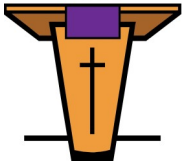




# Grace ABOUNDS

December 2023

## From Our Interim Pastor



As I write this we have yet to enjoy Thanksgiving this year, yet Christmas decorations are up in stores and on houses, Christmas carols are playing everywhere. Hallmark Christmas movies abound. And then, at midnight on Christmas Day, it will all be over and all the hype for Valentine's Day will begin. But in here, in the church, especially in our Lutheran churches, we are celebrating the Advent Season. And if ever there is a season of the church year so out of sync with society, it's that now/not yet Season of Advent, the season of alertness, of preparation, of patience as we prepare not only to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child so many years ago now, but also to prepare for his second coming.

The Season of Advent brings us many gifts, but perhaps one of the most important is a tangible awareness that we are looking both for the God among us now and the God, who in the risen Christ, is coming again. And in these days of war and hate and violence, nothing could be more important than an awareness of the presence of God among God's people.

I have a book that I've often used for devotions during Advent and Christmas. It's called *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, a collection of poems written by Ann Weems and published by The Westminster Press way back in 1980. In her very first poem she writes of the theme of this Advent Season – The Coming of God. Here are her words.

Our God is the One who comes to us  
in a burning bush,  
in an angel's song,  
in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found  
locked in the church,  
not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be  
with no constraints,  
no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives,  
and destruction has no power  
and even death cannot stop  
the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born,  
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready  
God will come  
even to a godforsaken place  
like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...  
for you know not when  
God comes.

Watch, that you might be found  
whenever  
wherever  
God comes.



Contact Pastor Jane by cell  
phone at 803-530-2045  
or by email at  
[pjmitcham@gmail.com](mailto:pjmitcham@gmail.com).

My prayer for each of us this Advent Season is that we might be awake and alert, so that we see and experience the presence of God in our midst now, even as we prepare to celebrate his birth so long ago and get ready for his coming again.

*A Blessed Advent,  
Pastor Jane*

**DECEMBER**

**Birthdays**

- 1 - Ronnie Cromer, Hannah Derrick
- 2 - Steve Bedenbaugh
- 3 - Jenny Braswell, Ron Brown  
Joseph Murray
- 4 - Mollie Waters
- 6 - J. C. Wicker
- 8 - Helena Mewbourn
- 13 - Heather Brown
- 17 - Charlie Nelson
- 20 - Chesney Shealy
- 21 - Will Konle
- 22 - Teresa Cooper, Alexandra Renwick
- 23 - Meghan H. Bryant
- 24 - Katie W. Norris
- 25 - Mike Hawkins
- 27 - Tara Stewart, Frank Summer  
Allie Waters
- 31 - Savannah Harmon

**DECEMBER**  
**Baptisms**

- 1 - Samantha Yarborough
- 6 - Kay Chandler, Bashtin Dawkins
- 10 - Deron Shealy
- 11 - Shane Bouknight, Justin Farr
- 12 - Christopher Wilson
- 15 - Kelly Shealy
- 22 - Craig Farr
- 24 - Jason Riley
- 26 - Cole Dawkins
- 27 - Jean Bedenbaugh
- 28 - Jessica Sandor
- 29 - Cindy Amick

**DECEMBER**

**Anniversaries**

- 19 - Sandy and Don Lemay (14th)
  - 21 - Chop and Teresa Cooper (54th)
  - 21 - Craig and Lisa Farr (42nd)
  - 21 - Mike and Andy Hawkins
  - 21 - Cindy and Richard Amick (21st)
  - 22 - Frank and Marie Summer (60th)
  - 23 - Tara and Greg Stewart (28th)
  - 23 - *Faye and Charles Hartman +*
  - 29 - Wayde and Sally Dominick (39th)
- + Memorial Anniversary

**Grace People in the News**

**RAELYNN WESSINGER** made the Principal's Honor Roll at Pomaria-Garmany Elementary for the 1st Nine Weeks.

**ALLIE WATERS** was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

**BRYCE MEDLOCK** has been accepted to the Master's degree program at Bluefield University in West Virginia.

*Don't forget to share your good news with the church office by phone at 803-364-3331; by email at [gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com); or leave a note in the office box.*



**Update Your Contact Information**

In January, Grace will be printing a new *People of Grace* Directory. If your contact information or a family member's information changed in 2023, please call or email the office so our directory can be as accurate as possible.

If you have not been receiving emails from Grace, please share your email address with us as we often send last-minute details about events and other reminders by email.

