



Grace
Lutheran

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21, 2014

Rev. Kevin Clementson

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Rev. Martha Clementson

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WORSHIP SERVICES

5:00 pm – Saturday in the **Sanctuary**

7:45 am – Sunday in the **Sanctuary**

9:00 am – Sunday in **Grace Hall**

11:15 am – Sunday in the **Sanctuary**

10:15 Education Hour

*** Nursery is available for children under 3 during the Education Hour in Room 100.*

WELCOME VISITORS

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. Please stop by the Visitor's Table to pick up a Welcome Bag. We invite you to sign the RCR card or fill out a visitor's card at the Table so we can get to know you.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

12:00 pm Sanctuary

4:00 pm Grace Hall – especially for children

6:00 pm Grace Hall – Carols & Candle Lighting and Holy Communion

8:00 pm Sanctuary – Carols & Candle Lighting and Holy Communion

10:30 pm Sanctuary – Carols & Candle Lighting and Holy Communion

This year, children who are too young to handle a candle will be given glow sticks at the Candle Lighting Services.



Next Weekend – Readings and Carols for Christmas

Saturday, 5:00

Sunday, 8:30 & 10:30



**Readings
& Carols**

All worship services next weekend will be All Grace Services and will be held in the Sanctuary.

A time of food and fellowship will be held immediately following the 5:00 Service on Saturday. A cookie and beverage reception will be held on Sunday between the 8:30 & 10:30 services. If you can help with food or cookies, please sign the RCR Card.

Christmas Caroling

Please join us for some good old fashion Christmas fun as we sing to some of our church's shut-in members. The confirmation students, mentors and families invite you to join them for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling this Sunday, December 21. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30pm. You are welcome to bring cookies to package for the shut-in members. All ages are welcome!



Conversation and Dessert for Women
Saturday, January 10
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



All women are invited to gather together for an afternoon of tea, coffee, and dessert. The weather, no doubt, will be cold and gloomy, but our hearts will be warm as we spend time with one another. Each person is invited to bring a “finger food” or dessert to share. The beverages will be provided.

If you’d like to wear your favorite hat or scarf, don’t be afraid to dress up!!!!

So that we can adequately prepare, we are asking for reservations. Please make your reservation by signing the RCR card today!



Christmas Baskets

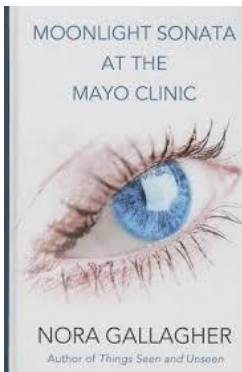
The Social Ministry Committee will be packing and delivering Christmas baskets to members and neighbors in need **this Sunday** morning at 10:15. If you can help with this important task, please join them in the Lower Gathering Space. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



Fairly Traded Gift Baskets

Stop by the Fair Trade Table in the Lower Gathering Space for last minute Christmas shopping!!

Thursday Evening Book Club



In January, the Book Club will be reading “*Moonlight Sonata at the Mayo Clinic*” by Nora Gallagher. This book is the author’s memoir of her time as a patient, a place she never expected to be. She shares honestly her experiences, feelings, faith and doubts. The Washington Post said of this book, “Part medical mystery, part critique of the American health-care system, and part commentary on modern faith.” Nora Gallagher has been a popular writer and speaker on faith and spirituality, but the sudden arrival of illness caused her to take another look at things we often take for granted.

At the request of some of the participants, Pastor Martha will offer the Book Club both in the afternoon and at night for this one winter session. Book Club will be held from 2:00-3:30 and 7:00 -8:30. The same book will be read. We hope that this will give more people an opportunity to participate during the winter months. Book Club will meet on January 8 and 22 and February 12. If you plan to participate, please sign the RCR card in worship so that Pastor Martha can order the correct number of books. The cost is \$12 per book. Please read Section One for January 8.

Food and Faith Diners



You are invited to share in an evening of food and conversation on Sunday, **January 18 at 5:00** in the Theater at Grace. This month, the Food and Faith meal will be a simple meal with an international flair. Erik Piisila will be our guest speaker, sharing his experiences related to food in some of the countries which he has visited on behalf of Lutheran World Relief. This will be a very special opportunity to connect how we eat with the needs and practices of other people in the world. Please plan to join us for this event. The meal is

\$10 a person, payable at the door, but reservations are a must. You can register by signing the RCR card or by emailing Pastor Martha at mclementson@gracelc.org.

Grace Lutheran Church Leadership Events

Sunday, January 25

2:00p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

and

Saturday, January 31

10:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.

