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# The Grace Church Visitor

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NOVEMBER 2023



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*Grace = God's Riches At Christ's Expense*

## November Birthdays

Jeremy Hess	11/1
Justin Doolittle	11/3
Natalie Tryon	11/3
Doug Doolittle	11/7
Marlene Doolittle	11/9
Owen Hubert	11/10
Alec Mander	11/12
Sharla Mander	11/14
Savannah Jensen	11/19
Adaline Doise	11/20
Virginia Jewell	11/20
Becky Barclay	11/23
Sue Jacobson	11/24
David Loupee	11/24
Dave Doolittle	11/29
Eric Dowe	11/30
Brynleigh Haskin	11/30

*If we're missing a birthday please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records!*



## November Lectionary

### November 5

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

### November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

### November 19

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123 or 76;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

### November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;  
Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

Deadline for submitting *Visitor* information is the 20th of each month. Information for the weekly bulletin and *This Week at Grace* is due in the office by noon on Wednesdays.

## From Our Pastor

Beloveds,

Holiday seasons are supposed to be such special times, aren't they? They are supposed to be times when we can relax, celebrate with family and friends, and be assured once again that God is on God's throne and all really *is* right with the world. I used to make a point of watching the evening news on Christmas Eve because I wanted to see just what the state the world was in on what was supposed to be a special, peace-filled night. Of course, it rarely was either of those things.

Two years ago I shared with you some remarks by Paul Nickerson, a really authentic person and coach for clergy and churches. Two years ago we were wondering when Covid-19 would be "over," churches were wondering what the future would be like for their congregations, and why their communities didn't even seem to know their churches existed.

Welcome to 2023. Sufficient to each year is the evil thereof. We are heading into the holidays with many of the same old fears and stresses.

"But there is an antidote to this fear and worry and it is GRATITUDE," writes Nickerson. "The more we can be thankful for what we have, the more we see how God is greatly blessing us even in these difficult times, the more our faith and hope will grow.

"Focus on all God is doing through you; how God is continuing to lead you through a pandemic; how God has given you all the gifts and graces you need to do the ministry you have been called to do in your community. You can focus on all the problems, or you can focus on all the blessings. It is your prayerful choice."

Nickerson is absolutely right. The world has never known a time of utter peace and prosperity. The news always seems bad. But through prayer and service, we can make a difference in our little corner of humanity. Thanksgiving can become an action and not just a passive wishing that things were better.

Your Servant for Christ's Sake,  
Jonathan

### *Don't Stop Me If You've Heard This One Dept.*

A certain company needed to purchase \$50,000 worth of file cabinets. Departments had been waiting months and were desperate for the storage space. Instead of buying the new cabinets, however, it was decided to close down the company for half a day and hold the first biannual file and clean-out event. When everyone had finished purging their current cabinets of every nonessential piece of paper, dozens of unneeded file cabinets were auctioned off. Sometimes what we think we need isn't what we really need. When we pray, we learn to distinguish between needs and wants.

### G.R.A.C.E Team "E"

#### Gene & Erma Schaeffer - chr

Tony & Christine Semler-Blue, Connor Blue, Tanner Blue, Carroll & Judy Brekke, Adam & Lauren Crawford, Eric Dowe, Leah Frandson, Kristopher & Jessica Hensch, Adam & Valerie Hubert, Owen Hubert, Del & Kris Johnston, Alyssa Loots, Sharla Mander, Bill & Susan Mardock, Brian & Dee McNamara, Dave & Linda McVicker, Torran & Natalie Rasmussen, Nate & Malinda Warwick, Chase Blagg, Skylar Blagg, Riker Warwick

### Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is on November 23 this year. As a result the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.

### Condolences

Our condolences go out to the family of Sara Dappen. Sara passed away on October 14. Graveside services were held for her on October 20. She was the oldest member of our congregation at 103.

### Condolences

Our condolences go out to the family of Scott Muxfeldt. Scott passed away on September 27. He was living in Florida with his mom, Peg. He and his family were long time members of Grace prior to the move. His memorial service was at Grace on October 21.

### Baptism

Nixon Sue Flaspohler will be baptized on October 29. Nixon is the daughter of Alex and Claire Flaspohler. Nixon is little sister to Reagan and Truman Flaspohler.

