

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran
Church

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



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Grace & Trinity Newsbites

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025

Advent is coming! Almost nobody goes there first, but rather to Christmas is coming!! Christmas after all is the celebration of the glorious impossibility of God becoming flesh, incarnate, a baby born, angels sing, visitors arrive, gifts are given. All so very wonderful. I'll argue the case for Advent though. In the ever increasing busy-ness of life, in a world of instant everything, and activities and choices that seem to grow exponentially; our souls grow weary, and our minds and bodies overloaded. Advent offers stillness, moments of quiet, of anticipation, of wonder, of gratitude, of joy that are essential for the well being of our soul, body and mind. I invite us this Advent to reflect on the 'entering in' of the Christ to our world and to our hearts. I invite us to renew our practices of sabbath keeping, of prayer, of gathering together for the holy meal, for worship, for service, for learning. I invite us to be bold in living the Gospel, in proclaiming the reckless, lavish, over the top love and grace of God poured out for all, in being open to the Spirit's leading; and in taking time and making space to be still. Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

Food for thought:

"We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We are indifferent to the message, taking only the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forgetting the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us.

"The Coming of Jesus in Our Midst" — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is In the Manger

In memory of Oscar Romero (1917–1980)

A Future Not Our Own

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of
saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession
brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives include everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one
day will grow. We water the seeds already planted
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of
liberation in realizing this.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's
grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the
difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not
messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

From Xavarian Missionaries:

Oscar A. Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, in El Salvador, was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass in a small chapel in a cancer hospital where he lived. He had always been close to his people, preached a prophetic gospel, denouncing the injustice in his country and supporting the development of popular and mass organizations. He became the voice of the Salvadoran people when all other channels of expression had been crushed by the repression.

This poem was composed by Bishop Ken Untener on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Óscar Romero on March 24, 1980. Romero was assassinated while celebrating the Mass at Hospital de la Divina Providencia, a church-run hospital specializing in cancer and care for the terminally ill. His funeral was attended by 250,000 mourners from around the world.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We are expanding on what we did last year and trying something different. We had a few counter kettles in businesses last year. We'd like to expand this year. Is there a place where you work to put one? Let the office or Pastor know. We will continue having the QR code available to make an online donation. **Here's the something different** – we are not scheduling set days to ring bells at local stores. Instead, if you and your family, or a group from work, or a couple of friends would like to schedule an hour or two, or more, that you'd like to ring between December 1 and December 23, please arrange that with the office – at least two days in advance. We are calling this “pop up bell ringing”!

Advent Wednesday suppers & services will be at Grace, beginning at 5:30 and ending by 7. The first week's meal is a surprise! The second week is pot-luck – bring a hot dish, jello salad or bars. Yes, it's a bit of a 'retro' meal! The third week we will be ordering pizza and salad, plan to bring \$5 per person or \$20 per family to donate towards the meal. More info to follow!

(pre)Thanksgiving weekend. We are again worshipping together at Trinity on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Our Christian Ed group will be singing and assisting in leading the service. Here's a way for everyone to participate. We'd like to have some short videos or photo montage for a powerpoint during the service. The question to answer or topic to 'address' is gratitude. For what are you grateful? How does gratitude work on your heart? Be creative. You could do this as an individual, or family or small group. The videos could be talking, singing, a brief skit... We would need these into the office no later than November 17 so that we can get the power point together.

Annual meetings – yes, it is that time of year again. Both annual meetings will be in December; Grace after service on the 7th and Trinity at 1 PM on Sunday, December 14. (We're trying a stand-alone meeting this year; with a light lunch.) Three questions I

encourage everyone to consider as we approach these meetings – Why are we here? We being the congregation. Why are you here? Why are we doing ministry together? Annual meetings are part of the work of the church. We do our best to do things decently and in order (as Presbyterians would say); to be wise stewards of what God has entrusted to us; all so that we might be about the mission and ministry God calls us to in this place and time. Giving travel and meeting time, at most, it is an hour or two of your time. Is the work of the church worth as much time as a movie?

The Living Nativity on Main St. is one way we proclaim the Gospel outside our walls. We work together with other Christian brothers and sisters to be sure that the Gospel is seen and heard in the midst of all of our cultural Christmas traditions. Each year we are figuring out ways to make it more manageable and enjoyable. Please consider signing up for a shift – get a couple of friends to sign up with you, or your grandchildren. Do your half hour and then enjoy some of the many activities on Main St. If you don't want to use the link for the sign-up genius, you can call the office and to sign you up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DA9AE28A2FCC25-60085312-living>

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Grace Lutheran and Trinity Churches will be hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 23rd from 11am-1pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

Free will offering is encouraged.

All are welcome! RSVP is requested.

Please RSVP no later than Nov. 17th.

