

# Grace Notes

Volume 72, Number 1

January 2020

Shane Koepke  
**Lead Pastor**

Jennifer Gonsalves  
**Associate Pastor**

**Office Hours:**

8:30 am—5:00 pm

Mon, Wed—Fri

8:30 am—12:00 pm

Tue

507-373-6496

**Worship Services:**

Sunday Morning 9:00 am

Wednesday Evening 5:30 pm

**Sunday School/  
Confirmation**

Age 4 through Adult

Sunday Morning 10:15 am

September through May

**GRACE NOTES**

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Grace Lutheran Church

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*Grace Lutheran  
Mission Statement:*

*Bringing People  
Together and  
Becoming Disciples for  
Christ!*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

**12:00 pm**



## The Pastor's Pen



Pastor Shane Koepke  
Lead Pastor  
[pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org](mailto:pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org)

"...We observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." Matthew 2:2

That star, oh that star. The big beautiful star at Grace that gets hung on Christmas Eve and glows so beautifully that night is only at the beginning of its work. In the Bible, the star shines first at Jesus birth and then...it keeps shining. It glows bright for likely a few years or longer, not just for the shepherds and the angels that arrive at night of his birth, but also for the wise men who come much later as they traveled from "the east" (wherever that is, which is still a bit uncertain).

The point of the star is to "point" the way to Jesus; and it does. It's why we leave it out longer than just that Christmas Eve, but let it shine into the new year. The wise men represent an ever-growing circle of God's people in Jesus. No longer is God just for the "chosen ones" or for the "good ones" or "rich" or "rule followers." Jesus opens the door for God's grace, namely, that it extends far beyond the boundaries and rules of justice we set and deep into the boundless and deep into the justice of God.

The season that celebrates the wise men's arrival is called Epiphany. Epiphany literally means *to reveal*. Indeed it does, God reveals to us a deeper conversation, relationship and love we hadn't known until the wise men arrive. This then, begs the question to us: What is God revealing to you in the birth of Jesus? Does it make you re-examine your idea of justice? What about forgiveness and who is worthy of it? Do you have some work to do? I know I do, and I invite you into the real work of Epiphany to sit in prayer and listen to God being revealed. Go out into the world and look for God's justice playing out beyond the ordinary. Let yourself fall in love all over

again with Christmas by letting the star light up your life in new and wonderful ways.

Peace as you journey,  
Shane Koepke



### STAR MAKER

God made stars to shine at night.  
Sparkling stars to give us light.  
Who but he can make a star?  
One that twinkles clear and bright?  
God, the Maker of each star  
Knows just where they shine at night.

### PASTORAL CARE

To assist Pastor Shane and Pastor Jennifer in providing pastoral care for those hospitalized or homebound, please notify them of pending surgeries, overnight hospital stays, or individuals who would like a home visit. Hospital personnel do not always notify our church of our members who are in the hospital.

**NO PASTORAL ACTS  
FOR DECEMBER**

# The Associate Pastor's Corner



Pastor Jennifer Gonsalves,  
*Associate Pastor*  
Associatepastor@gracealbertlea.org

Merry Christmas!

I hope that you are having a wonderful holiday surrounded by people you love and are reminded of just how much you are loved by God who sent us the gift of Jesus.

So in the middle of the season of Christmas, as we have heard the familiar story, I invite you to spend some time reflecting on the story of Jesus's birth. What part of this story speaks to you this day? Is it the courage of Mary to say yes to something impossible and to sing in joy of how God is changing the world? Is the trust of Joseph to believe the words of an angel and stay with Mary when the society said he should leave? Is the curiosity of the shepherds who left to go see this child who the angels spoke of? Every character in the Christmas story speaks to us in different ways. As for me, I have found myself drawn to the stories of Simeon and Anna. Two characters that are not found in any nativity yet who also have an encounter with the baby Jesus.

