



GRACE VINE



The Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

December 2017

Christmas Program

There will be a Potluck starting on December 10 at 12:30 pm. Sign up sheets are hanging between food windows in Hope Hall. The program is called A Night At The Inn. We are looking for help with updating the sets, helping with costumes, shepherds, angels, animals and a lot of musical talent. Please contact Linda Schwall at (602) 276-7635 or email at LSchwall@cox.net for more info about getting involved. Hope you will all join us at A Night At The Inn.

Fall Worship Hours

7:30 am	Community Pancake Breakfast
8:30 am	Contemporary Worship (Hope Hall)
9:45 am	Grace Time
11:00 am	Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
12:15 pm	Fellowship

Five Guiding Principles of Grace Lutheran Church

1. Jesus is Lord!
2. Pray, Seek, and Follow God's Will
3. Share the Good News of Christ
4. Embrace God's challenge to Love and Serve Other
5. All are Welcome

December Community Building Goal

During the month of December, our community building goal is to increase our presence at community meetings: Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation, Evans Churchill Neighborhood Association, Hance Park Conservancy, and Townsend Park Community. These meetings take place at various times, including weeknights and weekdays. If you are interested in attending, please talk with Pastor Sarah. Look for particular times in upcoming bulletins.

Christmas Cantata

The Grace Chancel Choir will share their annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 am worship.

Christmas Eve Schedule

7:30 am	Community Pancake Breakfast
8:30 am	Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

**NO Grace Time, 11:00 Traditional Worship, or Fellowship*

Christmas Day Schedule

11:00 am Traditional Christmas Day Worship in the Sanctuary

Grace Vine is Published 12 times a year by

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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www.graceinthecity.com

www.Facebook.com/GraceInTheCity



By God's grace, we are in the city for good!



From Pastor Sarah's Pen

“Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.”
ELW 528 Come and Fill Our Hearts

Welcome to Advent. Christians have celebrated the season of Advent for most of our 2,000 history, a season during which we wait for the birth of Christ. Our culture moves right from Thanksgiving to Christmas, so the church season of Advent can be awkward. Quite honestly, even within the church, we struggle. During the month of December, we share in the Christmas program. WELCA hosts its annual Christmas concert with the Phoenix College Choir. The Cinema Club usually holds a Christmas party. The Chance Choir sings the Christmas Cantata. This year, the youth will have a Christmas party. We put up Christmas trees in both the sanctuary and Hope Hall...all during Advent. We the church are just as drenched in Christmas as the rest of our culture. And the Christmas festivities and expectations surrounding us are complex. Joyous and merry but also sad and depressing. We might revel in the Christmas trees, stockings, gift-buying, parties, carols, lights, and general goodwill that accompany Christmas. On the other hand, we might grieve even more deeply during this season if we have lost a loved one or a job or a home for Christmas magnifies the absence of the person with whom we spent every holiday or magnifies the absence of the job which provided the gifts we share in this season or magnifies a lack of place in which to celebrate.

Whether we are merry or sad this season, I invite each of us to enter into Advent, a season of waiting, a season of preparation. I dare say that, if you find yourself unable to disconnect from Christmas, you can simultaneously enter into Advent. To enter into Advent, we embrace the present. We let go of the past and the future and breathe NOW. It isn't Christmas yet. The Festival of the Nativity will come, but not today.

During our Advent worship services on December 3, 10, and 17, we will stop and be quiet and be present NOW. We will wait. We will prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. We will do so with silence and a brief guided meditation.

For those who are unfamiliar, meditation has its roots in other religious traditions but has been embraced by Christians the last couple decades. Of course, Christians have long practiced contemplation which is somewhat similar to meditation.

For the last few months in my own life, I have practiced meditation, not very consistently but regularly. At its core, meditation invites practitioners to observe the breath, to be present as whatever emotions rise in the observation of the breath. That's it. During meditation, thoughts come, and then, we gently let them go. In a season where we are constantly looking forward to the next event so much that the actual day of Christmas can feel anticlimactic, being present NOW and letting go of the need to look forward will, hopefully, be refreshing and renewing. This Advent, we observe the NOW so that, when Christmas comes, our hearts are prepared, and we will rejoice!

Praying peace for you in the NOW,
Pastor Sarah

From the Church Office

The church office will be closed Monday, December 25. Merry Christmas!

CALL: Confirmation Among Local Lutherans

Grace is a part of the joint Lutheran Confirmation program in Phoenix! This program includes the following congregations: Grace Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, All Saints Lutheran Church, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. During the month of December, CALL meets Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 17 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on 12th Street.

Feed My Starving Children

This Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 am -11:00 am, all are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer with Feed My Starving Children. The group with whom we are volunteering is a synod-wide group, and the group name is Love of Christ Lutheran Church.