OR

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C44ADA72EA0FF2-58482634-thanksgiving>

OR call/email either church at

Grace and Trinity members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

RSVP here:



Our (pre) Thanksgiving weekend – November 22 (Worship in one house @Trinity– led by our children and youth) & 23rd (Community dinner @Grace 11-1)

Advent 1– November 29 & 30 – ‘hanging of the greens’ services – preparing our ‘houses’ for the coming of our Savior

Wednesday December 3 – 5:30-7ish. Supper and worship.

Friday December 5 – 6:30 Men’s Advent breakfast

Advent 2 – December 6 & 7 – Get ready!

Keeping our house in order (Grace annual meeting)

Wednesday December 10 – 5:30 to 7ish. Supper and worship. Pot luck – bring a hot dish, jello salad or bars

Friday December 12 6:30 Men’s Advent breakfast

Advent 3 – December 14 – Christmas joy! Worship in one house on Sunday @ Grace, led by children, youth and bell choir.

Keeping our house in order (Trinity Annual Meeting Sunday 1 PM @Trinity.)

Wednesday, December 17 – 5:30 to 7ish. Supper and worship. Pizza and salad. Bring \$5 per person (\$20 per family) and a plate of Christmas cookies.

Friday December 5 - 6:30 Men’s Advent breakfast

Advent 4 – December 20 –The Light no darkness can overcome.

Worship in one house on Saturday @Trinity with a campfire afterwards 😊

Christmas Eve – 2 & 5 at Grace; 7:30 at Trinity. Carols, communion & candles.

Christmas 1 – December 28 – Lessons & Carols – Worship in one house on Sunday @Grace; led by Grace’s Praise Team.

Epiphany – January 3 & 4 – Visitors arrive. Gifts are given. We undecorate our houses. Pot luck after both services. Bring a small wrapped ‘white elephant’ gift for a ‘yankee swap’.

Christian Ed is on break December 24 & 31; see you @ Trinity on Jan 7.

In Our Prayers this Week:

To see an updated list please contact the office.

Trinity News

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

To see an updated list please contact the office.

Trinity – September Financial Report – General Fund	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	

I felt I needed to share what I witnessed at Trinity a few Saturdays ago as Jim & I prepared ourselves for an atmosphere of worship. We have a young man in our church, Tim, who lives in a group home. Tim is an important part of our congregation and has some disabilities. His staff, Brendan, brings him to church often on Saturday evenings. Tim, is nonverbal and needs assistance to walk. In fact, he needs assistance with most things. When Brendan brings Tim, they usually sit towards the front. As Brendan was helping Tim up the aisle, Tim decided he had had enough walking (it is a long way from the parking lot into the church, into the sanctuary, then up the aisle!) and simply sat down in the middle of the aisle in the center of the church), 10 minutes before the service was to start. I smiled and watched, wondering, how is Brendan going to handle this?! He looked at Tim and said, "Oh, you need to sit down? OK!" and then he simply sat down with Tim and joined him quietly talking to him for 5

minutes. Never pressuring him or scolding him. Just conversing. Pretty soon, Tim let out a guttural noise and Brendan said, "Are you ready to go sit in the pew? Tim flapped his arms, let out a grunt, Brendan helped him up, the acolyte went down the aisle and lit the candles, the pastor walked down the aisle for the service to begin, but Jesus had already given the sermon! I wiped my tears and turned as Pastor greeted us. Amen!

Grace News

November Birthdays & Anniversaries
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To see an updated list please contact the office.

Grace Lutheran Church - September Financial Report – General Fund Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board by the offices. The full financial report is available in the office.	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	

Reminder, Vicki Furchert is still collecting Best Choice UPC codes. Our American Legion Auxiliary gets 3 cents per code. The funds are used for Veteran’s projects. There is a collection bucket in Parish Hall at Grace.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for movie night – last Tuesday of the month. Except – not in November.



Friendship Circle met October 3, 2025.
Sandy & Ruth provided supper.
Fern, Linda, Mary V., Sandy and Ruth were in attendance.

Mary V. updated the group on plans for the Lasagna Supper on Nov. 5. The group did more work on the Samaritan’s Purse project to get things ready for packing.

Poinsettias Needed at Grace Lutheran Church

We will again have a Christmas Garden of lovely Poinsettias
for our Christmas Worship Services.

**This year you can order and pay for your Poinsettias
direct from the church office if done so by
Monday, December 16th.**

\$19.50 each per Poinsettia for #_____ of plants.

Poinsettias given in honor of/in memory of (circle one)

From _____

Or

**If you bring in your own plant, fill out the following by Monday,
December 5th in order to get your donation listed in the Christmas
Bulletin. Please bring your plant in on Monday, December 22.**

I would like to bring my own poinsettia plant.

Poinsettia given in honor of/or in memory of (circle one)

From: _____

NEEDED: A crew of 3 to 4 volunteers to watch over the poinsettias to
water them and remove dead leaves. Time to be determined for
arranging the plants.