

Hilltop Lights

MAKING BELIEVERS, GROWING DISCIPLES, DEVELOPING LEADERS



AGING GRACEFULLY'S FIELD TRIP IN SEPTEMBER

FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this November article in mid-October, I can report that I have already seen my first Christmas commercials on TV and, of course, seen the Christmas displays in the stores.

I love Christmas, but I don't like that it gets rushed. I do not like going from Halloween to Christmas. I'm with the turkey in this meme. As we head into what is now known as the holiday season, it is important, I think, to pause and give thanks. We give thanks for the many ways that God blesses us and provides for us. When we give thanks, we focus our attention on God



and God's work in the world. We are centered in God as we go into the busy season of Christmas. Pausing to give thanks to God for what we have already received, keeps us focused on the greatest gift that God gives – Jesus, the baby in the manger. In this month we have many ways to give thanks. We will give thanks for all the saints – those who have gone before us, who showed us faith, and served faithfully. We will make commitments to give something back to God – an act of thanksgiving – for all that God has given to us. The Women of Grace will receive a “thank offering” – coins given in thanksgiving for a daily blessing and all of us are invited to do so. We will have opportunity to thank our young people as they lead worship and grow in their gifts of faith and leadership. We will have opportunity to view our Thanksgiving worship/devotional video as we kick off the holiday season. And at the end of the month, we will once again start the church year over as we prepare to receive the baby once again. I thank God for all of you, for this community of faith, and for the many blessings that come from God and go out into the world.

Blessings on your November!

Pastor Siri

Pastoral Acts in October:
Baptism of Levi Jason Powell, son of
Nathan and April Powell (10/11),
Funeral for Curtis Nesson (10/17)



Remembrance of the Saints is Sunday, November 1. On this day we light a candle in remembrance of those whose lives we celebrated at Grace since last All Saints Sunday. We will remember: Dean Nielsen, Dale Williamson, Vicki Meirose, Rose Sagness, Merle Nussbaum, Mary Peltier, Curtis Nesson

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

November 1

All Saints Sunday
Setting 6
River of Life

- **Remembrance of the Saints**
- **Stewardship Sunday**
- **Congregational Breakfast**

November 8

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 8
Wise or Foolish

- **Shepherd Sunday**

November 15

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 10
Use It or Lose It

- **High School Led Worship**

November 22

Christ the King Sunday
Grace Alive
Do for Me

- **WOG Thank Offering**

November 29

First Sunday of Advent
Setting 4
Peace in Our World

- **No Sunday School**

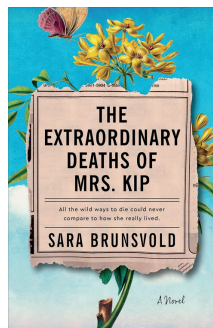
facebook

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

November 29 @
10:15am 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
Nov. 21
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

All adults are
welcome to join.
Coffee is
provided.



GRACE & KIDS

November 11th
6:15-7:15pm

Meet in the Fellowship Hall

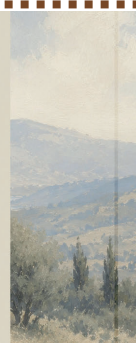
Grace Kids is our K-5th grade youth group that meets every other Wednesday.



SHEPHERD GATHERING

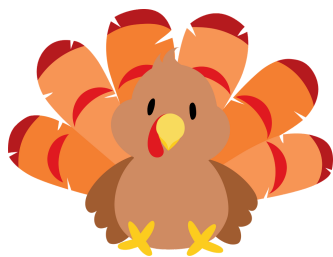
November 8, at 10:15
Fellowship Hall

Topic: Why God compares
us to Sheep in the Bible



THANKSGIVING EVE

A message and short service will be posted to the Facebook page at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 25. You are invited to watch and use it during your Thanksgiving celebrations.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Pledge cards and Time & Talent sheets will be collected during worship on November 1st, followed by a free breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Aging GRACEFULLY

November 5 | 9:30am

Grace Lutheran Church | 3300 E 18th Street
*Lower North entrance on 17th Street



We will have a presentation from the Alzheimer Association on "Supporting Brain Health in Our Community."

ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION

CONFIRMATION AND MILESTONE CLASSES

Congratulations and God's blessing to those
Confirmed on October 25

Emily Brandenburg, CJ Jasmer, Bradey Lemme, and Sebastian Spencer.

9th Graders continue to meet with John Archer for the class on Lutheran Doctrine



Find Your Way

Vine is a partnership of 17 ELCA congregations in the Sioux Falls area, united around one purpose—helping people find their way to faith, community, and ministry. Whether you're looking for a Bible study, a support group, a new interest, or an upcoming event in your area, Vine connects you to opportunities across our network of congregations. There's something here for every age and every stage of life.