I first heard the story of Simeon and Anna when I was an adult during my internship working in a retirement community and my supervisor had an icon of these two elders interacting with the baby Jesus. Intrigued, I read the story and fell in love. Here is the story of two faithful people who've spent their whole lives believing in God and following their faith. They come to the temple – a house of worship – and they see the Messiah, the person they've longed for, prayed for, hoped for. They get to experience an encounter with their God, their Savior.

Simeon and Anna react in different ways to their encounter with Jesus. Simeon holds the baby and sings of the glory of God and how he can now die in peace. Anna sees the child and, at eighty-four years old, starts sharing the good news, going up to

people and preaching to them that the messiah had been born. There is just something relatable in this story as someone who has grown up in the faith, attending church week after week, that we too can have a moment, even after so many years, where we encounter Jesus and everything changes.

So, if you have never read it, look up Luke 2:22-38 and hear the amazing story of two ordinary people of faith who saw their God. And it is my hope that as you hear and experience the Christmas story anew this year, that you too have an encounter with Jesus that brings you peace like Simeon and empowers you to go out and share the good news like Anna. Amen.



**GRACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Annual Report

**Assembly Day**  
**Friday, January 17, 10:00 am**

Help is needed! Would you be willing to help assemble the Annual Report on January 17 at 10:00 am? Please notify the church office. It is about a short hour's task, depending on the number of volunteers. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

# Musings



Deacon Robert Tewes,  
*Director of Worship and Music*  
[music@gracealbertlea.org](mailto:music@gracealbertlea.org)

Happy New Year!

Each year the world takes a moment to reflect on the events of the past year, and looks ahead toward the possibilities the new year brings. Perhaps unhealthy patterns of behavior are ended. For some, new and exciting ventures are begun.

Last year was 2019, this year is 2020. Ironically, 20/20 is the vision designation given by medical personnel for those who see clearly. As we look to the Light, the Christ, who has been born into our midst, may your vision this year be 20/20 as you

look for ways to reflect Christ's life in your own life.

Is this the year you choose to take an intentional step toward helping out with the worship life of Grace?

Is this the year you choose to join choir (you're always welcome there!)? Or is this the year you choose to help on the Altar Guild or with the duties of ushering?

May you be given clear 20/20 vision this year, to see ways in which your service can broaden the service of the people of Grace to those in our community and in our world.

Happy New Year!

Deacon Robert Tewes

# Lofstroms

## A LETTER FOR DENNY & PAULA LOFSTROM

Around and around she goes and where she stops, nobody knows!! Not even "Major Bowes and His Amateur Hour" (of my youth) could have predicted that in December 2019 we would be completing our 17<sup>th</sup> time around, this ever-shrinking world of ours, where crossing oceans in sailing ships had taken months now only takes only hours in a jet passenger plane.

Our 10-week survey of Lambi Lutheran Hospital expanded to a five-year development plan, implementation and financing. This required our first year of our 17 years of rotation for fundraising. Since then, we restored part of Lambi Hospital, partnered with St. John's University in Dodoma to start the Nursing School, and built the Nyakato Health Center, and then started The Children's Hospital at Zinga. We have a long way to go at Zinga.

YOU have made each one of these projects possible. YOU have served thousands upon thousands of patients to have quality healthcare. We at IHP thank you all heartily for your prayerful and financial support.

YOURS are the gifts that have done the healing that Jesus gave with a breath. YOURS are donations that have given a location for God to do the healing. YOURS are the gifts that have paid the salaries of the workers to build the buildings and buy the equipment and to pay the salaries of the staff to do medical work, lab work, cleaning, gardening and all that it takes to serve the poor but beloved children of God.

God bless each of you this Christmas. You've sacrificed and given the gift of health and caring and love. Thank you.

Blessings and gratitude,  
Paula and Denny

# Grace Children, Youth and Family Ministry



Ashley Kuhlman,  
Youth Director  
[youth@gracealbertlea.org](mailto:youth@gracealbertlea.org)

Thank you to everyone that helped out with our Advent Festival and

Christmas Program last month – your help was wonderful for two successful events! Thank you to anybody that donated to the bake sale as well – your baked goods or donations were greatly appreciated.

