



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

# Grace Notes – December 2, 2018

Grace Lutheran Church / [www.gracelutherancu.org](http://www.gracelutherancu.org)

## Midweek Advent Services

Starting Wednesday, December 5, Grace will hold midweek Advent Service from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Additional dates will be December 12 and 19.

## Advent Mindfulness

The weeks before Christmas can be filled with busyness, excitement, loneliness, and exhaustion. It can be easy to forget that in these weeks of Advent, we are patiently anticipating and preparing for the birth of Jesus, our Savior, into the world.

This year, as a form of mindfulness and focus during the countdown to Christmas, consider participating in a “reverse Advent calendar” project. The idea is simple. Put aside a box or bag, and for each day of Advent, fill it with items for our food pantry. We have a special green and red tub sitting alongside the regular food donation box in the church’s entryway where you can deposit your contributions. Add an item daily, weekly, or all at once – whatever works best for you – and deposit your food donations each Sunday or all together at the end of Advent. Being mindful in this small way helps us to think of others, as Jesus taught us, and to keep our hearts and minds focused outward.

Canned soups, fruits, and vegetables are always welcome at the Food Pantry, but the most needed items currently are CEREAL and MAC AND CHEESE.

Here’s wishing everyone a blessed and mindful Advent season!

-The Social Ministry Committee

## Mitten Tree

Our Mitten Tree was wonderfully decked, so this past Tuesday a second delivery was taken to Francis Nelson for children in need of warm winter gear. You have donated 8 mittens, 25 gloves, 45 hats, and 11 scarves for a grand total of 89 items. Thank you!

Please continue your generous gifts. We plan on another delivery the week before Christmas and a final one in January. Questions? Call Marcia Licquia.

## Help Beautify Grace at Christmas

On December 2 and December 9, you may purchase a poinsettia or Norfolk pine to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$10 each and the Norfolk pines will be \$20. At the time when you purchase a plant, you may make a dedication which will be included in the bulletin for the Christmas Eve service and for the following Sunday, December 30th.

You may take your plant home with you at the conclusion of the Christmas Eve service, or you may leave it at Grace to beautify the church for the following two Sundays. Thank you for your support and participation.

## Advent Devotionals Available

Advent Devotionals are now available in the Narthex. This year's devotional is entitled "The Father's Love," with daily reflections based on excerpts of the writings of Henri Nouwen. Pick one up today!

## Greening of Grace

Mark your calendars that we will be decorating the Narthex on December 16 and the Sanctuary December 23. Please come and help.



## Heaven and Hell

The Adult Sunday School class study of Heaven and Hell is underway. The discussion is based on the Living Lutheran article from the October edition. The article and study guide entitled “[By the light of grace](#)” can be found under the “Spiritual practices & resources” tab on [www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org).

## Sunday with Sebastian – Grace Edition

On Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m. Grace Organist and Associate Professor of Organ at the UIUC School of Music, Dana Robinson, will perform JS Bach's Organ Works as part of “Sunday with Sebastian.”

In early 2018, Professors Charlotte Mattax Moersch and Dana Robinson from the UIUC School of Music inaugurate a new series, “Saturdays with Sebastian.” In monthly concerts over the next two years, they hope to perform the complete keyboard and chamber works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

This event is free and open to the public. There will be a collection plate for donations.

## Advent Cantata

On December 16 during both services, the choir will perform the Bach Advent Cantata “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”.

## Youth Advent Program

On December 16 between services, the youth will present the story of Jesus’s birth as told by Luke, with readings, hymns, and songs.

## Hops and Hymns – Holiday Edition

In the evening of December 16, a holiday edition of “Hops and Hymns” will be held at Riggs Beer Company starting at 6:00 p.m. Our next round of Hops and Hymns will have all of your favorite Advent and Christmas songs, and we’ll be inside this time! This event is open to all - no matter your age or beer drinking ability. We provide the music and musicians, Riggs will be happy to sell you beer or any other beverages you may want, and C&C Kitchen and Oh, Honey Pie Truck will have their food trucks available as well. Children welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Caitlyn Reinders at [gracelife@gracelutheran.org](mailto:gracelife@gracelutheran.org)

## Food Pantry Update

The GLC Pantry Board is thankful for the congregation in supporting the Food Pantry with donations of time, money, and food items. We could not support families in need without you. And thanks to your generosity, the Food Pantry is able to increase our distribution to clients as Christmas approaches.

Monetary gifts are always appreciated as we spend about \$2000 monthly on purchasing food. For those who wish to purchase items, cans of fruit are always popular with our clients and are hard to come by at the Food Bank.

*Your Pantry Board, Kathy Bowersox, Jim Fleming, Karen Krusa, Carol Shupp, & Royce Wilken ☩*

## Schnucks Bags 4 My Cause Program

We have some very exciting news. We were chosen AGAIN.

The Schnucks located in Champaign has chosen Grace’s Food Pantry as the latest beneficiary of the Schnucks Bags 4 My Cause program. This means for the entire month of December, every time the reusable white Hunger bag with the message “Every Bag Feeds a Neighbor in Need” is purchased at the Champaign Schnucks on Mattis that we receive \$1.

This is truly a great opportunity for us to be chosen again. Please go to the store, find the reusable bag rack and buy a few Hunger bags in support of GLC Food Pantry.

