

Grace & Trinity Newsbites

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

As I write this, we are celebrating the last few days of Christmas and preparing for Epiphany. There's a line from an orthodox hymn used for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord:

"Christ is born! Glorify Him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him" which provide good direction for daily life. God is with us – give glory to God. Jesus is with us – meet him. Expect to see him daily. How shall we live in such a way that we glorify God and meet Christ every day? For many in the Orthodox tradition the Gospels for Epiphany are the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana. An epiphany is when something is made plain, clear, an 'ah hah' moment when the light dawns. The Baptism of Jesus is such a grand Epiphany – a showing forth – a making manifest just who Jesus is. On January 7 & 8, we will hear the story of Jesus's baptism and hear God's voice – 'This is my beloved'. In our baptism we are named child of God and clothed with Christ. Promises are made. Those promises are affirmed when we are confirmed. *To live among God's faithful people, to gather for the word of God and the holy supper, to teach and to learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to study the holy scriptures, and to nurture and be nurtured in faith and prayer, so that we may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.***

What does it mean to be baptized, to keep these promises? To be washed and set free? To repent and turn our lives around? To be children of God in this century, in this year, on this day? What does it mean to be the church? What are our responsibilities? What is our part in the formation of a vital, alive community of faith? How are we living out of, and into our Baptism? How are we practicing faith? How are we passing on faith? How are we glorifying God and meeting Christ, God with us?

A vital faith community, and communal worship, the Word and Table, are essential for forming and sustaining faith; for helping families and individuals say yes to God's call, to discern right choices, to do good where we are. Where are we being led in this century, in this year, in this season? I challenge and encourage each one of you to own your responsibility for the work of the church. We are members of the body of Christ; we are the living stones of the church; locally and around the world. We, together and individually, proclaim the Gospel, and do the mission and ministry to which God calls us. We are never too young or too old to say yes to God and do the work of the church. So, whenever possible, say a joyful yes; and when not, give yourself a break, and say no. But remember, God chooses you, us, to proclaim the radical Gospel that God's amazing grace is for all; that we are beloved, forgiven children of God.

Traveling mercies, *Pr. Priscilla*

Thank You Corner ---

Thank you for the Christmas cards, gifts and greetings. All are very much appreciated. A special thank you to Kathy Mahannah, Mary Vander Pol, Carol Swenson and Suzi Anderson for baking cookies for fellowship at the parsonage. Pr. Priscilla

Thank you to all for the Christmas cards, goodies, greetings and gifts. Each congregation have been wonderful and generous this past year. I appreciate each and every one of you! Teala

Thanks to all who provided poinsettias at Grace and Trinity. If you would like to keep them, please pick them up by January 10. After that they will be disposed of.

Thanks to Lynn and Carol for this lovely plaque which now hangs in Grace's Fellowship Hall. It was a gift to Lynn's mother, Lillian, when she moved from SD; and now given to Grace in memory of Lillian.



The new sign is up - in memory of Judy Lutz. Thanks Keith and Verlyn for figuring out the electric. A side benefit, the signs that we've had up, are again lit up at night. Interesting discovery when taking a photo- the lines scroll - too fast for the eye, but the camera picked it up!



Thanks to Jean and Tracy for finding the new chairs for the pastor and reader in the sanctuary. The others were beginning to show their age and were not so comfortable anymore.



Our 2022 Advent Project- "BUYING THE WHOLE FARM" made a total of \$1600.00! This will allow us to purchase 2 farms \$1430., 2 roosters \$30, 1 goat \$50, 1 piglet \$30, 2 water filters \$60!



We received 500 + items for the November Thrivent Challenge!



Living Nativity at the West Point Family Christmas Festival on Main



Christian Education Christmas Program at Grace



Practice at Trinity – First Read Through

January 24 & 26 and February 16 and 21, Grace and Trinity are staffing the concession stand at the high school. Funds raised will go towards treating teachers and staff (elementary – high school) to pick up breakfast sometime in March. Watch for more info and signups.

In Our Prayers this Month:

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity News

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity will be having a special meeting to change the by-laws to change the quorum requirements for church meeting to 10% of the membership of the congregation. The meeting will be after the worship service on Saturday, January 28.

Trinity – October Financial Report – General Fund	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	.
Trinity – November Financial Report – General Fund	
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Trinity’s November and December Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.

The end of the year financial report for Trinity will be available after the council meeting January 18.

Everyone is welcome for potluck and games after the service – the 1st Saturday of the month.

Grace News

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

The Offering Envelopes for January to July 2023 are in the office! Please stop by and pick them up!



Don Olsen on his 95th birthday!



**Drue Danelle Schroeder
baptized on Saturday, December 31, 2022!**

Grace’s November and December Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.

Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Reports

General Fund – October 2022

To see the latest report please contact the office.	
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General Fund – November 2022

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The end of the year financial report for Grace will be available after the council meeting January 10.