As we enter into 2020 and the winter months, we are looking for some help with our Sunday School & Confirmation Programming. We are looking for individuals to help teach on Sunday Mornings or help lead a Subject in Confirmation. All materials and lessons are available for you – so no prep time is needed! You don't have to be a parent to help with our children programming – we are open to anyone willing to help out. Check out the Children, Youth & Family Board to sign up.

## January Calendar:

**Sundays:** 10:15am Sunday School

**Wednesdays:** 6:00pm Chew n Chat & 6:30pm Confirmation & Youth Group

**December 22 – Jan 1:** No Sunday School, Chew n Chat, Confirmation or Youth Group

**January 11:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Z Tag Event

**January 19:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Mount Kato

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group** will be meeting most of the Wednesday's in January (except the 1<sup>st</sup>). This is a great opportunity for high schoolers to gather for fellowship and talking about God in our daily lives while taking a break from school/work/sports/etc.

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Z-Tag** Join others at Grace for Z Tag on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00pm. The cost of this event is \$3/per person. Bring your own Nerf Supplies. Pizza and some Nerf Supply will be provided. Sign up for this event by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Friends are welcome to join if they're signed up and have a permission slip. If you are interested in helping with set up, please arrive at 5:30. Looking for parents to chaperone and/or participate. Contact Ashley with any questions.

**Mount Kato Trip (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)** We will be going to Mount Kato again with First Lutheran Church! We will be going on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 9:00pm. You can sign up for either 3 hours of tubing for \$10 or downhill skiing for \$30. Please sign up with Ashley by January 15<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend. Looking for chaperones to join us!

**Youth @ Grace Instagram** Interested in the latest updates or photos for our 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade programming? Follow our Youth Instagram account @youthgracealbertlea. Upcoming Events, Photos and more are posted on there!

## Family MOVIE DAY

JANUARY 18TH AT 2PM

GRACE WILL SHOW A MOVIE FOR KIDS AND ADULTS OF ALL AGES. JOIN US AS WE WATCH, EAT POPCORN AND DISCUSS HOW THIS MYSTERY FILM RELATES TO OUR LIVES AND OUR FAITH.

# Parish Nurse Notes



Lori Tuchtenhagen,  
Parish Nurse  
[parishnurse@gracealbertleia.org](mailto:parishnurse@gracealbertleia.org)

New Years Greetings to Friends  
and Family of Grace Lutheran,

Christmas has come and gone; gifts have been given and received. A new year begins but it is never too late to give these eight gifts that don't cost a cent: the gift of listening, the gift of affection (hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds), the gift of a written note to thank someone for help or to affirm how wonderful they are, the gift of a sincere compliment, the gift of a favor (do something kind for someone else), the gift of solitude (allowing a family member to be by themselves when they ask to do so ), the gift of a cheerful disposition, and the gift of

a smile which is always contagious and appreciated by all! In fact, these gifts will help build respect and empowerment for all who dare to give them away.

2 Corinthians 9: 12

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*

May God Bless You,  
Lori Tuchtenhagen,



## Grace Activities

### FRIENDS

HAPPY NEW YEAR. 2019 has came and gone, how fast the years go by. We now are looking forward to another year of developing new friendships at Friends of Grace. Meetings are held once a month, on the second Sunday (weather permitting) at 6:00 pm. in the Fireside room. Friends is an organization for people who are divorced, widowed or single. If you find yourself sitting at home with nothing to do on a Sunday evening give us a try.

The next meeting of Friends will be held on Sunday **January 12, 2020** at 5:00 pm (please note the time change to 5:00 instead of 6:00 pm). We are planning to have food, good conversation along with playing board games, a fun evening for all who attend. If you have a game you enjoy playing bring it along to share others. Questions about Friends please contact Sandy Fredrickson at 507-456-3186.

