

Hilltop Lights

MAKING BELIEVERS, GROWING DISCIPLES, DEVELOPING LEADERS



THAT'S A LOT OF TOILET PAPER!

FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Advent is about the promises of God. During the season, our Old Testament readings from Isaiah speak of the promises. They tell of a time of peace – when weapons of war will become tools for farming. They tell of a time of unity – when lions and lambs will lie down together. They tell of a time of Jesus – when God will be Immanuel which means God-with-Us. As we journey through Advent to the celebration of Christmas, may we look for the unfolding of the promises and the presence of Christ with us.

A savior has been born for us, a son given to us. Because of the birth of Jesus, we know that God is with us, walking through all the days of our lives to bring hope, peace, joy, and love.

Blessings on your December!

Pastor Siri

Pastoral Acts in November:
Baptisms of Axyl Wiley-Nipp and
Hazyl Wiley-Gochenour

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm.

We will begin the service by ringing in Christmas with bells and ending with communion and candlelight. Bring a bell to ring as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the baby born in a manger. The adult chimes group will play.

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, December 25 at 9:00.

We will use the Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas. The Brass will play.

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas from the Grace Lutheran Staff. We will you a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Pastor Siri Sorenson, Becky Smith, Rita Blake, Thomas Kenison, Lisa Jasmer, Dana Dahlquist, Dave Stoterau, Robin Hofkamp, Gea Eckhoff, Del Hubers, Jerry Goddard

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

December 7

2nd Sunday in Advent
Setting 4

A Promise of Peace

Service and Mission Yearly Recap

6:00 pm Celebrant Choir Cantata:

The Story of Christmas

A light supper follows the Cantata

December 14

3rd Sunday in Advent
Setting 6

A Promise of Joy

4:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Program

December 21

4th Sunday in Advent
Service of the Word

A Promise of Presence

Sunday School does not meet

December 28

1st Sunday of Christmas
Setting 10

Out of Egypt

Sunday School does not meet

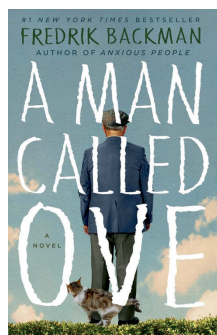
facebook

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

December 28 @
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!



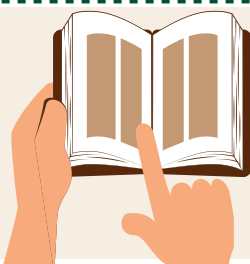
Let's Bake
Dec. 20
9:00am

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

December 3rd & 10th | 5:30-6:30pm

P3-4th Grade

Supper will be 5:30-6:00pm for the whole family.

Rehearsal will be 6:00-6:30pm

5th-8th grade students will play chimes in the program,
but WILL NOT need to be at the Wed. night rehearsals.



Aging Gracefully:

Thursday, December 4 at 9:30 am.

The program will be on Christmas Angels.
Bring an angel ornament if you have one.



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.

Christmas Events

Dec. 7th
6:00pm
Choir Cantata

All are welcome to attend this wonderful evening of music. The program will be in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm.

After the program there will be a light supper provided by the Worship Committee in the Fellowship Hall.



Dec. 14th
4:00pm
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. 17th
6:30pm
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!!

We will collect a free will offering for the cookies and cocoa which will go to support Mission Jamaica.



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, December 9

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

Foot Care Clinic

Our foot care clinician, Leanne, has retired. As a result, we will be pausing this program until a new clinician is appointed.

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 Rita Blake 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 30-December 6: Shepherding District 13, Zone A:

John & Sherry Archer; Carl & Kathy Johnson, Tyler, Cole, Trevor; Marie Nesson; Kevin & Traci Rovang, Megan, Nick; Lukas & Ruby Schmitt, Summer, Luna, Lukas, Jr; Brett & Melanie Wagner, Colter, Calen

December 7-13: Shepherding District 14, Zone A:

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

December 14-20: Shepherding District 14, Zone B:

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

December 21-27: Shepherding District 15, Zone A:

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

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

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



Service & Mission

Guess what time it is? Yep, the season of giving is back! Our head-to-toe tree is decked out in the church lobby, eagerly collecting cozy goodies to help warm those in need as the chill sets in. Your kindness is a gift that keeps on giving, so thank you, everyone, for pitching in to support our community! These snuggly garments will find their way to various local support groups. Once again, hats off to all of you!

Last month, we rolled up our sleeves at Necessities for Neighbors. With 12 volunteers from Grace, we were able to serve 116 families.

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

December 18th

Both groups meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 for a potluck and Bible Study led by Pastor Siri.

December 2025: "Practicing Advent imagination: Matthew's dreamers and Isaiah's visions" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

We cannot build a new future that we cannot imagine. The long nights of Advent gift us with time to dream. This study will offer us ways of imagining God's future for us and all creation through the dreams of Joseph, the Three Wise Men and Isaiah.