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, November 10

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 are hospitalized and do not receive a visit from Robin Hofkamp or Pastor Siri, it means you did not come up on our visitation list. Please let us know you are in the hospital, and we will be sure to visit. Often if someone goes in through the ER, we do not get notified that you have been admitted.

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:

November 1-7: Shepherding District 14, Zone A:

Shelly Monroe, Sherry Bathke, Kendren, Kamela; John & Janean Bayer, Rob; Barb & Dave Daily; Darin & Karmen Groos; Patti Larsen, McKayla, Megan

November 8-14: Shepherding District 14, Zone B:

Laura Eiesland, Alex; Christina & Cody Gree, Willa, Sander; Carole Lee; Floyd & Sylvia Lehman; Vickie Peters; Tara & Brady White, Jazlyn, Braden

November 15-21: Shepherding District 15, Zone A:

Jamie & Charles Butler, Elliot, Myles, Samuel; Gene & Sharon Hetland; Dick Neish; Don & Jan Qualseth

November 22-28: Shepherding District 15, Zone B:

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

November 29-December 6: Shepherding District 16, Zone A:

Jerry Goddard; Ardis Greenwood; Darold & Grace Heckenlaible; Carole Lee; Floyd & Sylvia Lehman; Clark & Laura Miles, Cooper, Parker, Bennett

Service & Mission



Necessities for Neighbors will be at Peace Lutheran on Sunday November 1st with a 2 o'clock start time. Sign up in lobby or online.

We collected over 11 pallets of toilet paper this year for Necessities for Neighbors!

Collection of full-size shaving cream, lotion and toothpaste is being collected for area agencies.

This year's head to toe tree will be going up the first week of November. Items for the tree include, hats, winter headbands, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks. Both children and adult sizes are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations will also be collected.

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent and materials to support the Service and Mission goals.

Upcoming Christmas Events

Dec. 20th: Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday school students and middle school chime students will be having their annual Christmas program at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. Please invite your family and friends to come to this wonderful event!

Dec. 16th: Cocoa & Carols

Join us for an old fashion hymn sing led by some of our choir members! We will have cookies & cocoa from 6:30-7:00 and sing carols from 7-8pm. The caroling will be livestreamed on our Facebook page. Festive sweaters/outfits are encouraged!!

Bible Study Meeting Times

November 19

Martha Bible Study @ 9:30am

Hannah Bible Study @ 2:00pm

Both groups meet in the Fellowship Hall

Session 3: Proclaiming resurrection in hope

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Mary Magdalene's journey transitions from that of a grieving friend to the first preacher of the good news, after she shows up at the empty tomb and encounters the risen Jesus. Her story declares that women are entrusted to carry resurrection hope into a hurting world. This session encourages participants to recognize their own call to bear witness and to proclaim hope in Christ.

WOMEN OF GRACE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

"Home for the Holidays"

Musical Program by Harmony Piano Duo: Ann Cameron Haenfler and Dori Quam

Saturday, December 5th, 2026

11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Catering by Tony's: Sliced Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Pistachio Salad, Dinner Roll, Coffee, and Water. Treats provided by Martha Bible Study.

Program - Hannah Bible Study
Serving - Martha Bible Study

Tickets are \$10 and will be sold on November 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Soup & Sweets Update

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, food, and Thrifting with Grace items for the Soup and Sweets Supper! Because of your generous donations and free will offerings, we served 260 people and will have a total profit in the next Hilltop Lights. This money will be divided between

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Furniture Mission, Youth and the WOG.



Thankoffering Sunday



Women of Grace: We are having our 3rd Annual Thankoffering Service for Women of the ELCA on Sunday morning, November 22, during the regular worship service. I hope you found many opportunities during this past year to be thankful and place an offering in your Thankoffering container. Please turn the majority of the coins into dollar bills, to help out our Treasurer, Joyce Cunningham. You will be called forward during the service and asked to empty your container into an offering plate. If you do not currently have a Thankoffering container and would like to pick one up, they are located at the church on the information table. A big thank you goes out to Gretchen Tweet, who decorated and donated all those beautiful containers!

This Thankoffering will all be sent to our churchwide office to support the many missions of Women of the ELCA. If you have any questions, or are interested in knowing which particular missions we support, please contact Sherry Archer.

Administrative Notes

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

THRIVENT HAS CHANGED THE DEADLINE TO USE CHOICE DOLLARS.

IF YOU HAVE CHOICE DOLLARS FOR 2026, YOU MUST ASSIGN THEM BY DECEMBER 31, 2026 INSTEAD OF HAVING UNTIL MARCH 31 OF 2027.