### GRACE SENIORS

The Grace Seniors will meet at Wok N Roll in Albert Lea on **February 12, 2020** at 12:00 pm. This will be our final meeting. We hope that everyone will come and support us in closing our long run. Thank you for all your support over the years. See you there.

### GRACE FOR WOMEN



Grace for Women will be meeting **January 12th** at 10:00 am. All young to middle-aged women are invited to gather in the lower level conference room for a time of filling our cups and connecting with our fellow women!

# Church Council Minutes

December 10, 2019

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Timms called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

2. Opening Devotions: Pastor Shane

Pastor led the Council on a roundtable discussion of their family Christmas traditions.

3. Emily Carson: Assistant to the Bishop from SE Synod

Emily Carson was introduced to the Council and review with them the operations and focus of the Synod.

4. Open Forum — No issues were raised

5. Approval of Today's Agenda – Action MSA (Moved, Seconded, Approved) by Dahl and Groenweg to approve the agenda for the meeting

5. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – Action MSA – Jerry Dahl/Gary Schindler

6. Budget 2019 Update: Dave

Dave Drommerhausen reviewed the 2019 budget. He noted the giving is short of our budget by \$20,000-\$30,000. Budget issues for the year were dampened by under-spending by the church and special gifts given by our membership.

7. Review of 2020 Budget: Dave

Dave Drommerhausen highlighted the draft budget prepared by Pastor Shane with input from Council members and the Personnel Committee. He noted that the budget is less than the budget for 2019 by \$7400. Pastor Shane commented that raises for staff reflect a 2% increase.

8. Approval of Minutes

MSA by Munyer and Henrik to approve the minutes from November.

9. Reports

Lead Pastor Report: Pastor Koepke

- Plans to attend a story telling conference

Associate Pastor Report: Pastor Gonsalves

- Final preparations are being made for the Sunday School Christmas Program (Dec 15)

Constitution Committee

- Bill Barber reported on work being done on the church constitution. The committee's focus has been to include portions recommended by the ELCA. The goal is to produce a "constitution with by-laws" document.

MSA to refer the proposed constitution; including ELCA model constitution provisions; to the Annual Meeting; reflecting a shift in the current Chapters 10-14 language to make up the body of new by-laws.

- Jahnke Scholarship – Pastor Jennifer reported that the funds will be used to support a scholarship open to any Grace member pursuing the college education at a two-year or four-year college.
- Mission – Pastor Jennifer reported that standards are being developed to award mission funds and to ensure that funds are awarded every year. The standards would broad enough to address local, regional, state, and/or international needs.

10. Old Business

- Capital Campaign/ Bathroom remodeling: Update – Gary Schindler reported that \$5600 was collected in November; with a total collected over the course of the campaign of \$1,054,000. There is currently \$151,000 cash-on-hand. It was MSA by Henrik and Hamberg to secure a plumbing engineering plot for the restroom project.

Continued on page 12

# Gifts of Love

## BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAMS

### In Memory Of:

**Carole Nelson** on our 53rd Wedding Anniversary

given by Rodger D. Nelson

**Gary Beese** given by Mary Beese

**Gayle Sternberg** given by Robert & Muriel Hoeg

### Gifts Given By:

Jodi Walter, Mark & Tammy Grossklaus,  
Bill & Sue Barber, Jeanne Lundak, Darin & Rebecca  
Passer, Albert Lea Lions Club, Christ Episcopal Church,  
Home Federal, Shirley Bartholomew Fund, Albert Lea  
Lakeview Lions, Central Freeborn Lutheran Church  
Women, Joe & Julie Johnston, Dale & Dorothy Baldwin,  
Max & Janice Jeffrey, Judy Hellie, Ron & Julie Stadheim,  
Stephanie Stadheim, Steve & Joann Bracker, Gary &  
Karen Ohlmann, Al & Pat Arends, Bill & Gwen  
Groskurth, Harris & LaDonna Goplen, Rick & Ginny  
Loberg, Brad & Judy Kirchner, Barry & Donna Oliva,  
Rich & Ann Oliphant, Craig & Becky Loeher, Judy  
Menssen, Peter & Sandra Soli, Mick & Becky Hanson,  
Bruce & Diane Olson, Robert & Muriel Hoeg