Council members, Committee chairpersons, staff, committee members and all interested people are invited to participate in a two-fold look at the ministry of Grace. The beginning of the new year is a great time to pause to evaluate our ministries, ponder the needs of our community, consider the most effective ways to share the Gospel today, and set new goals and commitments for our life and ministry together.

Sunday, January 25 – Diana Butler Bass, a nationally recognized author and speaker will be here to talk about what she has learned about the ways in which congregations of mainline denominations can carry out ministry most effectively in light of the realities of our world today. She brings a positive outlook on the role and importance of the local congregation.

This event is being sponsored by the Westminster Ecumenical Ministerium and is designed for congregational leadership teams. We will have opportunity to reflect on her presentation as members of Grace. The event will take place in Grace Hall. Registration opens at 1:30 and the event itself begins at 2:00. Anyone interested in the well-being of the Christian Church today and in the future is welcome to attend!

Saturday, January 31 – Keeping in mind insights we gained on Sunday, we will continue the conversation looking specifically at the ministries of our congregation. There will be time for each committee to examine its own area of responsibility and time for committees to share their ideas with one another. This kind of communication helps to keep our ministry fresh, focused and productive.

All committee members are urged to join in this important leadership opportunity. If you are not currently serving on a committee, this would be a great time to come on board!

In preparation for these events you might want to read a book written by Diana Butler Bass. Two that we recommend are: *Christianity After Religion* and *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. Both can be obtained in paperback from Amazon and other book stores.

Advanced registration is appreciated since it will help us prepare adequately, so please sign the RCR card at worship or email your intent to attend to dstem@gracelc.org.



Church Leadership

F(und) O(ur) R(oad) to D(etroit)

Advent is a season of preparation and as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus the youth at Grace are also preparing for our trip to Detroit in July! We are very excited to participate in the National Youth Gathering and your support both financially and through prayer is what will make this trip a success! We continue our envelope fundraiser which has brought in almost \$2,000 to date and we cannot begin to thank you for all of the support! We will continue to run this fundraiser along with others in the New Year so that you can get to know the students you are supporting for this incredible opportunity! They cannot stop talking about how excited they are for the trip and we are looking forward to sharing our experience with everyone when we return! If you would like to make a donation all you have to do is ¹take an envelope, ²put cash or check (made out to Grace Lutheran Church) into the envelope, ³write your full name and Grace envelope number (if known), and ⁴place the envelope in the offering plate! Thank you for all of your prayers and support!



Earthbound Bible Study



In the beginning, God created Earth and gave humankind dominion over it—dominion meaning caring, protection, preservation and stewardship. We know that Earth is being damaged by human activity. The 2014 Living Planet Report, recently released by the World Wildlife Fund, shows the number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish across the globe has decreased by 50% between 1970 and 2010. Additionally, fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas)—non-renewable energy resources—are rapidly being depleted.

The Earthbound series takes Martin Luther's understanding of Justification and Vocation and applies it across God's magnificent creation. We will learn to recognize God's call to us to relate to the whole creation as our vocation and respond with appropriate action. Learning during the seven-week study will be reinforced by journaling and drawing mandalas.

The study will be held from February 1 until March 22 during the Christian Education hour, following the 9:00 worship service. It will be led by Laura Heller. Please fill out the RCR card if you are interested in participating.

2015 Flowers

Worshippers are invited to provide flowers for our worship spaces each weekend. The basic cost is \$40 per weekend. Those who provide flowers in Grace Hall sometimes choose to add an additional amount of money so that the basket will be larger and more visible. Flowers can be given to honor or remember a loved one. Please sign the flower chart if you'd like to help the church in this way. The chart for Grace Hall is on the bulletin board in the Upper Gathering Space and the chart for the Sanctuary is on the bulletin board in the Cloister. Many Sundays of the year fill up quickly, so please sign up soon if you want a particular date.



DURING WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Preacher: Pastor Kevin Clementson

December Altar Guild: Cyndy Beckhardt, Lisa Schuster (S, GH)

Worship Assistants: (5:00) Kay Betz, **(7:45)** Craig Giles,

(9:00) Jan Mickey, **(11:15)** Anna Tschiegg

Communion Assistants: (9:00) Ron Fairchild, Taylor Glass Button,
Rich Chaney, Stacie Dowling, Amelia Dowling

Ushers: (9:00) Jocelyn Spreitzer, Bob Spreitzer, Jeff Barnes,
Adam Barnes

Acolyte: (11:15) Erin Sherlock

DAILY READINGS

Sun (21) Luke 1:26-38

Mon (22) Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Tues (23) James 1:17-18

Weds (24) Luke 2:1-20

Thurs (25) John 1:1-14

Fri (26) Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60

Sat (27) 1 John 1:1-9

Sun (28) Luke 2:22-40

SERVING NEXT WEEK (December 27-28, 2014 – All Grace – Readings & Carols):

Worship Assistants: (5:00) Laura Heller, **(8:30)** Ron Fairchild, **(10:30)** Rich Schuster

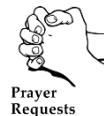


The flowers in the **Sanctuary** are given to the Spirit of Christmas
by The Simonette Family.