### November Volunteers

#### Sunday, November 5

Liturgist: Kurt Carlson  
Tech: Louis Reeder  
Ushers: The Warwick and Blagg Family

#### Sunday, November 12

Liturgist: Dave Doolittle  
Tech: Nate Warwick  
Ushers: Brian and Dee McNamara

#### Sunday, November 19

Liturgist: Lauren Crawford  
Tech: Riker Warwick  
Ushers: The Hubert Family

#### Sunday, November 26

Liturgist: Gail Remis  
Tech: Chris or Kate Feil  
Ushers: Tony and Chrissy Blue

### Daylight Savings Time



Daylight savings time ends on November 5. Make sure and turn your clocks back an hour that Sunday so you don't come to church too early that morning.

### All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating our saints with a candle-lighting ceremony, where we will name and honor the members who have died since last All Saints' Day. Family members will be invited to take part in this service of remembrance. We are remembering: Jim Dale, Linda Poore, Kermit Miskel, Jim Wirth, Geneva Chelsvig, Editha Adrian, Scott Muxfeldt and Sara Dappen.

### Charge Conference

Charge conference is November 5 at 1pm at Collegiate UMC this year. Everyone is welcome to attend.





### Our Prayers

Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has cancer; Becky Cooney—friend, Julie Leonard, undergoing treatments; Doug Feil; Carolyn Geise—broken arm from fall; Cathy Hermanson—Cancer; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer; The Taylors

### Our Gifts

**Offering Oct. 1—Oct. 22:**  
\$10,081.00

### Our Presence

**Attendance Oct. 1—Oct. 22**  
**Worship:** 328 Total/82 Avg.

### Our Witness

We appreciate our October liturgists: Gail Remis, Kurt Carlson, Becky Barclay, Del Johnston, and Owen Hubert

Thank you to our tech team who ran the power point in October: Kurt Carlson, Chris Feil, Riker Warwick, Kate Feil, and Louis Reeder

### Our Service

Thank you to all of our lawn mowers who worked so hard to keep our yard looking trimmed and nice this year!

### Mission Brunch

On Sunday, October 22, we had our monthly mission brunch. They served French toast. They raised \$499 that will be given to angel tree. We hope you join us next month on November 19. Money raised will go to support Loaves and Fishes next month.

### 2024 Stewardship

Most of you should be receiving a letter from our pastor including a pledge card for 2024. Please fill this out and return to church no later than November 19 when we hope to dedicate them in worship. If you do not receive a card, extras will be available in the narthex. A financial pledge for the coming year helps the church leadership make decisions for the ministry of the church. Grace has been blessed in recent years with generous support.

### Harvest Home

Grace church has participated in a long tradition called Harvest Home. We will continue again this year with November 19 as our designated date to give to the food pantry before the Thanksgiving holiday. Keep in mind that many people will be baking and cooking for family and the following items would be greatly appreciated.

- Spices such as cinnamon, pumpkin, chili
- Cookie and frosting mixes
- Sauces such as tomato and pasta
- Basic baking ingredients such as flour, sugar, margarine, butter, shortening
- Paper products are always needed. Consider giving toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex

Food items may be brought to the church beginning this Sunday and will be collected in the narthex. Following the November 19 brunch, which is designated for the Loaves and Fishes food pantry, the items will be taken by volunteers to the pantry.

### Decorating for Christmas

You're invited to help with "hanging the greens" at the church after worship on November 26th. This is a fun group activity that involves putting up the Christmas trees, the advent candle stand, hanging the wreaths and garlands, setting out nativities and preparing the sanctuary and other areas of the church in anticipation and celebration of the Christ Child's birth!



### Crop Walk

Thank You to those who walked, ran, or donated money to the Crop Walk on October 8. Totals on donations will be available in November. To date Grace Church stands at \$640 but that is not the final tally.

-Patsy

### Youth Group

Hello Church Families,  
Our youth need your help in order to keep Axis and Compass thriving. We are in need of volunteers! Below are the opportunities for church members to help support our youth!

- **Chaperone Compass** - Wednesday from 6:00p.m. until 7:30p.m. - this position helps to manage the youth attendees. It is not a teaching position. Anyone can do it!



