



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Grace Notes – December 3, 2017

Grace Lutheran Church / www.gracelutherancu.org

First Sunday of Advent

Purchase Poinsettias and Norfolk Pines for Christmas Season

Help beautify the sanctuary at Grace with the purchase of poinsettias and Norfolk pines for Christmas. You may sign up and purchase plants on the Sundays of December 3 and December 10. The cost will be \$10 for each poinsettia and \$25 for each Norfolk pine. We appreciate your payment when you sign up.

When you purchase each plant, you may make a dedication: in honor of someone, in celebration of a person or event, or in memory of a person.

After the Christmas Eve service, you may take your plant home with you. Plastic bags will be provided for you to cover your plants to protect them from the cold. If, however, you would like to leave your plant at the church for the next few Sundays following Christmas Day, we will use them in the sanctuary. Thank you very much for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Rainer.

December 24 — Duality

This year, Sunday, December 24, has two emphases. In the morning, it is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and, in the evening, it is Christmas Eve. Consequently, the Advent morning service, in which we learn of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, will be one service at 9:30 a.m. and will include special music and communion. The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 p.m. and will include special music, carols, communion, and candle lighting. Each service is unique.

December 31

On the Sunday after Christmas, we will have one service, which will be at 9:30 am.

New Member Reception

Between services this Sunday, we will hold a new member reception for Caitlyn Reinders, Linda Chappell, Rob Chappell, Elizabeth Mazurak, and Peter Mazurak, who will be joining by Affirmation of Baptism at the 10:30 service. There will be no Adult Sunday School so all may attend the reception.

Food Pantry Update



As you plan your end-of-year giving, please consider a monetary gift to the pantry. We remind you that our program operates completely separate from the operating budget of the church. What monies we receive come directly to us through individual, direct contributions to the pantry. You could write a check to GLC with a notation in the memo area designating "GLC PANTRY." Every dollar you give to the pantry has much more "buying power" when we shop at the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, a resource that we are very fortunate to have in our community. The need for the Pantry is great. In November, the Pantry served 217 families (832 individuals total). We are grateful for every gift! Your pantry board: Kathy Bowersox, Karen Krusa, Carol Shupp, Royce Wilken ☩

Grace Mitten Tree

Social Ministry is once again organizing a Mitten Tree. Please bring your donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to hang on the Mitten Tree in the Narthex. They will be given to children at the Francis Nelson Health Center in Champaign.

Questions? Contact Marcia Licquia.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund Is Depleted

Thanks to all who have donated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the past. Once again, the fund is depleted, which means we are unable to provide help to those in need of assistance with utility bills and/or rent payments. These clients are referred and screened by local social workers. Pastor's Discretionary Fund is an off-budget fund, in that it receives money only by direct donations made to it. No general funds are used for it. If you are interested in helping to replenish this fund, please make your check out to Grace Lutheran Church and indicated Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the memo line.

January Congregational Meeting

The January 2018 congregation meeting will be held between services on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. At the meeting we will elect three Synod voting members and two alternates. We will also vote on the budget for 2018 and ratify the amendments to the Constitution of Grace Lutheran Church that we approved at the May 2017 congregation meeting. These changes to our Constitution need to be ratified because they differ from the corresponding amendments on the 2016 ELCA Model Constitution.

2018 Calendars and Cards

Are the free calendars coming in your mail? Are you getting various cards from charities? Not sure what to do with them all? Bring your extra 2018 calendars and cards to share with our Food Pantry clients. Your donations can be placed in the large gray "Food Pantry" box by the main church doors. Your donations will be made available at our Thursday Food Pantry, now through January.

Roscoe Randell

Thank you to all who came and made Roscoe's Farewell Reception special. If you would like Roscoe's new address, please contact the church office.

Advent Program

The Grace youth will present an Advent Program to the congregation on December 17, at 9:15 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

Top 10 Reasons to Buy a "Good Gift"

10. No batteries or assembly required.
9. No exchanges or returns are needed.
8. Always a perfect fit.
7. Always in style and the perfect color.
6. Good for all ages.
5. Many gifts and prices to choose from.
4. No shipping costs.
3. Customized cards are available.
2. Take the commercialism out of Christmas.

And the number one reasons to buy a "Good Gift":

1. One purchased gift = multiple recipients.
- "ELCA Good Gifts" catalogs can be found in the narthex, or order on line at: Elca.org/goodgifts

Greening of Grace

With December upon us, it is time for the Greening of Grace. On December 10 between services, the Narthex will be decorated. On December 17 after the second service, the greening of the sanctuary will occur. If you have any questions, please contact Claire Vail.

FAITH CIRCLE Meeting Date Change

Faith Circle will now hold its monthly Bible study and fellowship gathering on *Monday* evening, *December 18*, at 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex. Kathy Bowersox will serve as hostess, and all should bring a Christmas reading or poem to share.

Thank You Helpers at the Final Fall Work Day

Thank you to Van Bowersox, George Kieffer, Jim Anderson, Tina & Jeff Fehrenbacher, Gloria Rainer, Carolyn Pater, and Susan Monte who came out for the rescheduled Work Day on November 25:

A Note From the Treasurer

As of October 31 of this year we spent a total of \$330,437.18 from the general fund. A total of \$271,223.84 was received.