Registration is online at <http://volunteer.fmsc.org/Register/Group/JoinGroup.aspx?gid=1255816>.

GLOW Update

On Wednesdays at 5:30-7:15 pm, we will be together at GLOW. These evenings include both a meal and Bible study. During December, we will enjoy some variety in our GLOW time together.

December 6: Holiday Concert by Phoenix Children's Chorus

December 13: Miracles of Jesus

December 20: Blue Christmas Service

All are welcome at GLOW! You may come and volunteer or just come and eat and share in the study/concert/service! Your presence is a gift to the community.

Due to Christmas and New Years festivities, we will not have GLOW on December 27 or January 3.

Parking Lot Fundraisers

Please plan to join us for upcoming youth fundraisers. Proceeds go towards next summer's mission trip and Campfirmation. Mark your calendar for Friday, December 1, December 8 and Saturday, December 9. On Friday, December 1, in addition to attending the parking lot, we will sell items left from our Reformation Open House booth in the courtyard.

Youth Christmas Party & Team Building

On Friday, December 22 at 5:00 pm, there will be a Youth Christmas Party! Freddie Roberts invites Grace into his home. This will be a celebration and team building event.

Yoga with Tami

Tami Link continues to provide Yoga classes for the community and membership of Grace for a suggested donation of \$5 to \$15. Please thoughtfully consider what you can offer. If you can offer more, you participate in the gift and service of those who have less. Donations go to ensuring you have consistent, quality instruction. Tami offers a Contemplative Yoga class on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Midwest Food Bank

Volunteers are invaluable to the mission of Midwest Food Bank. If you are interested in giving back this year. Please help prepare disaster relief boxes, repackage bulk foods into manageable quantities for distribution and to support local pantries. Midwest Food Bank also has opportunities for drivers

with a CDL license. Midwest Food Bank is always in need of volunteers in order to continue their ministry. If you would like to learn more about how you can help others and make a difference this season with Midwest Food Bank, visit Arizona.midwestfoodbank.org or email MLuccitti@midwestfoodbank.org.

Update from the Faith Formation Ministry Team

Welcome to Advent 2017! It came so quickly! Of great importance, the Christmas program and potluck will be on Sunday, December 10 at 12:30 pm. "A Night at the Inn," our new tradition, will take place in Hope Hall. Please sign up on the potluck chart at your earliest convenience. This is a production for all ages. How about music, new characters at the inn, poetry, story-telling? Linda Schwall wants to hear about your participation, so bring it on! Rehearsals will be held on December 3 and December 10 between services. All are encouraged to attend; it is the perfect start to this season.

The Grace family is collecting blankets and socks for NAUM—we would like to share throw size blankets and socks of all sizes. Collection bins will be in the narthex and Hope Hall. There will be a Christmas card writing project on Saturday, December 2 at 1:00 pm. This activity will take place at Margie Betz's. These cards of encouragement will be distributed at GLOW, the Wednesday before Christmas. Margie will gladly provide you with a pack of cards to write if you are unable to attend at her home. GraceTime Adult Bible study continues with average attendance of 15. The teen study is on hiatus until January.

Please note the special events and worship times detailed in the newsletter. Look ahead to 2018 and how you will engage in the life and ministry at Grace. There is a place for you at the table and we will see you in church! Christmas blessings to all from the Faith Formation Ministry Team, Holy Spirit, Awaken Our Hope!