#### Compass Chaperone Sign-up

- **Wednesday Compass Meal Provider** - Supply a drink, main dish, side and dessert for 20 kids. Get a group together! Each person can supply one part of the meal.



#### Compass Meal Sign-up

- **Sunday Axis Snacks Supplier** - Provide a snack and drink for 10 students. These can be dropped off at any church office. Just label it "Axis Snack."



#### Axis Snack Sign-up

- If your child attends Axis or Compass Youth Groups, use [this link](#) or the QR code to register. It is important that we have access to family information if the need arises.



Thank you for supporting our youth!

**Valerie Hubert**

(515) 291-1179/[vjhubert@gmail.com](mailto:vjhubert@gmail.com)

Youth Committee Team

### Christmas Program Rehearsals

Beginning October 29, kids will have rehearsals for the upcoming Christmas program. Rehearsals will be in the fellowship hall following the children's sermon. Below is the schedule for which kids will rehearse each week.

**October 29**—Savannah, Peyton with Val. Lily, Olivia, Bella, Camille, Cora with Craig and Chrissy

**November 5**—Lena, Alexandra, Adeline with Chrissy

**November 12**—Beckey's class and Owen, Alexandra, Reagan, Lena, Adeline with Beckey and Chrissy

**November 19**—Lily, Olivia, Bella, Camille, Cora with Craig. Lena, Alexandra, Adeline with Chrissy. Savannah, Peyton with Val

**November 26**—Beckey's class and Owen, Alexandra, Reagan, Lena, Adeline with Beckey and Chrissy

**December 3**—All children and teachers

**December 10**—All children and teachers

**December 17**—Christmas program during church service at 9:15 a.m.

### Fall Clean Up Days

Fall clean up days will be on November 10 and 11 this year. Plan to come help clean up the church grounds before winter. If that weekend is too rainy to work, clean up days will be rescheduled to November 17 and 18.

### Guest preacher

Rev. Katherine Yarnell is the executive director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. She will be our guest preacher on Sunday, November 12, and will meet with interested adults during the Sunday school hour. She can answer questions about remembering the church in your will, the investments Grace has entrusted to the Foundation (our endowment), and how the Foundation can help local churches in ministry.



## UWF News

On Wednesday, October 11, fifteen members of United Women of Faith met in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Church. Patsy opened with verses 3 and 4 from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Philippians. In prayer we remember Gloria who has covid, Sara Dappen in her final days, all the countries suffering through war and happier times with the wedding of Pastor Jonathan and Becky. Erma led us in song with "Go Tell It On The Mountain" followed by the Purpose.

Gail had the Mission Moment which shared remembering loved ones. Several members shared memories of family/friends who they have lost. We ended the moment with the singing of Bind Us Together.

**Treasurer Report:** We have a balance of \$5,248.68. This includes money still to be sent to district.

**Secretary's Report** was read and approved. Terry thanked Claudia for taking the minutes in September while Terry was on vacation. Correspondence was read from Midwest Mission and New Hope Foundation. Terry ask for donations of bars for the Scott Muxfeldt funeral on Saturday, October 21. Raejean, Tep and Erma will each furnish a pan of bars.

**Old Business:** One mat has been completed for Midwest Mission. Several circle and church members were involved in this project. Claudia had it displayed in church on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Patsy had brought Halloween cards for us to sign and send to our shut-ins and friends.

Erma made a motion that we give \$100 for supplies for the wedding reception on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> for Pastor Jonathan and Becky. Priscilla 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion passed.

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 8. Claudia Pauk has the Mission Moment which will be World Thank Offering. Program will be Installation of Officers by Pastor Jonathan. Raejean will be hostess.