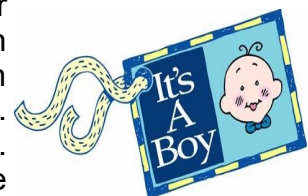
Also, please let us know if you no longer have a home telephone number so we can delete it from your listing. Let us know if you would like your cell phone number included in the directory.

Thank you for helping us to stay in touch!



**Update your contact info!**

We pray God's blessings for Jordan and Matthew Jackson on the birth of their son, Ryan James Jackson, Nov. 1. Grandfather is Joe Dimock. Great-grandmother is Sadie Epting.



**Parish Records**

**Death:** Margaret Paula Cousins Epting, Oct. 23, 2023. **Graveside Services:** Colony Lutheran Church Cemetery, Nov. 17, 2023.

### Building Loan Debt to Be Paid Off by the End of the Year!

By mid-November, our estimated need to finish paying off the Ministry Center building loan was about \$5,200 more than was held in the Building Fund. We anticipate receiving sufficient Building Fund offerings over the next few weeks to meet this need, but if we do not, Council has authorized use of the Larry Spotts Gift funds to finish paying off the building loan by the end of the year.

Through some wise financial moves, faithful giving, and special principal gifts, our debt has been reduced from more than \$195,000 at the beginning of 2023. Thanks be to God that our goal of paying off the Ministry Center loan by year's end is within reach!

Once this loan is paid off, we encourage the congregation to continue to faithfully give to meet our Current Fund budget needs and anticipated large maintenance expenses such as roof and boiler replacement.



### Thanksgiving Bag Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our Thanksgiving meal bags, made monetary donations towards the food, helped assemble bags on Saturday, Nov. 18, or distributed or delivered bags on Sunday, Nov. 19. With your help, we were able to give a special Thanksgiving blessing to our community for the 15th year - about 151 bags of Thanksgiving meal fixings for grateful individuals and families.



### Congregation Meeting - Dec. 10

Our annual Congregation Meeting is set for Sunday, Dec. 10 at the end of our 10:30 a.m. service.

We will consider a 2024 ministry budget to provide financial support for the ministries that go on at Grace and beyond our doors. A copy of the proposed budget is attached to the front of this newsletter.

We will also elect a congregation vice-president and secretary. These leaders are part of the Executive and Personnel Teams and have a voice and vote on Congregation Council. Current Congregation Vice-president Susan Dawkins and Congregation Secretary Deborah Ruff have each served two years in those positions and are NOT eligible for re-election. Please prayerfully consider whom God might be calling to serve in these important roles.



### New Council Members Elected


Elected to three-year terms on Congregation Council on Nov. 19 were Linda Cromer, David Luther, Robert Martin, and Johnny Merck. Elected to a one-year term as Youth representative was Allie Waters.

At the November meeting, Christina Henricks resigned from her term on Council, effective Dec. 31, 2023. Mike Whitlock, who received the next number of votes in the year Christina was elected, has agreed to fill out the remainder of her term.

All Council members and our new congregation officers will be installed during the Dec. 10 service.

We give thanks for all nominees who were willing to serve and for their continued leadership in Christ's church.





**Manna House  
Item of the Month:  
Canned Mixed Vegetables**

**Grace Prayer List**



**Grace Family:** Wayne Mitchell; Pastor Al Potter; Raelynn Wessinger; Margaret Kluttz; Cissie and Bob Dibble; Glenda and Everett Crafts; Heather and Bob Harris; Evelyn Harmon; Marysue Rivers; Faye Hartman; Lois Amick; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

**Residential Care:** Sadie Epting (*Springfield Place, Rm. 11*); Allene Dawkins (*Springfield Place, Rm. 19*); Wendy and Michael Riley (*Faith Nursing Home, Florence*).

**College Students:** Zach Frick (*USC*); Hayden Hall (*Piedmont*); Bryce Medlock (*Bluefield University*); Lexi Medlock (*Midlands Tech*); Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Taylor Metz (*MUSC*); Bailey Stewart (*USC-Union*).

**Extended Family:** Family of Robert Wicker (*Marysue Rivers' cousin*); Grey Westbury (*Sue Mitchell's great-niece*); Brittany Merck, Broko Boland (*Melodie Waters' cousins*); Brittany Cumalander (*Lynn Wessinger's cousin*); Mary Ellen Hartzog (*Eddie Rivers' cousin*).

