

# News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ♦ December 2019

## Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

*"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."*



## Prayer List

Gary Grove, Joanne Nicholls,  
Gordon Hansen, Alec  
Kennedy, Deb Nitchman's

Family (Culbertsons), Kay Zinsli, Gerri Moors,  
Michele Amelotte, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze,  
Julie Troy, Jim Clemens, Bev Attwell, Gloria  
Moore, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen &  
Walter Spigelmyre, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig  
Satterlee, Bill Estlack, Kim Branch, Nick Wittman,  
Dave Stebbins, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Duane  
Schultz, Maria Shelton, Steve Thorpe, Charles  
Johnson, Charles Miller's Mother, Ann Haske,  
Mary Ann Czarnecki, Cassie Newman, Emily  
Cross, Liz, Lucas David, Dewayne Nail, Chris &  
Sarah Smith & Family, Ellen, Edna Delano,  
Yvonne Stoll, Margaret Crafts, Bill Carr, John  
Odstreil, Jordyn AnnMarie, Heather and Family,  
Joseph Hansen, Patricia Denstaedt, Scott  
Coddington, Cody Gustin.

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*Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or  
a family member, would like to continue on the  
prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).*



## Candlelight Worship

December 24th  
5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Communion offered at both services



December 28  
5:00 p.m.

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December 29  
9:30 a.m.

We will have Lessons and Carols Services on  
Saturday, December 28, and Sunday,  
December 29. Join us as we hear the story and  
sing the songs of the season.

## Sunday School Schedule December and January

December 1 - No Sunday School  
December 8 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
December 15 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
December 22 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
December 29 - No Sunday School

January 5 - No Sunday School  
January 12 - No Sunday School  
January 19 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
January 26 - Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.



My very first class at seminary, on the first Monday morning at 9 AM in 1998 was The Church's Struggle against Apartheid in South Africa with Rev. Dr. Peter Storey as the professor. He had been Nelson Mandela's chaplain on Robben Island for part of his long imprisonment there. He had worked with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the struggle at one time being Tutu's boss as President of the Board at the South Africa Council of Churches. He has written part of the Nobel Peace Prize application for Tutu nomination. I wanted to take the class because my high school history teacher in the 1970s, and at that time Lay United Methodist pastor, had spoken passionately about the immorality of apartheid.

It was a fascinating story of how apartheid had come to be, and then the struggle to end that had happened just a few years earlier in the 1990s. Apartheid was the separation of "races" with the white minority controlling the black and colored majority, limiting where people could live, jobs they could have, what they could own in terms of property, even where they travel in their own country and much more. It was an evil immoral system that was held in place by laws and brutally enforced upon population. The Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa had based their support of apartheid on the Bible. Dr. Storey had been involved in the struggle to end it as church leader for 30 some years. As you can imagine, it was utterly fascinating to learn the struggle against apartheid, really still a current news story of the day, from someone so intimately involved.

All in all the classes was quite an experience. We got to the end of it and many of the class were exhausted by the brutality of apartheid, the amount of effort and energy that it had taken to end something that seemed so easily so obviously patently immoral. And it had been supported by a church as biblically based. At same time we had hope that things could change in this world. God's grace and love could move mountains. God's kingdom of peace and justice and love could happen in this world now.

My high school teacher and Dr. Storey are undoubtedly some of the reason I have a passion for social justice in my life and ministry today. The same social justice that I see Jesus working for when he called for the widows and orphans to be cared for by the community. In that time if you were without family you had no support, no help for rough times. The same social justice Jesus did when healed someone of a disease that had excluded them from society. It was not just the healing of the body in many of those cases, it was also bringing them back into relationship with even their own family, allowing them to live together again rather than isolated at literal edges of the villages begging for scraps of food to survive. Jesus didn't only heal bodies, he healed relationships, he healed families bringing them back together in mutual love and support.

For a final paper he asked us take the lessons we had learned and apply them to a situation of social injustice today. It was interesting the number of things people named that they saw application. And we talked about it in the last class, someone said "there is so much that needs to be addressed, how do we possibly know what to do? Which one should we address? Which one can we give our energy and effort to?"