Submitted by Terry Gustason



## Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who signed up to help deliver meals. Delivery of the food will be to the North Entrance at Grace each day right around 10:50. This year there is just one route on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday there are two routes. It should only take about half an hour to make your deliveries and return the trays and coolers to the church so HSS can take and fill them for the next day. As in the past, there will be no meals delivered on Thanksgiving or the Friday after (which this year is the 23rd and 24th). Our thanks to Cathy and our faithful volunteers for serving our community and Grace Church in this caring way. Please find a copy of the volunteer calendar attached to email that you received this newsletter

## Family Christmas

Family Christmas in Story City! A fun day for all families in our community is being planned for December 16th. There will many activities for families to enjoy. Please consider volunteering your time or making a donation. More details about the event will be released soon. Mark your calendars!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449A5AB2FA0FE3-44997994-family?fbclid=IwAR1yOkuPOBXSQFeES\\_wjkGI5VNC0qJ75v\\_Up3Lko2yBQNsnAgHvSD5INJAU#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449A5AB2FA0FE3-44997994-family?fbclid=IwAR1yOkuPOBXSQFeES_wjkGI5VNC0qJ75v_Up3Lko2yBQNsnAgHvSD5INJAU#/)



The Chancel Choir blesses us with their beautiful music.





## Youth Update

Church!

This past month has been an awesome month with the youth! I haven't seen much growth in numbers this month but it has been so cool to see the same kids showing up ready to learn about the guy who saved them! I am really excited to share that we have a lot of opportunities coming in the future for the kids to join in fellowship and grow in their faith!

Coming in November, a few of the youth directors in Story City as well as myself are planning a community worship night for all the youth groups to come together to worship the Lord through music and prayer! There might be volunteer opportunities for this if you are wanting a fun and unique way to serve the youth! This is directed to middle and High schoolers (grades 5-12)!

A few weeks ago I reached out to Conner Freerks who is the youth director at Immanuel Lutheran about doing a retreat at Riverside together and I think that will be taking place hopefully in the first weekend in January! This is directed to the middle schoolers but we may need some high school volunteers as well as maybe volunteer or 2 to cook for us!

Overall, I am just really excited to continue being with the kids and growing with them!

Blessings,  
Joel Chambers



Several ladies decorated the fellowship hall and made mints for the reception for Jonathan and his new wife Becky. (missing from the picture, Valerie Hubert and Becky Barclay)



Jonathan and Becky Cooney Wedding

## 2023 Angel Tree



The Roland-Story Community School District would like to inform you of the Angel Gift Program. This is a Christmas gift opportunity for families in need during the holidays. The gifts are purchased by donors or through donations. The children who receive the gifts may not receive gifts this holiday season without this program. The families are members of the Story City and Roland communities. The gifts are distributed to the families just before Christmas.

If you would like to be a part of the program, either to give or receive, please contact Alyssa Loots at: 515-733-4386 or 515-290-9899 by **November 1st, 2023**. Family applications are available in the elementary and middle school offices. Gift lists will be distributed to donors on November 15th. All gifts must be delivered to Immanuel Lutheran Church by December 6<sup>th</sup>. Gift pick up for the families will be on December 12th.

Alyssa will have slips available at Grace church on Sunday, November 12, if you would like to take one or more and shop for a family in need.





## Pictures of Grace



thankful



**Grace UMC Council**  
**Unofficial Minutes from October 23, 2023 Meeting**

**Present:** Gloria Sampson (Chair, Missions), Becky Barclay (Finance); Louis Reeder (Trustee), Pastor Jonathan, Patsy Jensen (UFW), Cheryl Semler (Worship), Gini Michel (Education), Krystle Ness (SPRC), Claudia Pauk (Lay Leader), Cathy Hermanson (rec. secretary)