WOMEN OF GRACE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON "The Melodies of Christmas"

Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Musical Program by The Sioux Emperians.

Catering by the Cookie Jar Eatery: Lasagna, Green Beans, Caesar Salad, Bread Stick, Coffee and Water. Treats provided by Hannah Bible Study.

I want to thank everyone who served on the WOG Executive and General Boards this past year and will continue to serve next year.

I want to wish everyone a Very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sharon Dierks



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



Thank you to Dana Dahlquist who has served as one of Grace Lutheran's custodians. Dana is retiring at the end of the month. He has said, though, he will serve on the Property Committee and continue to help that way with building care.



Thank you for your awesome generosity and support for Mission Jamaica! We raised \$1267.00! Huge shout-out to Glen and Elaine from the Cookie Jar for whisking up that scrumptious pancake batter and a sizzling thank you to Spencer and Tanya Jacobson for supplying the mouthwatering pork sausages. Stay tuned for the next batch of updates from Jamaica, coming in March!

-Mission Jamaica Team

YOUNG ADULTS

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Throughout the summer and fall, I have been in contact with the campus pastors from the University of Sioux Falls (USF) and Augustana University. My main goal was to understand the context and how I can best serve the students there. I will be attending some of their chapel services and campus ministry events during the school year so I can get to know students there.

I look forward to getting to know the area college students and seeing them grow in their relationship with God.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Mark your calendars! There will be a Young Adults Group every Sunday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, young adults are welcome to join us for a time of Bible study and fellowship.



JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS DECEMBER 2025

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



Every year, Christmas seems to come faster and faster. The quick approach of the season can bring feelings of worry and stress amid all the busyness—but it also serves as a powerful reminder that we have a God who always keeps His promises.

Isaiah 9:6 is a familiar passage often shared at Christmas, pointing to the birth of Jesus. It was a promise God gave to Isaiah and His people—a promise that may have seemed uncertain at the time because of their difficult circumstances. Yet even in their doubt, God never left them, and His promise was fulfilled.

May this Christmas season be filled with God's peace, joy, and love.

Blessings,
Thomas

YOUTH EVENTS

MISSION TRIP DEPOSIT DUE

The first HS Mission Trip deposit is due Dec. 21! Spots are limited—turn in your deposit to the church office to reserve your spot. Cash or checks are accepted.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at Thunder Road on Sunday, December 14, from 6–8pm! Enjoy laser tag, bumper cars, and bowling with friends. \$15 covers activities and an optional pizza dinner at Rev It Up Grille.



SALVATION ARMY SERVICE EVENT

Help serve a meal, spread holiday cheer, and share the light of Jesus at the Salvation Army on Sunday, December 6, from 4–6pm.



NO YOUTH GROUP

Due to the holidays, there will be youth group on 12/17, & 12/31. We will meet again on 1/7/26.



BIBLE VERSE & DEVOTIONAL

CALENDAR

EVENT HIGHLIGHT: CORN MAZE

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE
GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS
SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE
CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE
MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.
ISAIAH 9:6

inchristianshe.com



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



In October, the youth group attended the Heartland Country Corn Maze. We all had a blast making our way through the maze and enjoying fellowship together!

JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



Middle School



High School



FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM!



The page is framed by vibrant red poinsettias and clusters of red berries. The title 'Poinsettia' is written in a large, elegant, green cursive font, with 'DEDICATIONS' in a smaller, green, all-caps serif font below it.

Poinsettia

DEDICATIONS

Given By:

**Ernie & Gretchen Tweet
Miriam Garner**

**Bonnie Hengeveld
Glenyce DeGeest
Carole Lee
Dana & Kay Dahlquist
Dallas & Cindy Hofer
John & Jan Camp
Mark & Dawn Stephens
Siri & Jeff Sorenson**

**Robin, Carolyn, Diane Erdmann
David & Mary Stoterau
Joan & Mick Berry
Joan Olson
Kaye Henle
Grace & Terry Finch
Jean Tiede
Stephanie, Paige, & Chloe Miller
Marie Nesson
Ruth Lone
Dave & Sharon Dierks
Dave Stotz**

Given By:

**Ernie & Gretchen Tweet
Charles & Sharon Pedersen
Jess & Darrell Griggs
Dana & Kay Dahlquist
John & Jan Camp
Mark & Dawn Stephens
David & Mary Stoterau
Joan & Mick Berry
Grace Finch
Jean Tiede
Marie Nesson
Kip & Joanne Eggebraaten
Dave & Sharon Dierks
Dave Stotz
Dave Stotz & Jacob Harrington**

In Memory of:

**Our parents, niece, Emma, & brother-in-law Jon
My daughter Lisa, my husband Joseph, & sister
Delores
Don, Michael, & Fatima Hengeveld
Clint DeGeest
Orren & Richard Lee
Terry Dahlquist
Our parents
Our parents
Our dads, Bill & Ron
Richard & Solveig Beckmen, Wayne Sorenson, &
Oliver Sorenson
Bill & Inge Erdmann
Our parents
Our Loved Ones
George Olson
Bill Henle
Our parent
My husband, Rog
Daren Miller
Loved ones
Richard V. Lone
Parents
Vonnie & Gordon Stotz**

