



# Hilltop Lights

MAKING BELIEVERS, GROWING DISCIPLES, DEVELOPING LEADERS



COCOA &amp; CAROLS &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

## FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! In this year, Grace Lutheran turns 70 years old. That's a significant milestone in the life of a congregation. Ministry has been happening in the Hilltop Neighborhood of Sioux Falls since the neighborhood was developed as the home-builder donated the land on which Grace Lutheran is built.

In that time, the people of Grace have touched countless lives with the good news of the gospel. Generations have gathered for worship, learning, fellowship, and service. Some of those multi-generations gather to worship together as family in the pews. We do not have many charter members left in our membership, but countless saints of God served in this place that Grace continues to have a vital, vibrant ministry.

Grace Lutheran is a congregation with many gifts – each one of you is a gift from God for this ministry. As we come together in all our diversity, God does amazing things through this place. People are welcomed; people are cared for. People grow in faith and in their relationship with God.

I give thanks for Grace Lutheran. We've had 70 good years of ministry. Let's move into the future so there are many more.

*Pastor Siri*

Pastoral Acts in December:  
Funeral for Dean Nielsen

### We need a roof! Information meeting

We need to replace the flat roof on the south and east of the building, and the top of the elevator shaft. A Resolution asking permission from the congregation for a loan to cover the cost will be on the agenda of the Annual Meeting. There will be an information meeting on Sunday, January 11 at 10:15 in the sanctuary to talk about the bid process and recommendation. We will also talk about what needs to be done in more detail and answer any questions you may have.

**Save the Date:** The Annual Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2025 at 10:00 am at the close of the worship service. Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 18.

## Worship in January

Services at 9:00 am both in person and livestreamed on Facebook.

### January 4

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Setting 6

**Sunday School resumes**

### January 11

Baptism of Jesus

Setting 4

**Milestone Remembering Baptism for all baptized in the past year.**

### January 18

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Service of the Word

### January 25

January 25

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Setting 8

**P3-4th grade singing church**  
**Annual Meeting held at end of worship service**

# facebook

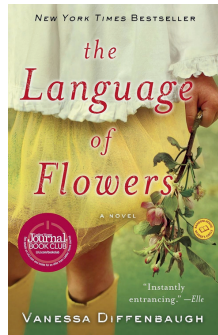
devotions occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 am and are available for later viewing on Facebook.



# Upcoming Events and Small Groups

## NOVEL IDEA

January 25 @  
10:30am in the  
meeting room



This group is open to anyone. Books are available to checkout in the church office. Even if you can't make the meetings feel free to read the book!



Let's Bake  
Jan. 17  
9:00am

This small group is open to anyone interested in baking treats for our Sunday morning coffee hour. All necessary supplies and recipes will be provided. Meet in the downstairs kitchen.

## Adult Bible Study

10:15 in the Gathering Place  
with Pastor Woody

The bible study is  
"The Spiritual Realms".  
All adults are welcome  
to join.  
Coffee is provided.



## GRACE KIDS

January 7 & 21

6:15-7:15pm

Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Grace Kids is our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth  
group that meets every other  
Wednesday.



Strengthening Individuals,  
Families & Communities

## Aging Gracefully:

Thursday, January 8 at 9:30 am.

We will have a program on the Center for New Americans of LSS and how they are helping refugees settle into life in South Dakota. We will also hear about the "Warm Welcomes" greeter program they have started.

**Note the DATE CHANGE.** Since the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday is the New Year holiday, we are meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday this month.

## Looking ahead to Lent – Opportunity to be in a drama

For our midweek Lenten services this year, we will be having a series of short dramas based on the "mountain top" experiences of people in scripture. There are parts for men and women, young and old. If you would like to participate, let Pastor Siri know. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18.



## Administrative Notes



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have Choice dollars make sure to designate them to a charity by March 31st. If you direct them to Grace Lutheran, please let Becky know what you would like them designated. (HVAC, General Fund, youth, toilet paper, etc....)