## BALL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Jackie Weber** given by Bob Ball & Laura McKibben

### In Honor Of:

**Megan & Oliva** given by Bob Ball & Laura McKibben

## BOILER/BUILDING/ROOF/FURNACE FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Julie Jasperson** given by Kent Jasperson

**Clarice Porter** given by Mildred Jensen

**Orrie Shoff** given by Bill & Sue Barber

**Bill Sturtz** given by Bill & Sue Barber

**Larry Alvey** given by Bill & Sue Barber

### In Honor Of:

**Parents, Bob & Bernice Moreau** given by David & Sally Skrlin

### Gifts Given By:

Roger Johnson, Carroll & Mavis Hanson

## DELORES OST SCHOLARSHIP

### Gift Given By:

Reverend Milton Ost

## EDUCATION

### In Memory Of:

**Julie Jasperson** given by Roy & Cheryl Page

## FOOD SHELF

### In Memory Of:

**Allen Menssen** given by Judy Menssen

### Gifts Given By:

Darin & Rebecca Passer, Faith Ryan, Carroll & Mavis Hanson

## GODTLAND SCHOLARSHIP

### In Memory Of:

**Lois Undahl** given by Jay Montag, Bob & Bev Field,  
Mark & Terri Stadheim, Dan & Carol Newman, Reverend  
A. Gordon Johnson, Reverend Marie Herrenschmidt  
**Dick Godtland** given by Sandy Godtland

## LIBRARY FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Jeanette Godtland** given by Ron & Betty Mathews

### Gift Given By:

Darin & Rebecca Passer

## LOVE OFFERING

### In Memory Of:

**Julie Jasperson** given by Larry & Lanae Thorstad

**Clarice Blesi Porter** given by Shirley Ryan

### Gifts Given By:

Ed & Julie Groeneweg, Ruth Barr, LaVerne Seberson,  
Norris & Beulah Sigurdson

## MARTIN LUTHER FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Clifford Buendorf** given by Hazel Spiering

**Julie Jasperson** given by Hazel Spiering, Dale &  
Dorothy Baldwin

**Wendy (Miller) Lane**, daughter of Bob & Doris Miller  
given by Dale & Dorothy Baldwin

**Martha Ryan** given by Rick & Ginny Loberg

**Norma Carey** given Gerhard & Irmie Kleih

### Gifts Given By:

Darin & Rebecca Passer, Quilting Group

## MEMORIAL FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Julie Jasperson** given by Marilyn Lueth, Tom & Sandy Norby, David & Paulette Paulson, Judy Menssen, Milton & Mary Kate Buschom

