



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of October 31, 2021

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:00 am (in person and online)

ALTAR GUILD: An Altar Guild meeting will be held at Grace on **November 1st**, 6:30 pm, Fireside Room to plan for worship preparation in November and December besides looking ahead into 2022. Anyone (individual men/women; couples, families) interested in being part of a team preparing for church services without long-term commitment is welcomed to attend this meeting. Trial opportunities are also available. For more information, call Jane Madson, 377-3547 or the church office.

MARY CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, November 1**, in the Fireside Room at **5:15 pm**. Please wear a mask. Note the time, we will discuss meeting times and do lesson 2.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: If you or someone you know is interested in joining Grace Lutheran Church, there will be an orientation on **Tuesday, November 9th** at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 507-373-6496 or at office@gracealbertlea.org.

GRACE SENIORS: The next meeting of Grace Seniors is Wednesday, **November 17th** at 2:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Rescheduled from September, will be Milt Ost speaking on his third book "TUMBLEWEEDS REMEMBERED", which shares the life and service of the fifth-generation of the Oster family, Pastor Ed and his wife, Denise, as they weave their footprints across five continents and return to their loved ones in Bergen, Minnesota. The book will be for sale and Milt will sign copies. Grace Seniors is coordinated by Gary and Jeanne Schindler. Contact them to suggest speakers.

COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS INFORMATION: We are collecting addresses and updates on our young adults in our congregation! We will be sending letters and care packages to our young adults who are in college or who graduated high school recently. Please send Ashley their school year addresses.

CARE PACKAGES DONTATIONS: We are looking for donations to send to our college & young adults in our congregation! This could be some candy, food, a note, gift cards, something that is Albert Lea related, etc. If you would like to donate anything, please drop that off in the office by **November 5th**.

EFFA IS BACK FOR ADVENT! The Enough Food For All effort will be a 'reverse Advent Calendar'. Instead of opening a gift or eating a piece of chocolate to mark the days of Advent that lead up to Christmas, put aside one food item of your choice into a box that you will bring to the church at Christmas time. The food will be delivered to the food shelves to be shared with those in need in our community. Thank you in advance for being God's hands and feet by sharing what you have been given with others.



FOOD FOR BACKPACK UPDATE: This past year has been a year like no other. Now that schools are back to in person learning, full time, the number of food insecure students receiving weekend food packets has increased. We support Hawthorne Elementary. Together with Zion Lutheran, we are serving 127 students. The total number of students served K-7 is 492. Costs for food packets have increased as have shipping costs.

During the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas please consider a donation to this much needed program. Any amount is very much appreciated and know that 100% of all donations goes for the purchase of backpack food packets. If you are interested in volunteering to help with deliveries, we are always looking for more helping hands.

Again, we are so grateful for your generosity supporting these students. Thank you, thank you!

FAITH EXPLORATIONS: People of all ages are welcome to join other families for Faith Exploration! This is an interactive time of learning for families of faith. Following worship on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of the month, families (of all shapes and sizes) are invited to the Fellowship Hall for scripture, conversation, crafts, prayer, and fun!

COMMEMORATIVE 75th ANNIVERSARY GRACE ORNAMENT: In honor of our 75 years of being a church rooted in Jesus, serving others, and celebrating faith we are proud to commemorate the time with a Christmas ornament. This ornament was designed and created by Steve Schulz a carpenter and member of Grace. For a \$10 donation, you can bring an ornament home to put on your tree or give away as a gift. We hope to sell at least 200 ornaments to raise money for a new outdoor nativity for the front yard of the church.

FIRESIDE ROOM CHRISTMAS DECORATING: COME JOIN US for a Potluck Supper, WELCA meeting (very short) and Christmas decorating of the Fireside Room on **December 2**. Festivities will begin at 5:30 with an enjoyable potluck dinner prepared by each of you as the attendees, a short meeting will be held to decide on our gift giving for the Christmas Season, and election of officers. So bring your favorite dish to pass and creative energies to help make the Fireside Room "glow" for the Christmas Season. Please contact Jane Smith, 715-347-4036 for questions or if you'd like to be an officer. All offices are open, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ALTAR FLOWERS/COMMUNION BREAD & WINE: If you would like to provide flowers for the altar or bread and wine for communion, sign-up sheets along with special envelopes can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 507-373-6496.

OUR CHURCH'S NEW MOBILE APP IS HERE! We're excited to announce Grace has upgraded our mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

Please download Vanco Mobile by **January 30, 2022**. Vanco will be retiring GivePlus Mobile after this date. If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please stop by the church office or call us at 507-373-6496.

ONLINE GIVING: Thank you for your generous gifts during this time. You can mail in or drop off your offering to the church or give electronically.

Online: www.gracealbertlea.org/donate

Mobile App: Vanco Mobile App. Search "Grace Lutheran (Albert Lea)"

Text: 833-939-1383

More information can be found on our website at <https://gracealbertlea.org/discipleship/giving/>

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