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Enrollment code: GUF1T38MGTWA

Contact Becky in the office with questions.



Every gift card purchased through RaiseRight has a percentage that will come back to our church to be used to pay off our HVAC loan!

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brands to  
choose from

Want to be the Sherlock Holmes of staying "In The Know" with all those address, phone number, and email updates? Sign up for our Instant Church Directory Online! This app is as easy to use and a lifesaver when you need to reach out to fellow church members. For more info or a helping hand getting started, just contact Becky in the church office!

Please note, you must have an email address registered with the church to be able to use our online directory.



# CARING MINISTRIES

## Prayer Chain

*If you have a request for the email prayer chain, or would like to be a "pray-er" on it contact Sharon Dierks*  
Phone: 605-759-7009 or  
email: dsdierks2@gmail.com.

## Grief Support Group

**Tuesday, January 13**

at 10:00 am in the meeting room. This is a group for people who have experienced grief of any kind.

There are free blood pressure and blood sugar checks on the first Sunday of the month after worship.

## Hospital Visitation Note:

If you find yourself hospitalized and haven't received a visit from Robin Hofkamp or Pastor Siri, it likely means your name didn't appear on our visitation list. Please inform us of your hospital stay, and we will make it a priority to visit you. Frequently, if someone is admitted through the ER, we may not be notified of their admission.

## PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

You are invited to pray with Pastor Siri for a shepherding group of families from the congregation each week.

May God bless:

### December 28-January 3: Shepherding District 15, Zone B:

Diane & Rich Andresen; Brenda Backous; Rita Blake, Josh; Don Eide; Linda & Loren Koepsell

### January 4-10: Shepherding District 16, Zone A:

Jerry Goddard; Ardis Greenwood; Darold & Grace Heckenlaible; Carole Lee; Floyd & Sylvia Lehman

### January 11-17: Shepherding District 16, Zone B:

Crystal & Todd Beckman; Ellie Beckman; Mollie Beckman; Diane Erdmann; Tim & Lori Hillman; Grant Hooyer; Lois Sundvold

### January 18-24: Shepherding District 16, Zone C:

Chris Bowman, Kallie, Addie; Pam Bowman; Dave & Sharon Dierks; Dorothy Hixson; Brandon Ree; Elaine & Jim Tatge

### January 25-31: Shepherding District 16, Zone D:

Ryan & Darcie Heaton, Ryker; Rick & Laurie Jorgensen; Jodi Penn; Chris & Alicia Peterson, Will, Bennett; Roland & Susan Smit

## Service & Mission



Several Committees are looking for members. If you are interested in serving on a particular committee, talk to Pastor Siri.

## JANUARY COLLECTION

ITEM:

**PASTA  
and  
Mac & Cheese!**

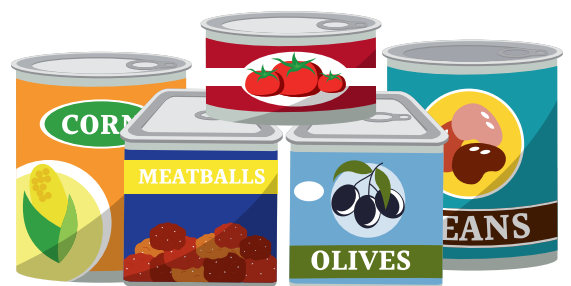


## Volunteer Alert!

Join us on January 15th at Augustana Lutheran for a pasta and mac & cheese extravaganza with Food to You! Sign up to lend a hand at the info table or online.



**Food Pantry:** We continue to have a few food pantry items and meal kits in the meeting room at church. Take what you need for yourself or a neighbor or leave donations if you can. Once the need for the pantry is done, we'll donate any items to the Sioux Falls Food Pantry.