Fran Fry

Council Liaison to Faith Formation Team



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December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Community Building Goal:</p> <p>During the month of December, our community building goal is to increase our presence at community meetings: Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation, Evans Churchill Neighborhood Association, Hance Park Conservancy, and Townsend Park Community. These meetings take place at various times, including weeknights and weekdays. If you are interested in attending, please talk with Pastor Sarah. Look for particular times in upcoming bulletins.</p>					<p>1- 5:30 pm Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser First Friday Office Closed Lester's Sabbath Pastor Sarah on vacation</p>	<p>2- 10:00 am WELCA Capitol Conference Planning Meeting- North Room</p>
<p>3- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am GraceTime- Hope Hall 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship- Hope Hall 12:30 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary 1:00 pm C.A.L.L.- Our Saviour's</p>	<p>4- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:30 pm Diakonia- North Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>5- 5:30 pm Yoga Class with Tami- Sanctuary Asphalt Repair- no parking in lots Pastor Sarah is out of office</p>	<p>6- 9:15 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7- 9:30 am WELCA Christmas Concert & Luncheon- Hope Hall 11:00 am Phoenix College Christmas Choir Concert- Sanctuary 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room</p>	<p>8- 6:00 pm Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser Office Closed Lester's Sabbath</p>	<p>9-10:00 am Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser 10:00 am Rental Group- Sanctuary 11:00 am NAUM- Hope Hall 5:00 pm Cinema Club 6:00 pm Trunk Space- Basement</p>
<p>10- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time- North Room 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:30 pm Christmas Program- Hope Hall 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary</p>	<p>11- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:30 pm Diakonia- North Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>12- 1:00 pm Organ tuning- Sanctuary 5:30 pm Yoga Class with Tami- Sanctuary 6:30 pm Ministry Night - North Room</p>	<p>13- 9:15 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm GLOW- Hope Hall</p>	<p>14- 7:30 am- Rental Group- North Room 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room</p>	<p>15- 1:00 pm Traditional Worship planning- Choir room Office Closed Lester's Sabbath</p>	<p>16- 10:00 am Oasis Church meal- Hope Hall</p>
<p>17- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time- North Room 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship- Hope Hall 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary Christmas Cantata Congregational Christmas Party- Freddie's home</p>	<p>18- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:30 pm Diakonia- North Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>19- 5:30 pm Yoga Class with Tami- Sanctuary 6:30 pm Council Meeting- North Room</p>	<p>20- 9:15 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm Last GLOW- Hope Hall</p>	<p>21- 9:30 am Biblical Equipping- North room 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room</p>	<p>22- Youth Christmas Party Office Closed Lester's Sabbath</p>	<p>23- 10:00 am- Rental Group- Sanctuary 11:00 am NAUM- Hope Hall 5:00 pm Cinema Club</p>
<p>24- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship- Sanctuary</p>	<p>25- 11:00 am Christmas Day Worship Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>26- 5:30 pm Yoga Class with Tami- Sanctuary</p>	<p>27- 9:15 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28- 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room</p>	<p>29- 4:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal- Sanctuary Office Closed Lester's Sabbath</p>	<p>30- 3:00 pm Wedding- Sanctuary</p>

Suggested Bible Readings for December

December 3 (First Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

December 10 (Second Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

December 17 (Third Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: Psalm 126

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: Psalm 96

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

December 31 (First Sunday of Christmas)

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalm: Psalm 148

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Birthdays

December 2 *Barbara Buta*

December 6 *Lori Cecil*

December 9 *Linda Erickson*

December 10 *Donald Abella*

December 11 *Clinton Reiswig*

December 12 *Nick Huska*

December 19 *Fran Fry*

December 21 *Joe Dani*

December 24 *Eric Hanson*

December 28 *Stephanie Rodin*

December 31 *Leiana Hokanson*

December 31 *Desi Walker Jr.*

December 31 *Shirley Warner*



December Worship Assistance

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
Preacher	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah
Crucifer	Solveig Muus	Daniel Ramirez	Lori Cecil	Joe Dani	Solveig Muus
Greeters	Nancy Tickle Judy Baker	Julio Devora Brian Flatgard	Kathy Spitler Jim Spitler	Bev Zannos Brenda Baird	Gene Bell Marjie Bell
Reader	Joe Dani	Ruth Erdmann	Connor Cohen	Daryl Scherrer	Donna Martin
Ushers	Dorothy Ziehl John Erickson	Dorothy Ziehl Maria Ramirez	Dorothy Ziehl Marty Dusenberry	Dorothy Ziehl John Erickson	Dorothy Ziehl Evalyn Ehlen
Sound Board	Tim Gallen	Joey Lay	Tim Gallen	Joey Lay	Tim Gallen
Bread Baker	Marjie Bell	Evalyn Ehlen	Nicole Gallen	Solveig Muus	Stephanie Rodin
8:30 Reader	Erica Khatter	Fran Fry	Kenda Khatter	Clark Olson	Hannah Khatter

Grace Lutheran Staff

Pastor: Sarah Stadler, 602-318-6876,
pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com

Caretaker: Lester Andrews, 520-233-0468,
caretaker@graceinthecity.com

Administrative Assistant: Adrienne Kaye
602-258-3787, officemanager@graceinthecity.com

Organist & Choir Director: Laura Cutler,
laura.lyn.cutler@gmail.com

Praise Band Leader: Chad Hernandez-Cole
602-619-3172, praisebandleader@graceinthecity.com

Bookkeeper: Chris Morris

Social Worker: Jeff Jirak

Grace Lutheran Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 12 pm

Grace Lutheran Church Council Members

President	Renee Waterstradt
Vice President	Tim Gallen
Secretary	Roger Ark
Treasurer	Ruth Bowman
Director	Fran Fry
Director	Brian Flatgard
Director	Marty Dusenberry
Director	Amy Poling
Director	Haley Meier

