea of how many are coming. If you'd like to fill out the waiver ahead of time, you can do so at Air Madness' Website.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent begins 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Blood pressure/blood sugar testing 9:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH	2	3 6:30 PM Committees 7:30 PM Council 7:00 PM AI-Anon	4 5:30 PM free supper & program practice for Sunday school 6:15 PM Hand Chimes 6:30 PM Middle school youth 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir	5 9:30 AM Aging Gracefully	6 6-10:00 PM Movie night for K thru 5th grade	7 11:30 AM Women of Grace lunch
8 Chimes Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Dinner theater read through	9	10 10:00 AM Grief Support 7:00 PM AI-Anon	11 5:30 PM free supper & program practice for Sunday school 6:15 PM Hand Chimes 6:30 PM Middle school youth 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir	12 11:30 AM Martha Circle potluck lunch 6:00 PM Hannah Circle potluck supper	13	14 1:00 PM Let's bake!
15 Christmas Music Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship with Choir Cantata 9:15 AM Sunday School NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY 4:30 PM 3 yr thru 4th grade Christmas program and supper 7:00 PM high school youth group	16	17 7:00 PM AI-Anon	18 1:00 PM Craft & Chat 6:30 PM Grace Kids Christmas party at Air Madness 6:15 PM Hand Chimes 6:30 PM Middle school youth 7:00 PM Celebrant Choir	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Worship NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Bell / Candle-light Service	25 Christmas Day 9:00 AM worship	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Novel Idea book club NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY NO HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH	30	31 7:00 PM AI-Anon	Jan. 1 Office closed 			

Dec. 2 Karmen Groos
 Dec. 2 Jenni Weber
 Dec. 4 Lukas Schmitt
 Dec. 4 Neil Sorensen
 Dec. 5 Scott Rasmusson
 Dec. 7 Ellie Beckman
 Dec. 7 Carol Conrad
 Dec. 8 Joyce Cunningham
 Dec. 9 Josh Utterback
 Dec. 11 Grace Weidenaar
 Dec. 12 Alicia Peterson
 Dec. 13 Claire Jacobsen
 Dec. 14 Larry Fassett
 Dec. 17 John Archer
 Dec. 17 Marilyn Robertson
 Dec. 18 Harriet Grosz
 Dec. 18 C.J. Jasmer
 Dec. 21 Gail Dybdahl
 Dec. 23 Lee Frieze
 Dec. 24 Kai Beyer
 Dec. 25 Scott Rohrbach
 Dec. 26 Tanya Jacobson
 Dec. 26 Chris Peterson
 Dec. 28 Chris Olson
 Dec. 29 Marv Knutson
 Dec. 30 Nancy Watters
 Dec. 31 Ardis Hovdenes
 Dec. 31 Xander Martin

Grace Lutheran Church
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December 2019

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT #427



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