## Bible Study January 15

Martha Bible Study @ 9:30am  
Hannah Bible Study @ 2:00pm  
Both groups meet in the  
Fellowship Hall



## Winter 2026: "Embodied prayer" by the Rev. Liv Larson Andrews

Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God, and one of the ways we respond to God speaking in our lives. At the same time, we may carry all kinds of baggage or heavy questions about prayer: Am I doing it "right?" Do I pray enough? Is prayer always done with words? This two-part Bible study looks to Scripture as a guide to explore some different ways we can pray with our bodies—and with the body of the earth.

(January) Session One: Praying with our bodies  
Looking to the Apostle Paul, Mary, the Psalms and more, we'll learn about and try three embodied practices of prayer based on breathing techniques, the use of beads (such as the rosary) and praying in different postures (sitting, standing and kneeling).



## Thankoffering Update



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed offerings at our Thankoffering Service! The total collected was \$618.86. This will be sent to churchwide to help the many ministries that we as Women of the ELCA support.

There was a wonderful article in the September-November issue of Gather that was titled A legacy of generosity. It explained that "The spiritual practice of collecting Thankofferings began in the late 19th century.....Not long after came the idea of holding an annual Thankoffering service.....Today, Thankofferings sustain the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Those ministries include justice and advocacy work, anti-racism training, scholarships, global education grants and a multitude of online and printed resources that raise awareness of issues like domestic violence, human trafficking and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, to name just a few".

Thank you so much for your continued support of the work of the Women of the ELCA! If you did not keep your Thankoffering box, please pick up another one at the church on the information desk. If you did not participate this year, but would like to do so next year, please pick one up to use for your Thankofferings. Our Thankoffering Service will again be held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.  
Be thankful and count your blessings every single day!  
Sherry Archer

# HELP NEEDED

We're on the hunt for a Service Group Leader for Group #4! Your mission, should you choose to accept it, includes leading one Lenten Supper and lending a hand with funerals. Please let Karen Shea or Sharon Dierks know if you are interested.

## Confirmation and Milestones



**Middle Schoolers** meet Wednesdays January 7, 14, 21, 28, and February 4 at 6:15 pm in the Youth Room for their confirmation unit on the 10 Commandments. Bring your bibles and catechisms.



**5th Graders** meet Sundays January 4, 11, 18, 25, and February 1 during Sunday School for First Communion Instruction. **Bring a parent or guardian with you for this class.** First Communion will be February 8.



On Sunday, January 11, we have the Remembrance of Baptism milestone which recognizes and encourages all who were baptized in the past year.  
This year we recognize Valkyrie, Axyl and Hazyl.

# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

## JANUARY 2026

### A Note From Our Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry:



2026 is now here! January marks the beginning of a new year—2025 has passed; 2026 has arrived. The arrival of the new year resonates with the Christian theme of transformation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 talks about how if anyone is in Christ, “the old is gone; the new is here.” When we are in Christ, our old, sinful selves are crucified with Him, and we are given a new identity: beloved, redeemed, and forgiven children of God. Because our identity is Christ, we are constantly being transformed to become more and more like Him (2 Corinthians 3:18). My prayer is that this new year will be a time for us to live out this new identity and to remain open to the transforming work God is doing in and through us.

Blessings,  
Thomas

## YOUTH EVENTS

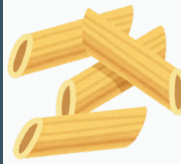
### MISSION TRIP DEPOSIT DUE

The second HS Mission Trip deposit is due January 25! Spots are limited—turn in your deposit to the church office to reserve your spot. Cash or checks are accepted.



### SERVING AT FOOD-TO-YOU

Join the youth group for an evening serving Food To You on Thursday, January 15, from 5:15-7:15pm at Augustana Lutheran Church. More information can be found on the website or in a parent email sent out.



### FAITH FEST REGISTRATION

Registration for Faith Fest closes on Saturday, January 17. This event is for youth in 6th-8th grade. Register now before all the spots are taken!



### SNOW TUBING AT GREAT BEAR

On Saturday, January 24, from 9:30am-12pm the youth group will be heading to Great Bear for a morning full of snow tubing and FUN! More information can be found on the website or in a parent email sent out.