**Wendy (Miller) Lane**, daughter of Bob & Doris Miller  
given by Delores Nasby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <b>Church Building And Office Closed.</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p NO SAIL	<b>3</b> 10:00a Grace Notes Mail Prep for mailing	<b>4</b> 9:00a <b>Taking down the church Christmas decorations</b>
<b>5 Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 8:30a Fair Trade Coffee <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> 10:05a Coffee Fellowship 10:05a Adult Forum 10:05a Sunday School 11:00a <b>Worship Service</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00a 500 Card Club 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group	<b>7</b> 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Ladies Bible St. 4:00p Visitation Meeting	<b>8</b> 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Grace at the Table</b> 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>9</b> 6:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL 6:00p WELCA Mtg.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00p Z Tag (9th-12th Grades)
<b>12 Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> 10:05a Coffee Fellowship 10:05a Adult Forum 10:05a Sunday School 10:05a Grace for Women <b>11:00a Worship Service</b> 6:00p Friends	<b>13</b> 10:00a 500 Card Club 1:30p SAIL 5:15p Mary Circle 6:00p Hardanger Group 7:00p MS Society Mtg	<b>14</b> 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Ladies Bible St. 2:30p Senior Towers Communion 6:00p Ministry Teams 6:30p Council Meeting	<b>15 Newsletter Deadline</b> 9:00a Sewing Day 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:00p Chew n Chat 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>16</b> 6:00a Early Bible Study 10:30a Prairie Senior Cottage — Communion 1:30p SAIL	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 2:00p Family Movie Day
<b>19</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> 10:05a Coffee Fellowship 10:05a Adult Forum 10:05a Sunday School <b>11:00a Worship Service</b> 1:00p Ski Trip (7th-12 Gr.)	<b>20</b> 10:00a 500 Card Club 1:30p SAIL 5:00p Hardanger Group	<b>21</b> 9:00a Staff Meeting 10:00a Ladies Bible St.	<b>22</b> 9:15a Martha Circle 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:00p Chew n Chat 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Youth Group 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>23</b> 6:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Annual Meeting</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> 10:05a Coffee Fellowship 10:05a Adult Forum 10:05a Sunday School <b>11:00a Worship Service</b> 12:00p <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00a 500 Card Club 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group 10:00a Men Support Group	<b>28</b> 9:00a Staff Meeting 9:30a Lois Circle 10:00a Ladies Bible St.	<b>29</b> 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:00p Chew n Chat 6:30p Bells of Praise 7:00p Youth Group 7:00p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 6:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	<b>31</b>	 <b>Looking Toward the New Year</b>

# Grace Prays

## **Prayers of Healing**

Mary Peterson  
Bernice Moreau  
Jim Wildeman  
**Graham Whitmore**  
(Grandson of Greg & Pam Henderson)  
**Dorothy Michaelis**  
**Shirley Pearson**  
**Kay Goodmanson**  
**Kathy Diaz**  
**Betty Lou Anderson**  
**Dick Dahlen**  
**Judy Hall**  
**Evie Read**  
(Mother of Sarah Stay)  
**Jess Hatland**  
(Wife of Matt Hatland and  
daughter of Mick & Becky Hanson)  
**Reid Hatland**  
(Son of Matt & Jess Hatland and  
grandparents, Mick and Becky Hanson)  
Elaine Long

## **Prayers for those Grieving**

**Family & Friends of Martha Ryan**  
**Family & Friends of Clarice Porter**  
**Family & Friends of Betty Cashin**  
(Mother of Nancy [Rollin] Houim)  
**Family & Friends of Delores Klitz**  
(Mother of Jeanne [Gary] Schindler)

## **Prayers of Joy**

**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**Birth of Reid Hatland**  
(Son of Matt & Jess Hatland and  
grandparents, Mick and Becky Hanson)

*(If you know anyone needing prayers of our congregation, please let us know so we can include them on our list. Requests for the Prayer Chain can be arranged by calling the church office.)*

## **January**

*(The list below is to remind us to pray for our Grace family members on the following dates.)*

1. Marlene Olson
2. Steve & Barb Olson
3. Steven & Kari Oman,  
Ajay, Cassandra
4. Rev. Milt Ost
5. Sandra Ostrem
6. Rick & Kathi Overocker
7. Roy & Cheryl Page, Ross
8. Bruce & Pat Palmer
9. Darin & Tonia Palmer,  
Gracie, Alexander
10. Mavis Parrish
11. Arnold & Sharon Pasche
12. David & Carol Paschka
13. Darin & Rebecca Passer, Reid,  
Piper Duckert, Tucker Duckert
14. Roger & Kristy Paul
15. Chris & Shannon Paulsen,  
Wyatt, Zachary
16. Milton & Elaine Paulsen
17. Kathleen Paulson
18. Tamra Paulson, Mayzie Williams,  
Bryxlie, Ryker
19. Shirley Pearson
20. Julie Pearson
21. Ray & Carol Pedersen
22. Nicholas & Lisa Pederson,  
Aleesha, Dominick, Jaxon, Colton, Ella
23. John & Mary Penley
24. Terry & Carol Perkins
25. Lester Perschbacher
26. David & Candace Pesch,  
Alexis, Noah, Wyatt
27. Andy & Keli Petersen,  
Jackson, Samuel
28. Larry & Sandra Petersen
29. Carol Peterson
30. Elisa Peterson, Keira
31. Lowell & Barbara Peterson