In addition to all the information of the class, how churches did work to end apartheid and the personal experiences that Dr. Storey related, his answer to that question is one thing I value from the class. He said, there will be some things that tug at you in a way that others do not. For whatever reason, your personal history and experiences, perhaps the gifts you have, some thing will call out to you. It may not be the BIG MOMENTOUS MOVEMENTS in history, but there will be some things that touch you in a special way. As religious people we would say the Holy Spirit is

**(Continued on next page)**

guiding you. Those you spend yourself on. Give more of yourself. More of your time, talents and dollars to. There will be other things that you also want to support but it will not be in the same way, with the same amount of time, talents or dollars.

That has really stuck with me. Yes there are things I care about more than others. I don't exactly know why. It just is. Those things get the most of me. And I support other things as I can, with what I can. I make choices.

So this is all a long story to say thank you at how generous this congregation is, in supporting the many projects we are doing. I often worry that we are asking too much for too many things. Yet the support is there time and time again. **Thank you. Thank you.**

I also want to say that I don't support every project we do equally in time, talent or dollars. Those that touch me receive more than others. And that is okay.

We, you and I, are church together. One project that calls to one person may not touch another. A different project that calls you may not have the same moving on another. We are church together. We do projects together, some may support a project a lot, others may support a given project a little, some may not support a specific project at all. On other projects that gets reversed. We do projects together and that is our strength and our balance. It works out. Despite being Lutheran, there should not be any guilt in not supporting projects all the same. We give as we are given to, and as we are called to give.

It works out because **WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.**

God's Peace,

*Pastor Tom*

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# Yulefest Bake Sale

**December 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**



The Ruth Circle is planning a Yulefest Bake Sale at Grace again this year on December 7th. Please begin to check your recipes for all kinds of goodies. We depend on everyone to help us make this a success.

Sale items may be brought in on Friday, December 6 from 9 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. We appreciate all baked or homemade goods, canned items, and craft items donated.



Please invite your family and friends to this annual event sponsored by the women of Grace. Contact Darlene Freel at 354-8866 if you can help set up on Friday or help the day of the sale. Thanks!

**This event is sponsored by the women of Grace, but all members of the congregation are invited to donate items or help and shop on the day of the event.**





## Congratulations

Congratulations to Joel & Cindy Suszek (and parents Cody & Jess!), on the birth of a granddaughter, Raylynn Angeline on November 5th.



## Congratulations

Best wishes to Mary Barney and Bill Bock, who were married at Grace on November 4th.

## Communion Assistant Needed

We have an open slot on our Communion Assistant schedule and are looking for someone who would be willing to serve on a team for the months of December and July. If you would consider serving on this team, or would be willing to fill in for one of the open months, please call Sharon Engstrom at 354-5133.



If you are leaving for the winter and have food in your house that is canned or non-perishable and you don't want to leave it in your house over the winter, please consider the Little Food Pantry. The LFP is getting a lot of use and any unopened food donation is appreciated.



## Little Food Pantry

## Decorating the Church

All are welcome to join us on December 8 following 9:30 a.m. worship for a wonderful time of fellowship. We will begin with a breakfast potluck (please sign the sheet in the Office Narthex if you plan to attend) and then decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Many hands will help make it fun and beautiful. We will be keeping the decorations up to enjoy through Epiphany. Join us to pack them away on Saturday, January 11, 2020.



## The 2019 Community Celebrating and Sharing Dinner

**THANK YOU** to all who helped in making the Celebrating and Sharing Community Dinner a success! It is always amazing how volunteers give of their time and efforts, along with those who attend who enjoy the fellowship, food and bidding. Jon Benson and his crew surely put on a wonderful meal and we are so blessed. Again the Auction Committee did wonderful work for Chinese raffle and silent auction. The generosity of all for giving items was greatly appreciated and truly helped make this a successful event!

This year was very successful and we are distributing **\$2500 to each Feeding Kids Ministry and Hope Shores Alliance** with St. Paul and Grace each receiving over \$5000. Thank you one and all who worked on the event and who attended.

The benefits of this event are countless and we want to thank everyone who participated!





Wesley Garant (USAF - S. Korea)  
PSC 2 BOX: 1071  
APO AP 96264

Please contact the office to add a name to this list.



Isabelle Denstaedt (letters only)  
158 Edgar Road  
WVA 213  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Miriam Denstaedt  
502 Meadow Brook Road  
East Vandenberg Hall - Room 407  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Please contact the office to add a name to this list.



New schedules for October 2019-September 2020 have been completed and are posted on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall. Copies are available to be picked up.

## GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers

**CHURCH OFFICE** ..... 354-2640  
Rev. Tom Orth ..... Home ..... 356-8729  
..... Cell ..... 916-8759  
Office Manager ..... Peggy Tomaszewski .. 255-8850  
Music Director ..... David Delano ..... 207-322-2074

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

President ..... Tom Lappan ..... 356-3718  
Vice-President ..... Rick Engstrom ..... 916-5963  
Exec. Secretary ..... Debby Nitchman ..... 916-8213  
Treasurer ..... Don Barnard ..... 464-3195

### WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL

Education ..... Elsa Phillips ..... 884-1809  
Worship ..... Sharon Engstrom ..... 354-5133  
Discipleship ..... Phran Ludington ..... 471-9117  
..... Dawn Anderson ..... 657-6923  
Property ..... Jeff Welch ..... 595-2195  
..... Bill Platt ..... 340-0154  
Fellowship ..... Jeanne Pankey ..... 354-2416  
..... Pat Schultz ..... 356-2781  
Finance/Stewardship...Dennis Werblow .... 354-5560

### OTHER V.I.P.s

Youth Director .....  
WELCA ..... Darleen Freel ..... 354-8866  
..... Dorothy Hansen ..... 354-3563  
Samaritas ..... Kay Grove ..... 727-2054  
Quilters .....  
LARCC ..... Steve Hansen ..... 404-406-8079

## November 2019

### Finances

GENERAL FUND .....\$ 20,040.00  
BUILDING FUND .....4,473.33  
OTHER .....812.34  
  
TOTAL .....\$ 25,325.67  
(Includes \$5,100 CC&S Dinner Proceeds)

### Attendance

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4) .....104  
SUNDAY WORSHIP (4) .....266  
TOTAL .....370

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

## DECEMBER 2019

### LECTORS

01 NANCY & BILL PLATT  
08 CHERYL WERBLOW  
15 ANNA LEWIS  
22 MIKE URLAUB  
24 VICKI DENSTAEDT (EARLY)  
CORINNE FRALEY (LATE)  
29 SERVICE LESSONS & CAROLS

### USHERS

WAYNE LEWIS  
CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS  
CORKY GATES  
MIKE, TRACEY, ADAM & ALLIE URLAUB

### GREETERS

01 WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON  
08 CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS  
15 PAUL & VICKI DENSTAEDT  
22 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM  
24 JOE & DAWN GENTRY (EARLY)  
GARY & KAY GROVE (LATE)  
29 MARY ROWADER, PHRAN LUDINGTON

### COUNTERS

GARY & KAY GROVE

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

PHRAN LUDINGTON

### ALTAR GUILD

DENSTAEDT FAMILY  
GENTRY FAMILY

### HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

### COOKIE/DOUGHNUT PICK UP (Sundays)

JOE & DAWN GENTRY

### FLOWERS

01 GENTRY  
08 GOHLKE  
15  
22 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS  
29 FURZE

### COFFEE HOUR

01 RUBY & OLIVIA HASKE  
08 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ  
15 WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON  
22 DAWN ANDERSON, PHRAN LUDINGTON  
29 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone  
to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday  
scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

## JANUARY 2020

### LECTORS

05 RUBY HASKE  
12 SHARON ENGSTROM  
19 SANDY WELCH  
26 ANNA LEWIS

### USHERS

DALE SCHULTZ  
PAUL & VICKI DENSTAEDT  
PHRAN LUDINGTON

### GREETERS

05 DAWN ANDERSON, ANNE GENTRY  
12 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ  
19 JOEL & CINDY SUSZEK  
26 JACK & PATTI TUCKER

### COUNTERS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

### ALTAR GUILD

KELLI LISKE  
ARLIS ST CHARLES (Sat. Set-up)

### HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

### COOKIE/DOUGHNUT PICK UP (Sundays)

WAYNE & CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON

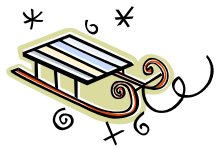
### FLOWERS

05  
12  
19  
26

### COFFEE HOUR

05 WAYNE LEWIS  
12 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM  
19 RUBY & OLIVIA HASKE  
26 JEFF & SANDY WELCH

***PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!***



## Anniversaries of Baptism



**December 1**  
Andrea Matzke

**December 4**  
Kevin Graham

**December 6**  
Monica Jahnke  
Levi Konarzewski

**December 7**  
Gary Grove

**December 8**  
Jewel Lancaster  
Ryan Werblow

**December 9**  
Cindy Suszek

**December 11**  
David Dekett

**December 12**  
Janie Hansen

**December 13**  
Clarence Cross

**December 14**  
Cheryl Lang

**December 16**  
Polly Cook

**December 17**  
Joel Gillard

**December 21**  
Gracie Gillard

**December 23**  
Melissa Chabot

**December 24**  
Riley Garant  
Edward Jahnke  
Kristina Wilson

**December 26**  
Erin Graham

**December 28**  
Jessica Konarzewski  
Sherie McTaggart

**December 30**  
Ethan McIntosh

**December 31**  
Brent Barrow



## Birthdays

**December 1**  
Denise Timrick

**December 2**  
Laurie Slater  
Ashley Timmreck

**December 3**  
Ricky Slater  
Laura Thompson

**December 5**  
Cody Suszek  
Amy Townsend

**December 7**  
Riley Garant  
Sophia Kamyszek

**December 8**  
Hannah Kamyszek

**December 9**  
Paul Denstaedt

**December 15**  
Rebecca Petrilli

**December 16**  
Stephanie Adamski  
Jerry Mudge

**Decemer 18**  
Stephen Hansen  
Jack Tucker

**December 19**  
Donna Czarnecki

**December 20**  
Gracelyn Gohlke  
Reed Lappan

**December 21**  
Charlotte Werth

**December 22**  
Shane Jaroch  
Connie Stepanski

**December 24**  
Patricia Schultz  
Mick Zinsli

**December 25**  
Matthew Freel

**December 26**  
Taylor Agius

**December 27**  
Jessica Timm

**December 29**  
Verna Furze  
Kenda Yochum

**December 30**  
Tom Lappan

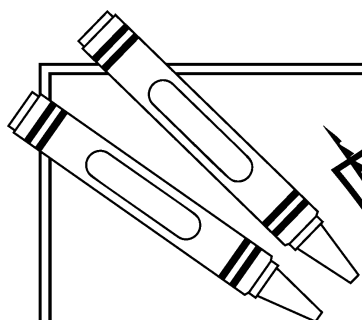
## Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Joseph & Dawn Gentry  
Dick & Barb Werle  
3rd Mick & Kay Zinsli  
4th Mike & Tracey Urlaub  
7th Mike & Kim McCourt  
16th Tom & Keri Bertrand

19th George & Mary Rowader  
21st Matt & Jessica Gillard  
23rd Tom & Joan Brennan  
29th Bob & Susan Stacey  
30th Tom & Mary Lappan



# Kid's Page



## PUZZLE

### Symbols of the season

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

**Directions:** Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff

☐ ☐ \_ \_ \_ \_ ☐

tree that keeps its leaves

\_ \_ \_ \_ ☐ \_ \_ \_ \_

shines to lead the way

\_ \_ \_ \_ ☐

green for eternal life,  
red for Jesus' blood

☐ \_ \_ \_ \_ &  
\_ \_ \_ \_ ☐ ☐ \_ \_

sounds to announce  
good news

☐ \_ \_ \_ \_

has no beginning or end

\_ \_ \_ \_ ☐ \_

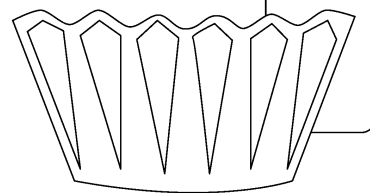
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indesc ☐ ☐ ba ☐ le gif ☐ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.  
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

## Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



### What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

### What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.



## *Christmas Decorations*

There will be a change in the ordering of poinsettias for Christmas. This year we are asking for donations for decorations for the church. They can be made in honor or memory of someone. Several larger poinsettias will be ordered and greenery or other decorations needed will be purchased with the money. This will alleviate throwing away so many poinsettias.

**DEADLINE.....DECEMBER 8, 2019**

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**



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There will be a change in the ordering of poinsettias for Christmas. This year we are asking for donations for decorations for the church. They can be made in honor or memory of someone. Several larger poinsettias will be ordered and greenery or other decorations needed will be purchased with the money. This will alleviate throwing away so many poinsettias.

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