

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!



*Rooted In Christ - Growing in Love -
Branching out in Service*



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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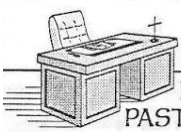
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Grace & Trinity Newsbites

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

2024 holds two dates of significance for me personally – a 65th birthday (Medicare here I come) and a 20th anniversary of ordination to

Word and Sacrament ministry. What is in the works for you this year? Some days I feel the years more than others. Some years I wonder how I could be old enough for Medicare. How about you? Life is a continuing series of moments that create and shape us; we can't control much in this universe, but we do get to choose how we live in the moments we have! God is with us for every one of those moments, but for how many are we conscious of the Divine with in and with out? Do we practice the presence of God and rehearse our proclamation of the Good News enough that we can go from our heart memory? Perhaps this could be the year we concentrate on the practice of the presence of God; when we train ourselves to be ready to witness, in word and deed, to the goodness of God and God's great love for us and all the world. Maybe this is the year to live fully in the moment; diligently providing for the future and prudently celebrating the past while living wholeheartedly, always now and here.

Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

In January we are moving a few things around – liturgically speaking! We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 & 7 with kings and camels and star words.

On January 13 & 14 we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus and remember our own baptisms as well. Yikes! You might get wet.

January 20 – we are having a joint service at Trinity (no service on the 21st at Grace).

January 21-February 6 – Pastor is participating in the Synod vision trip to our companion synod in Tanzania. While she is away, Pr. Deb Hammer is available for emergency call.

January 28 – we are having a joint service at Grace (no service on the 27th at Trinity) – led by the Heavenly Hens! For God's glory, they share their gift of music; how do you share your gifts for the glory of God?

Lent begins – Ash Wednesday is February 14. On Lenten Wednesdays we will walk with the Apostle Peter and be present with him in his encounters with Jesus.

Thank you ...

Thanks to all for the kind greetings and gifts during this Christmas season. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. Pr. Priscilla

Thank you to all who have provided special music, been part of leading services, purchased poinsettias, decorated the buildings, brought snacks and treats. Your service is part of proclaiming the Good News of God's great love and grace for all. THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who gave such lovely Christmas cards, treats and gifts. I appreciate it all very much. Teala

Thanks to all who provided poinsettias at Grace and Trinity. If you would like to keep them, please pick them up by January 7. After that they will be disposed of.



My congratulations to the congregations of Grace Lutheran and Trinity Church on the successful food drive with the Give Thanks and Give Back November Food Shelf Challenge. 756 individual

food items for the West Point Food Pantry is a great collection! We at Thrivent are excited to direct a donation in the amount of \$500 to the food pantry as a generosity multiplier for your work. Thank you for encouraging the congregations to #LiveGenerously this holiday season!



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 – November Financial Report – General Fund

**To see the latest report please
contact the office.**

Trinity Giving for December 3 thru 24 -

**Trinity's November Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside
the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the
office.**

We're giving 1st Saturday (Jan. 6) games nights at Trinity another go – something fun to do on a winter evening. You are invited to bring hearty snacks and your favorite board game; or just a snack or just yourself. We have lots of games available and there is always enough to share. We generally start playing about 15 minutes after service ends; 6:30/6:45 and go until folks are ready to go home.

Grace News

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

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Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report

General Fund – November 2023

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Grace Giving for December 3 thru 24 -

Grace folks, don't worry about undecorating the church and fellowship hall. We have a plan; it's taken care of!

Let the celebration begin!

As we look forward to Grace Lutheran's 150th anniversary, several activities are in the works:

- 1) Selecting a logo for all things printed and shirts
- 2) June 9 – Family Day with inflatables and food trucks
- 3) Walking in the Cuming County fair parade with Celebration T-shirts and/or polos
- 4) Displaying our story at the fair in the museum or in a booth
- 5) October 20 - Celebration Service with the Bishop and a catered meal to follow

If you have ideas about other activities or are interested in helping with those listed, please contact a Council member.

Let's work together to make our 150th celebration amazing! We are planning a new directory in 2024; same style as the last one. We are hoping that everybody will contribute a photo and brief biography. Think about what you'd like to include in that bio. As you are looking at family Christmas photos, be thinking which one might work. Or look through other recent photos from family gatherings. Candid is great. Photos taken on family farms or other significant places are always fun to see. Remember, if you want to use a photo taken by a professional photographer, we will need permission to reprint it.

The Grace Quilters are in need of used sheets (any size) and blankets.

**Grace Annual Reports are due in to the office by
Friday, January 12th!!!**

Elveria Thietje's new address:

Carol Sellentin's new address:

Our 2023 Advent Project so far has made a total of \$670.00! This will allow us to purchase 2 goats, 3 pairs of goats, 3 sets of goat & chicks and 9 flocks of chicks. There is still time to donate!