GO ONLINE OR TALK TO YOUR AGENT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS NOVEMBER 2026

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



Every Christmas, my family watches *White Christmas*—we practically know every line in the movie! During the movie, Bob Wallace sings a song to Betty Haynes called “Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep).” The month of November is a time to practice gratitude and give thanks for the many blessings God has given us. Psalm 136 is a beautiful passage that reminds us to give thanks to God, for His love endures forever. Even when life feels overwhelming, taking time to count our blessings can help us recognize God’s faithfulness in our lives. May this month encourage you to slow down, reflect on the blessings around you, and give thanks to God for His unending love.

Blessings,
Thomas

YOUTH EVENTS

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH A PURPOSE



Youth are invited to join us on Wednesday, November 18, as we shop for Christmas gifts to support Sharing Christmas, which helps families afford gifts for their children. We'll meet at 7 PM in the upper parking lot to carpool to Walmart!

CHEESEBALL FUNDRAISER



Youth are invited to help prepare cheeseball orders on November 8 and 15 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Youth can also help distribute orders on Sunday, November 22, after church.

HIGH SCHOOL-LED WORSHIP



High schoolers will be leading us in worship on Sunday, November 15. Everyone will have an opportunity to utilize their gifts and talents in meaningful ways as we worship together.

SCHEDULE CHANGE



On November 4, 11, and 18, and December 2 and 9, middle and high school youth will meet together from 7–8:15 PM. They will explore the Christmas story through the feelings and perspectives of its different characters.

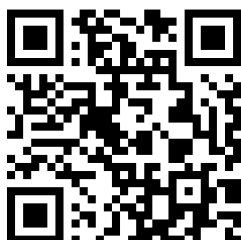
HEY, YOUTH GROUP PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS!

We have a new, simple way to stay up to date on Youth Group events! Just scan the QR code below to access one convenient page with links to all of our communication platforms, including the church website, Facebook page, calendar, and more!

Instead of keeping track of multiple QR codes, everything you need is now gathered in one easy-to-access place.

Reach out to Thomas with any questions.

SCAN
ME!



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: SOUP & SWEETS VOLUNTEERING



Thank you to the kids and parents who helped volunteer at Soup & Sweets! Everyone had such a positive attitude and helped out wherever they were needed.

YOUNG ADULTS

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Sioux Falls has officially been recognized as a local Gather site! This exciting accomplishment provides access to mentors, ministry resources, and funding to help support young adult ministry events.

I will continue collaborating with two church staff members—one from Augustana Lutheran Church and one from Peace Lutheran Church—along with Gather to plan events, build connections, and create opportunities for young adults in the Sioux Falls area.

There is also a Gather Sioux Falls Instagram page where young adults can find information about upcoming events.

JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!

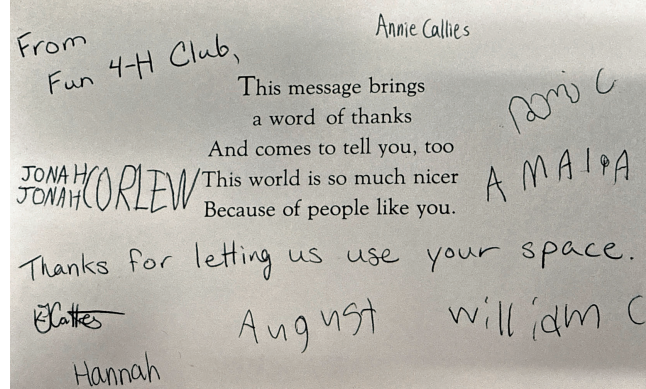


FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



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

A round of applause for Gea for orchestrating our polka service, and a big thanks to the musicians who made it an unforgettable toe-tapping experience!



Thank you to:

- Thank you to the Friday morning volunteers: Joan Olson who prepares the Sunday Coffee area and Sharon Hetland who cares for the indoor plants.



- All who participated in the Soup and Sweets Supper



- All who helped with "Thrifting with Grace"



Thank you Janice Jasmer for making Kuchen for our Polka service. It was delicious!!