December 13-14, 2014 Attendance – (5:00) 30 (7:45) 34 (9:00) 221 (11:15) 83 (TOTAL) 368
(3:00 – Christmas Celebration) 135

Please remember in your prayers...

Names will remain on the Continuing Prayer List for four weeks unless otherwise requested. Names will then be removed unless another request is made. Please contact Dawn Stem in the church office (410-848-7020) with any prayer requests or email dstem@gracelc.org.



Those who are serving our country: Marshall Brown, Captain Ryan Chaney, PFC Tyler Czarnowsky, Steve Haines, Nathan Karlson, Jeff Kelly, Adam Miller, Leah Miller, Steven P. Miller, Jr., Paul Roberts, Ben Weber, Joel Whitson, and for all those unnamed individuals serving in our military, especially in war-zone areas

Those in Convalescent, Nursing or Rehab Centers: Sarah Barnes, Elinor Causey, Trudy Hirt, LaRue Long, Mildred Markle, Donald and Nancy Michael, Alice Midttun, Ilona Ries, Lillian Rosenberg, Ellen Terry

Continuing Prayers: Charles Adams, Brian Bowersox, Kathy Casper, Kelly Davis, Rocky & Bonnie Davis, Peggy Fogle, Mary Hazen, Kevin Holmes, Philip Kirk, Lizzie Lawson, Arlene "Eenie" Logue, Sandy & Walter Long, Marge Novak, Dail Pease, Fred Rogge, Michael Snyder, Joy Still, Karen Stoner, Lacey Stoner, Guy Wentz, Jessica Young

Seminarians: Beth Clementson and Don Myers

Global Ministry Partners: Pastors Eric and Wendolyn Trozzo serving in Malaysia, Annie Bunio, ELCA Missionary in Tanzania and The Lutheran Church, Paide, Estonia.

Also please pray for our pastors, the members of the Church Council, the staff and all of God's children at Grace Lutheran Church.

NOTE: *If you or someone you know is going into the hospital please call the church office as soon as possible.*

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, December 21

- 7:45 am Traditional Worship (S)
- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (L)
- 9:00 am Praise Worship (GH)
- 10:15 am Christian Education Hour (various)
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship (S)
- 12:30 pm Christmas Caroling (FH)

Monday, December 22

- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts (Various)
- 7:00 pm Agape Handbell Rehearsal (MR)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 393(Legacy)
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (109/110)

Tuesday, December 23

- 12:00 pm Table of Grace Soup Kitchen (FH/T)
- 6:00 pm Decorate Church – Christmas (S, GH)
- 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (L)

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Church Office Closing at 12:00 noon

- 12:00 pm Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm Grace Hall – especially for children
- 6:00 pm Grace Hall – Carols & Candle Lighting and Holy Communion
- 8:00 pm Sanctuary – Carols & Candle Lighting and Holy Communion
- 10:30 pm Sanctuary – Carols & Candle Lighting and Holy Communion

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

**Christmas Day Holiday –
Church Office Closed**



Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed for Holiday

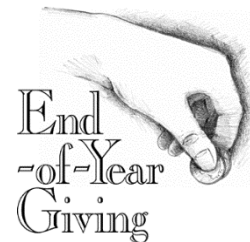
- 6:30 am Men's Bkfst & Bible (Bob Evans)
- 8:00 pm Turning Point AA Meeting (109/110)

Saturday, December 27

- 5:00 pm Traditional Worship with Readings & Carols (S)
- 6:00 pm Food and Fellowship following Worship (LGS)

Sunday, December 28

- 8:30 am Traditional Worship with Readings & Carols (S)
- 9:30 am Cookies and Fellowship following Worship (LGS)
- 10:30 am Traditional Worship with Readings & Carols (S)



PLEASE REMEMBER THE MINISTRIES OF GRACE AS YOU MAKE YOUR YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS. YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL HELP TO EMPOWER OUR CONGREGATION'S ABILITY TO DO THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING AND GENEROUS SUPPORT.

(CLV) Carroll Lutheran Village (FH) Fellowship Hall (T) Theater (S) Sanctuary (GH) Grace Hall (UGS) Upper Gathering Space (LGS) Lower Gathering Space (MR) Music Room (L) Library