**Military:** SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/Iraq - Cissie/Bob Dibble's granddaughter*); Everett Crafts V (*Air Force/Guam - Glenda/Everett Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*Coast Guard/VA*); Sgt. Caleb Salyers (*US Army/Ft. Hood, TX - Rev. Al Potter's grandson*).

**Community:** Dean Wise; Jackie Perry; Amy Frick Wicker; Davida Monsanto; Violet Wilmot; Mary Lawson; NC Bishop Tim Smith; Pastor William and Karen Hightower; Brian Cassidy; Family of Rev. Kathy Harris.

**God's World:** victims of gun violence; Ukraine and neighboring countries; those affected by wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters; military families; homeless; jobless/underemployed; refugees; those suffering due to unrest and fighting throughout the world; our enemies.

**Contact the office by phone (803-364-3331) or email (gracelutheran2@att.net) to add or remove someone from the Prayer List.**



**November Memorials and Honorariums**

**Gifts to the Building Fund**

In memory of Paula Epting  
By: Lynn and Larry Wessinger  
Faye Hartman  
Emmett Wicker

In memory of Edd Wicker  
By: Kevin and Tina Young  
McSwain-Evans Funeral Home  
Randy and Patti Suber  
Harold and Robbie Hunter

**Gifts to the Building Fund Principal**

In memory of Dr. James Porcel Capó and Maria Luisa Capó by Dr. James P. Capó Jr. and Roberta Meyers Capó

In memory of Robert Meredith and Beverly Jeanne Meyers by Dr. James P. Capó Jr. and Roberta Meyers Capó

In memory of Hunter and Louwilla Fellers by Dr. James P. Capó Jr. and Roberta Meyers Capó

In memory of Edd and Jane Wicker by Dr. James P. Capó Jr. and Roberta Meyers Capó

**Gift to the Youth Ministry Fund**

In honor of Jessica Shealy for all her dedicated work with the youth program by Lynn and Larry Wessinger

**Gifts to the Maintenance Fund**

In memory of James Lester by Judy Bedenbaugh  
In memory of Paula Epting by Judy Bedenbaugh

**Gift to the Campership Fund**

In memory of Lisa Pruitt, my friend and mother of our goddaughter by Lynn and Larry Wessinger

**Gifts to the Community Service Fund**

In memory of James "Jimmy" Dawkins by Rick and Nancy Richardson

In memory of Edd Wicker by Craig and Kim Metz, Andy and Kim Metz, and Taylor and Alison Metz

**Gift for Thanksgiving Meal Bags**

Thankful to God for the gifts of friendship – Judy and John Bedenbaugh; "Snag" and Sadie Epting, and Jane and Edd Wicker by David and Edna Riley

## Advent Kickoff Sandwich and Soup Lunch after Dec. 3 Service



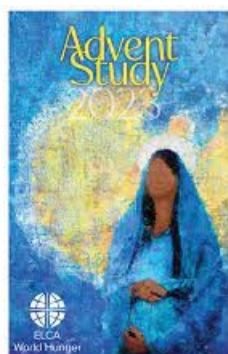
As our Advent Kickoff, our Care and Fellowship Team will sponsor a soup and sandwich lunch following worship on Sunday, Dec. 3, the first Sunday in Advent.

A sign up sheet is on the narthex board for volunteers to bring soup, sandwiches, and desserts. We encourage everyone to stay and enjoy the fellowship and kick off the Advent season.

The Prosperity Christmas parade is at 3 p.m. that afternoon. Our Grace Youth will be sponsoring a float in the parade. Lunch should be finished in time for you to grab a prime viewing spot for parade watching or to get home before the streets are closed.

## Advent Resources

An Advent study guide and Advent calendar from ELCA World Hunger are on the narthex table for you to pick up and use during the Advent season. A decision was made by the Worship Team not to have the annual Advent Devotional Booklet written by members and friends for Advent 2023 due to the declining number of individuals willing to write devotions.



## Christmas Eve Worship

Grace will offer Christmas Eve worship services at 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24. Both services will have similar liturgy and will include Holy Communion and candlelighting. Come and worship the Newborn King this Christmas Eve! Invite your family, or a friend or neighbor to join you.



## 2023 Christmas Cantata O Little Town of Bethlehem

The cantata choir, made up of members of Grace Lutheran and Wightman United Methodist churches have been working hard since August to prepare our 2023 Christmas cantata.



This cantata takes us on a journey back in time to experience the story of the incredible birth of Jesus, our Savior.

We will hear of shepherds and wise men who joined a host of angels in rejoicing as the divine child arrived on earth 2,000 years ago. We hope the events that took place in Bethlehem and the songs that we present will move your heart to celebrate the greatest gift that we know! We hope you will join us.