Thank you to the Celebrant Choir for the beautiful flowers, gift cards, and notes on my retiring from the Grace choir accompanist position. I have really enjoyed collaborating with you the past 10 years and it will be different not seeing you Wednesday nights. I'll greatly miss this! Please know how each of you has enriched my life with your songs. God bless! Gea Gjesdal Eckhoff

Poinsettia Orders

The Worship Committee is taking orders for Poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season. You may return the order form with your payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Order by Sunday November 22, 2026 (Some colors may be substituted due to availability)

YOUR NAME

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:

Color	Quantity	Total	Quantity	Total	Amount
	4.0 inch	\$6/ea	6.5 inch	\$12/ea	
Red					
White					
Red Glitter					

Total

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Celebrant Choir Sings 9:00am Worship-Remembrance of the Saints 10:00am Stewardship Breakfast 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Girl Scouts	2	3 9:00am FB live Devotion 6:30pm Committee Meetings 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen 7:30pm Council Meeting	4 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm MS Youth Group 6:15pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm HS Youth Group	5 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Aging Gracefully	6	7
8 Adult Chimes play Bread Break Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 2:00pm Youth Making Cheeseballs	9	10 9:00am FB live Devotion 10:00am Grief Support 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	11 Veterans Day 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm Grace Kids 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:00pm MS & HS Youth Group	12 9:00am FB live Devotion	13	14 12:00pm Youth Service Event
15 9:00am Worship-High School led worship 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 2:00pm Youth Making Cheeseballs	16	17 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	18 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:00pm MS & HS Youth Group	19 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Martha Bible Study 2:00pm Hannah Bible Study	20	21 9:00am Let's Bake
22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Cheeseball pick up 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study	23	24 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	25 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service on Facebook	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent No Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:30am Novel Idea	30					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/01 Mark Conrad	11/12 Kendren Bathke	11/25 Jan Eisenberg
11/01 Gary Wulf	11/12 John Camp	11/26 Rose Archer
11/03 Kip Eggebraaten	11/12 Lynnea Eckhoff	11/26 Sage Clark
11/06 Lily Penn	11/12 Aiden Smith	11/28 Christine Verba
11/07 Cora Hawley	11/13 Diane Tieszen	11/28 Nathan White
11/07 Quinn Hawley	11/15 Addison Bowman	11/29 Woody Clauson
11/08 Glenyce DeGeest	11/15 Judy Nearman	11/29 McKayla Larsen
11/09 Jorey Sorenson	11/15 Marj Schmitt	11/30 Greg Koopman
11/10 Jerry Goddard	11/16 Lazette Finley	11/30 Larry Nelson
11/10 Cheri Schumacher	11/16 Gary Johnson	
11/11 Cindy Hackett	11/17 Ron Fuller	
11/11 Alex Koopman	11/18 Dawn Wulf	
11/11 Tim Meirose	11/19 Marlys Naatjes	
	11/20 Elizabeth White	
	11/25 Macy Archer	



Treasurer's Report

All bills, benevolences and payroll taxes are up to date. Still owe money to the special funds, but no borrowing this month.

September 30, 2026

Total Contributions: \$25,970.66

Total Expenses: \$32,569.78

Roof Loan Balance: \$62,095.00

Operating Account \$(4,368.15)

Berg Fund Balance: \$1,503.30

Special Funds: \$68,054.02



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

Thomas Kenison
Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Office 334-6066

Lisa Jasmer
Faith & Family Ministries

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

Rita Blake
Parish Nurse

Robin Hofkamp
Visitation Ministry

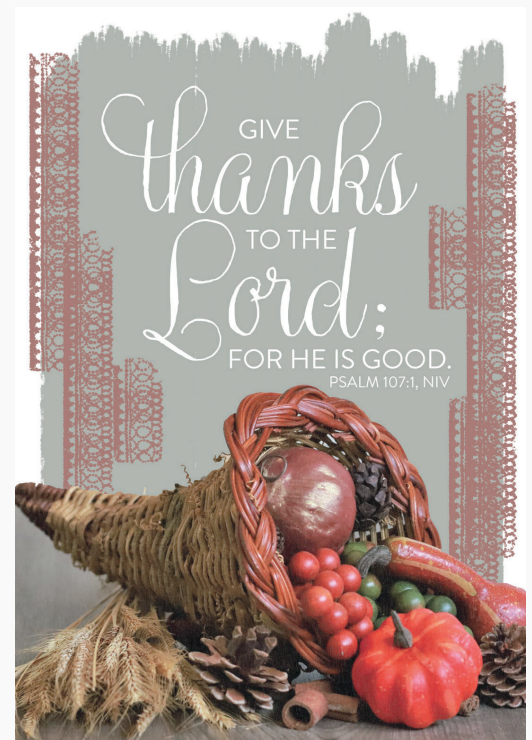
Dave Stoterau & Tanya Jacobson,
Custodians

Executive Board
Darrell Griggs, President

Wes Hofkamp, Vice President

Dave Stotz Treasurer
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Wendy Bergan, Secretary



Hilltop Lights published monthly November 2026 Issue #11
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