**Jonathan offered prayer and Gloria opened the meeting.**

**Gini/Patsy moved the September minutes be approved. Motion carried.**

**Finance:** Becky reported we have completed our apportionments obligations for 2023. The Conference set our 2024 apportionment target for \$21,683 – a \$3,000 increase from 2023. The Grace Church budget for 2024 is set at \$225,319.76. Krystle/(Patsy) moved to approve the proposed budget. Motion carried. Finance is looking into cash-only alternatives like PayPal or Venmo for use at mission brunches and like events. It would not be used in tithed giving. This will be further discussed in November after Finance does more research.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jonathan went over our Charge Conference reports to be submitted at our Conference on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at Collegiate UMC in Ames. The Pastoral Support form required Bd Chair & SPRC chair signatures. Gini/(Becky) moved to approve the Resolution of Acceptable Reimbursement Plan which addresses things like Pastor's travel expenses, continuing ed costs and expenses for Annual Conf attendance. Motion carried. Louis/(Gini) moved to approve the Resolution of Church Owned Property Housing Exclusion which gives the Pastor \$7,200 annually for incidental expenses at the parsonage. Motion carried. The Mission and Ministry form was addressed highlighting our work with the shared Youth program, Loaves & Fishes and Meal on Wheels. The increased participation and leadership offered by our younger members was cited with pride and gratitude. Our three 2024 priorities include bringing in 10 new members, involving adult members in the youth program – noted the stellar leadership work Val Hubert and Craig Jensen are doing in this area. Looking into a funding structure for long-term physical improvements to the church building is our 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 goal.. Also noted for praise – our newly formed Tech Team!

**Committee Reports: Ministry Areas**

**Worship:** Cheryl reported the guest pastor on Oct. 8 (the day before Worship committee met) was much lauded. The newly installed video monitors in the sanctuary are a welcome addition. All Saints Sunday is Nov. 5 with 7 souls to be remembered: Jim Dale, Linda Poore, Kermit Miskell, Jim Wirth, Geneva Chelsvig, Editha Adrian, Scott Muxfeldt, Sara Dappen.

**Missions** – Gloria reported: Final Ingathering total was \$548.86. Ingathering is Nov, 4 in Ft Dodge, 2 mats have been completed and it was noted each mat is the equivalent of \$25 in-kind credit from the Conference. The mats will be held to be submitted at a later date when we have more completed. Loaves & Fishes – 13 volunteers (33 vol hours) served 20 families/65 individuals on Sept. 23. Mission Brunch on Oct 22 served 66 and \$499.48 was raised for Roland-Story's Angel Tree. Harvest Home is set for November 19<sup>th</sup> which is also another brunch day. All money and gifts will be given to Loaves & Fishes. Folks are asked to consider giving baking staples and spices for holiday baking, CropWalk giving for Grace Church stands at \$640, but is not the final tally.

**UFW:** Patsy reported UFW sent Halloween cards and members are looking forward to the cookie exchange and visits to shut-in friends at their December meeting.

**Committee Reports: Administrative Area**

**SPRC:** Krystle reported Employee Appreciation Sunday is Nov. 12 – 2 new employees this year – Jarod Hart and Joel Chambers. DS Ron Carlson visited last meeting to begin the process of preparing to welcome a new pastor on July 1, 2024. Not much will move forward until the new year, Looking forward to welcoming Alejandro Franco, Janet Mason and Ray Hults to this committee in 2024. Many thanks to Rod Bohner and Rick Welke for their faithful service,

**Leadership:** Jonathan is pleased with the progress on putting together the leadership roster for 2024. Still working to fill Lay Leader and member to Annual Conference positions.

**Trustees:** Louis reported updates on wedding policy and church usage are ongoing. Electrical work on the lighting project begins Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and should be completed in a week. Clean-up Days at the church have been set for Nov, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The annual parsonage inspection was completed – need to replace an upstairs window on the north side. Sound system work will happen later. A reflective film on the monitor is under consideration to help with the light glare problem. Claudia requested handicap accessible automatic door installation be explored.

**Endowment:** Jonathan reported Kathryn Yarnell will speak at worship service on November 12. She will be available to answer endowment-related questions after the service,

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35.**

Next meeting will be **MONDAY, November 27 at 6:30.**

**Respectfully submitted, Cathy Hermanson, Rec Sec.**



# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> 9:15 Worship All-Saints Sunday 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 1:00 Charge Conference @Collegiate UMC 4:00 Axis	6	7 6-9 PEO	1 5:00 Children's Bells 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	2	3	4
12 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	13 5:30 Worship Comm.	14	15 5:00 Children's Bells 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	16	17	18 Fellowship Hall Reserved
19 8:00 Trustees 9:15 Worship 10:15 Mission Brunch 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis 6:00 Choir Practice @ St. Petri 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Service @ St. Petri	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Fellowship Hall Reserved	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:15 Worship 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Decorate Church 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Axis	27 5:45 Finance 6:30 Council	28	29 6:00 Compass 7:00 Choir 8:00 Bells	30		