## BIBLE VERSE & DEVOTIONAL

THEREFORE,  
IF ANYONE IS  
IN CHRIST,  
HE IS A  
NEW CREATION:  
THE OLD HAS  
GONE.  
THE NEW HAS  
COME!

*2 Corinthians 5:17*



### HOCKEY GAME AT AUGIE!

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 30, from 6:15pm-9:00pm! We're off to Augustana University for a night of faith and face-offs at the Augie hockey game. Keep an eye on your inbox for more information!



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

In December, the youth group went to Thunder Road for an evening full of food, laser tag, arcade games, and bowling. We made great memories together while celebrating the Christmas season!

### JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



Middle School High School



Did you know you can subscribe to the youth calendar on our website? All youth events and confirmation dates will be automatically added to your calendar!



FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM!

# YOUNG ADULTS

## WHAT IS HAPPENING?



During the past 2 months, I have met with pastors from Gloria Dei, Peace, Our Savior's, and Augustana Lutheran Church. We are all working on getting a Gather Network started in the Sioux Falls Area. The Gather Network focuses on local ELCA churches collaborating to start young adult groups in communities nationwide. Stay tuned for more information on any upcoming events or updates! You can reach out to Thomas Kenison with any questions about The Gather Network.

**JOIN OUR  
GROUP CHAT!**



**FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM!**



*Each month Grace Lutheran receives multiple thank you notes from the organizations that we support through our tithes and offerings.*

**Thank you to all who made the Christmas services and events so meaningful:**

- To Del Hubers, Gea Eckhoff, Jerry Goddard, Christine Verba, Jess Griggs, Alicia Peterson, Lisa Jasmer who lead and accompany our music groups and to all the singers and ringers and instrumentalists.
- To Becky Smith and her crew for all the creative technology.
- To all who decorated around the church and to all who provided for food and fellowship for the many events.
- To all who provided poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary.
- To Kaye Henle, who kept the poinsettias alive by watering them twice a week.



*Sharing a Dream  
IN GUATEMALA*

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,  
This photo says it so well! Thank you so much for hosting us!  
Your collective purchases of \$260 are already at work in Guatemala, helping families survive and thrive.

Thank you,  
Karen Kraus



**Thank You to Dana Dahlquist who has been serving as one of our custodians. He has retired as custodian, but volunteered to serve on the Property Committee. Welcome back to Tanya Jacobson who will be joining Dave Stoterau as the second custodian.**

A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped with the various Worship events throughout the year. From lectors, communion servers to those who assisted with meals.  
-Worship Committee

**Thank you for your donations for the head to toe Tree. We were able to help many individuals in the community warm because of your generosity.**  
-Service & Mission



**Thank you to Everyone that helped with the Veterans Christmas meal and stockings at VCP. It was a wonderful evening!**



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Bread Break Sunday</b> <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:15am 5th grade First Communion Instruction 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 6:30pm Committee Meetings 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen 7:30pm Council Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm 6-8th Grade Confirmation 6:15pm Grace Kids 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm High School Youth Group	<b>8</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Aging Gracefully	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am 4H
<b>11</b> <b>9:00am Worship- Baptism Remembrance</b> 10:15am 5th grade First Communion Instruction 10:15am Adult Bible Study <b>10:15am Information Meeting- Roof Replacement</b> 10:15am Sunday School 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 10:00am Grief Support 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>14</b> 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm 6-8th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm High School Youth Group	<b>15</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Martha Bible Study 2:00pm Hannah Bible Study 5:15pm Serve at Food to You	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am Let's Bake
<b>18</b> <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:15am 5th grade First Communion Instruction 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>21</b> 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm 6-8th Grade Confirmation 6:15pm Grace Kids 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm High School Youth Group	<b>22</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am Youth Snowtubing @ Great Bear
<b>25</b> <b>9:00am Worship- Annual Meeting &amp; P3-4<sup>th</sup> grade singing</b> 10:15am 5th grade First Communion Instruction 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Novel Idea 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>28</b> 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm 6-8th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm High School Youth Group	<b>29</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion	<b>30</b> 6:15pm Youth Faith Night @ Augustana Hockey Game	<b>31</b>