In Honor of:

**Our children & grandchildren
Our family
Our boys
Our family
Our children & granddaughter
Our moms, Kathy & Joyce and our Grandkids
Our granddaughters
Our grandchildren
Our kids and grandkids
Our children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren
My family
Our granddaughters
Children, Grandchildren, & Great grandchild
Dennis, Ron, & Todd Stotz
Frodo & Qimmiq**

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 6:30pm Committee Meetings 7:00pm Hilltop Al- Anon & Alateen 7:30pm Council Meeting	3 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group 6:15pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm High School Youth Group	4 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 9:30am Aging Gracefully	5	6 11:30am WOG Christmas Luncheon 4:00pm Youth Serving at Salvation Army
7 Bread Break Sunday 9:00am Worship- Youth Chimes Play 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 42003 6:00pm Celebrant Christmas Cantata 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	8	9 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 10:00am Grief Support 7:00pm Hilltop Al- Anon & Alateen	10 5:30pm Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group 6:15pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm High School Youth Group	11 9:00am Facebook live Devotion	12	13 9:00am 4H
14 Celebrant Choir Sings 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 4:00pm Sunday School Christmas Program 6:00pm Youth Christmas Party	15	16 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al- Anon & Alateen	17 6:30pm Cocoa & Carols	18 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 11:30 WOG Potluck and Bible study	19	20 9:00am Let's Bake
21 No Sunday School 9:00am Worship	22	23 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al- Anon & Alateen	24 Adult Chimes Play 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 9:00am Christmas Day Worship- Brass Play	26	27
28 No Sunday School 9:00am Worship 10:30am Novel Idea	29	30 9:00am Facebook live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al- Anon & Alateen	31 7:00pm Celebrant Choir			



12/02 Karmen Groos
12/02 Jenni Weber
12/04 Lukas Schmitt
12/04 Neil Sorensen
12/05 Scott Rasmusson
12/07 Ellie Beckman
12/07 Carol Conrad
12/08 Joyce Cunningham
12/11 Grace Weidenaar
12/12 Alicia Peterson

12/14 Larry Fassett
12/15 Linda Koepsell
12/17 John Archer
12/18 Mick Berry
12/18 Charles Jasmer
12/21 Gail Dybdahl
12/24 Kai Beyer
12/25 David Grant
12/25 Scott Rohrbach
12/26 Tanya Jacobson
12/26 Chris Peterson
12/28 Chris Olson
12/30 Nancy Watters
12/31 Ardis Hovdenes

Treasurer's Report

All payroll taxes and benevolences are paid to date as of end of October. Borrowed \$4,000 from Special Funds to pay bills. The Special Funds total listed here includes the \$16,000 loaned to General Fund. Received a substantial gift in early November which will allow us to repay most of the Special Funds monies borrowed the past 2 months.

October 31, 2025

Total Contributions: \$26,127.63

Total Expenses: \$31,088.08

Loan Balance: \$50,149.31

Operating Account \$(7,990.91)

Berg Fund Balance: \$269.91

Special Funds: \$39,978.71



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

Dana Dahlquist & Dave Stoterau,
Custodians

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

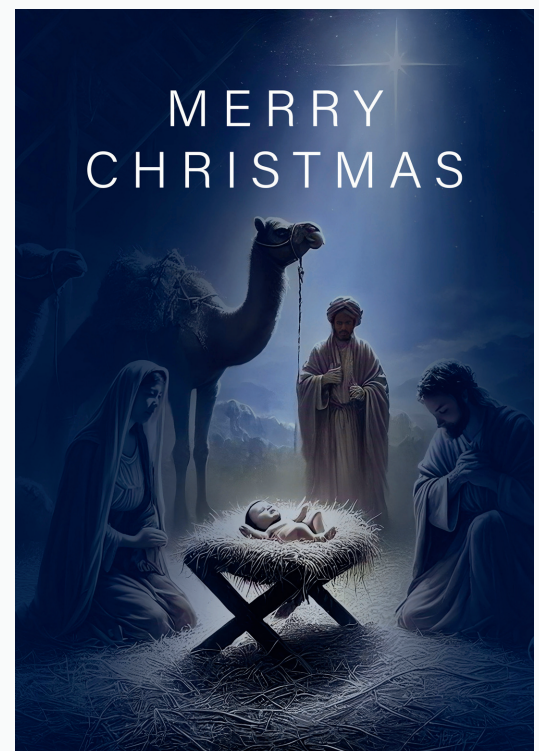
Executive Board
Darrell Griggs, President

Tanya Jacobson, Vice President

Dave Stotz Treasurer
glctreasurer3300@gmail.com

Rita Blake
Parish Nurse

Wendy Bergen, Secretary



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