## Caring and Sharing

**Chairwomen:** Jane Madson  
Carlyn Tufte

Betty & Richard Anderson  
Janice Anderson  
Jackie & Alan Attig  
Debbie & Joe Attig  
Nicole & Jay Austinson  
Sheryl Ellingson  
Barbara Engebretson  
Kristine & Joel Hantelman  
Trudy & Mark Harig  
Denise Jacobson  
Tara & Dean Ketterling  
Kathy & John Knutson  
Carol & David Larson  
Viola Matson  
Rebecca & Darin Passer  
Carol & Ray Pedersen  
Carol & Terry Perkins  
Gail Rasmussen  
Lisa Rippentrop  
Tina & Matt Kermes

**OUR THANKS** to Pat Arends and Gwen Groskurth for serving as chairwomen for December Caring and Sharing; and to all who volunteered to help and/or provide food. Your help was appreciated.

## STUDY OPPORTUNITIES for Adults at Grace

We invite you to join any of our regular Bible study groups at Grace Lutheran.

### Sunday Morning Adult Forum

**September — May**

Come join us at 10:05 Sunday mornings.

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday mornings, 10:00-11:00am  
(Fireside Room)

This study for women offers fellowship, singing, and great discussion.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study

6:00-7:00am (Kitchen)

Consider joining this group where there is an opportunity for good discussion and good fellowship, along with good coffee and treats!

### Grace WELCA Women's Circles

**Mary Circle** (meeting 1st Monday, 5:15pm)

**Lois Circle** (meeting 4th Tuesday, 9:30am)

**Martha Circle** (meeting 4th Wednesday, 9:30am)

New members are always welcome! Call the church office, 373-6496, for more information.

## FILL A JAR

Need a new tradition to begin the new year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.

Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

## Church Council Minutes Cont.

- Strategic planning update: Strategic Planning Team – The results of the prioritizing exercise are being communicated to the congregation. Planning efforts on the priorities will start in 2020.
11. New/Other Business
- Assistance to cars when parking lot is icy – This issue was referred to Building and Grounds to explore securing volunteers to assist members from their cars to the entrances of Grace when the parking lot conditions are not ideal.
  - Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting is set for January 26 at Noon; with lunch being served. An Adult Forum session will be held on January 19 to review draft documents to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
  - Commitment Cards – Sixty-six cards have been returned to date. A reminder will be communicated.
  - Budget for 2020 – MSA by Dahl and Groeneweg to approve the draft 2020 budget and refer it to the Annual Meeting for approval.
  - Any other business? – Nothing to address
  - Tasks to Complete Prior to Next Council Meeting – None required at this time.
12. Prayer Intercessions – Pastor Jennifer led the Council in prayer.
13. Adjournment

Respectively submitted,  
Gary Schindler  
Grace Lutheran Church Council Secretary

## Gifts of Love Cont.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

#### In Memory Of:

**Lois Undahl** given by Sandy Godtland, Dale & Dorothy Baldwin, Sandy Fredrickson, Duane Skophammer, Craig & Jan Hoium

### PARISH NURSE FUND

#### In Memory Of:

**Vern Nasby** given by Delores Nasby

### PRAYER GARDEN

#### In Memory Of:

**Julie Jasperson** given by Kent Jasperson, Traci, Travis & Mark, Micharl & Cynthia Severson

**Lenny Hultgren** given by Delores Nasby

### PRAYER SHAWLS

#### In Memory Of:

Parents, **Clarence & Myrtle** given by Delores Nasby

### QUILTERS

#### In Memory Of:

**Lois Undahl** given by Lester Perschbacher

**Douglas Jacobs** given by Lester Perschbacher

### YOUTH CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

#### Gift Given By:

Ruth Barr

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### In Memory Of:

**Twin Grandsons** given by Delores Nasby

#### Gift Given By:

Darin & Rebecca Passer, Carroll & Mavis Hanson

**PLEASE NOTE** that any additional "Gifts of Love" recorded by the church office after December 30, 2019 will appear in the next issue. If you have given a gift and your name has not been recorded, please call the church office so the correction can be made. Thank you.