## **January BIRTHDAYS**

**1/2** Elijah Watters  
**1/3** Lynn Rasmusson  
**1/3** Robert Rasmusson  
**1/5** Loren Koepsell  
**1/8** Anna Sorenson  
**1/9** Karen Jorgensen  
**1/9** Brady White  
**1/10** Dick Neish  
**1/11** Carolyn Erdmann  
**1/11** Clay Lippert  
**1/13** Mary Peltier

**11/15** Sharon Hetland  
**1/15** Vickie Peters  
**1/16** Marie Daniel  
**1/17** Linda Olson  
**1/18** Chloe Lippert  
**1/18** Hazyl Wiley-Gochenour  
**1/19** Taylor Hixson  
**1/20** Colter Wagner  
**1/22** Matthew Griggs  
**1/25** Shirley Ziebarth  
**1/26** Janice Camp  
**1/28** Dallas Hofer  
**1/28** Tara White  
**1/29** Rich Finley  
**1/29** Glenn Hooyer

### **Treasurer's Report**

All payroll taxes and benevolences are paid to date as of end of November. All monies borrowed from Special Funds have been repaid. One outstanding bill for the boiler for \$2500 came in after the end of the month, but dated in November.

**November 30, 2025**

**Total Contributions: \$45,734.27**

**Total Expenses: \$32,620.92**

**Loan Balance: \$49,582.53**

**Operating Account \$(8,622.12)**

**Berg Fund Balance: \$270.02**

**Special Funds: \$32,587.24**



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**3300 E 18th Street**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57103**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SIOUX FALLS SD  
PERMIT #427**

**Or current resident**

**Siri Sorenson, Senior Pastor**  
**Office 334-0061**

**Robin Hofkamp**  
**Visitation Ministry**

**Thomas Kenison**  
**Youth & Young Adult Ministries**  
**Office 334-6066**

**Del Hubers**  
**Choir/Ensemble Director**

**Lisa Jasmer**  
**Faith & Family Ministries**

**Dave Stoterau & Tanya Jacobson,**  
**Custodians**

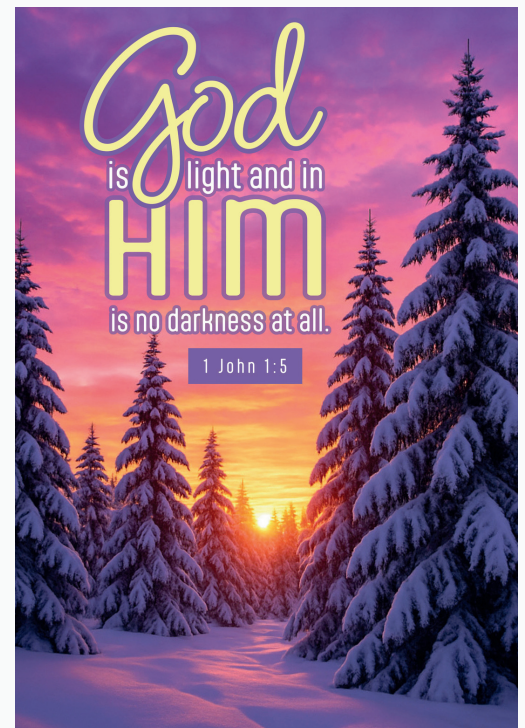
**Becky Smith**  
**Secretary and Coordinator of**  
**Communication and Technology**  
**Office 334-8625**  
**gracelutheransfsd@gmail.com**

**Executive Board**  
**Darrell Griggs, President**  
  
**Tanya Jacobson, Vice President**

**Rita Blake**  
**Parish Nurse**

**Dave Stotz Treasurer**  
**glctreasurer3300@gmail.com**

**Wendy Bergen, Secretary**



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