## CREATION CARE CORNER

What is the cost of the hand-held devices we buy and replace with increasing frequency? To us, maybe not much. The dollar price per unit often steadily decreases as technology is more widely adapted. But the cost to the environment and workers can be steep and hidden by long supply chains.

One recent example in the news is cobalt. Cobalt is used in rechargeable lithium batteries sold by major tech companies like Apple and Google. Demand for cobalt has tripled in the past five years and is on track to double again by 2021.

More than 60% of cobalt on the market comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an impoverished, conflict-ridden country in central Africa. Cobalt mining in DRC has been linked to human rights abuses, corruption, environmental destruction, and child labor.

A recent lawsuit brought on behalf of 14 young people or their families alleges that numerous children have been killed in tunnel collapses or permanently injured in cobalt mining-related accidents.

From the Guardian (Dec. 16, 2019): "Another child, referred to as John Doe 1, says that he started working in the mines when he was nine. The lawsuit claims that earlier this year, he was working as a human mule for Kamoto Copper Company, carrying bags of cobalt rocks for \$0.75 a day, when he fell into a tunnel. After he was dragged out of the tunnel by fellow workers, he says he was left alone on the ground at the mining site until his parents heard about the accident and arrived to help him. He is now paralyzed from the chest down and will never walk again."

When we buy products, the sticker price is not the only cost. Please consider the 'invisible' costs required to mine and process all the parts that went into those products, as well as distribute them.



*Image source:  
Wikimedia Commons*

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40



## QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER

"Let justice roll down like waters...." Amos 5:24. Did you know that 2 billion people in the world lack access to safe water to drink and use for personal sanitation? Imagine having to walk miles each day to get enough water for your family and then have to carry it back to your home. Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger help build new wells and provide clean water to countless people around the world. Your gifts have totaled \$1,920.75 to the middle of December. Thank you, and Happy New Year!



**FAIR TRADE COFFEE**  
Sunday, January 5th



The Caring & Sharing monthly co-chair sign-up sheet for 2020 is located in the Narthex. Please consider being a co-chair for a month that works for you. WELCA thanks you for giving of your time in serving our Grace community.



Remember your coins  
for Sunday's  
Noisy Offering

2019 GIVING AT GRACE				
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget
November 24	\$13,921.44	\$13,845.31	101%	\$76.13
December 1	\$11,037.72	\$13,845.31	80%	-\$2,807.59
December 8	\$31,465.47	\$13,845.31	227%	\$17,620.16
December 15	\$8,741.09	\$13,845.31	63%	-\$5,104.22
December 22	\$33,258.72	\$13,845.31	240%	\$19,413.41
December 29	\$20,643.72	\$13,845.31	149%	\$6,798.41
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$617,720.08</b>	<b>\$719,956.00</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>-\$102,235.92</b>

*The Finance Ministry Team and Church Council appreciate your generous support.  
Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace Lutheran.*

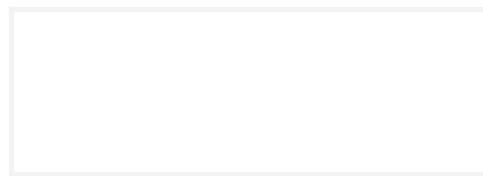
# ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2019



Grace Lutheran Church  
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Email: office@gracealbertlea.org

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## Winter Worship Service Schedule

**Sunday Worship Service at 9:00 am & 11:00 am**

**Classes for age 4 through Adult at 10:05-11:00 am**

**Wednesday Evening Worship at 5:30 pm**

**Join your Grace family each week in  
worship, study and fellowship!**