The dates of presentation are:  
 Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. at Grace  
 Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. at Wightman.

*Eddie Rivers, Choirmaster*

### Join Us for Our Christmas Program



**The New Star**  
**Sunday, Dec. 10**  
**at 6 p.m.**  
*in the Sanctuary*  
*Presented by*  
*our Youth Ministry*



**Preschool Christmas Program**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 12**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
 All are invited!

## Christmas Gift Deadline: Dec. 3

If you would like to make a special Christmas gift to Grace in memory or in honor of loved ones, please place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office no later than Dec. 3. Christmas gifts may be given to any Grace fund. Christmas gifts will be included in the poinsettia insert in the Dec. 10 bulletin. Please mark your envelope "Christmas Gift" if you would like it to be included in the insert.



Special  
 Christmas  
 Gifts

**Serving in December**

**Assisting Ministers**

- 3 - Judy Bedenbaugh
- 10 - Kelly Whitlock
- 17 - Ronnie Cromer
- 24 - Jessica Shealy (10:30 a.m.)
- 24 - Emmett Wicker (4 p.m.)
- 24 - Matthew Shealy (10:30 p.m.)
- 31 - Deborah Ruff



**Altar Flowers**

- 3 - Chrismon Trees
- 10 - Poinsettias/Chrismon Trees
- 17 - Poinsettias/Chrismon Trees
- 24 - Poinsettias/Chrismon Trees
- 31 - Poinsettias/Chrismon Trees

**Acolyte - Zoe Frick**

**Crucifer - Dec. 24 (10:30 p.m.)**  
Camryn Shealy

**Torchbearers - Dec. 24 (10:30 p.m.)**  
Allie Waters, Lillie Waters

**Communion Assistant**  
(2nd and 4th Sundays)  
Chop Cooper

**Communion Preparation**  
Mike Whitlock

**Communion Clean Up**  
Emmett Wicker

**Ushers**

Ronnie Cromer (*head*), Linda Cromer  
Chad Frick, Candace Frick, Zach Frick

**Greeters**

Beverly Merck, Lynn Wessinger

**Offering Tabulators**

Linda Cromer (*head*), Ronnie Cromer,  
Candace Frick, Chad Frick

**Pew Helper - Jessica Shealy**

**Altar Guild - Emmett Wicker**

**Front Sign - Dale and Julie Shealy**

**Don't Forget Your Poinsettias**

Poinsettias given in honor or in memory of loved ones to decorate our Sanctuary will be placed for the Dec. 10 service. Poinsettias may be picked up after our Christmas Eve evening worship service. A special insert of poinsettia gifts will be included in the Dec. 10 bulletin.



**SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSORS**

During the month of December, the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in memory of Lewis and Bidie Hawkins by Beverly Hawkins.

*For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and \$30 donation should be received by the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.*

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
11/5	64	24	88
11/12	53	18	71
11/19	53	12	65
11/26	56	8	64

\* Total Online viewers = Peak views x 2 per SC Synod instructions.



11/5	25
11/12	20
11/19	20
11/26	28

**Altar Flower SIGN-UP**

The 2024 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Chart is posted on the narthex board. Sign up now to reserve your special dates!



**Newsletter DEADLINE**

**Deadline for the January 2023 Newsletter: Monday, Dec. 18**



## Calling ALL Youth and Children for Our Christmas Program

Our Youth Ministry is sponsoring the Christmas program *The New Star*, which will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The first practice was held Nov. 26, but additional practices will also be held on Sundays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m. We have plenty of room for more angels and shepherds! On Sunday, Dec. 10, participants will need to be at the church no later than 5 p.m. for costumes and a final run through. We encourage all youth and children of all ages to participate. See Julie Shealy or Jessica Shealy for more information.



No monthly GYM Time in December, but join us for our other special December activities:

- Float Decorating - Dec. 2
- Prosperity Parade - Dec. 3
- Christmas Program - Dec. 10
- Caroling and Lock-in - Dec. 20

## Youth Christmas Caroling and Youth Lock-In Dec. 20

Grace Youth Ministry (GYM) will sponsor Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 20. We'll meet at church at 5 p.m. and plan to leave at 5:30 p.m. to spread Christmas cheer to church members. Craig Farr has agreed to drive the bus (if bus repairs are completed). If you would like a visit from the carolers, please call the church office.



After caroling, Youth will return to the church for a light supper. Everyone is asked to bring finger foods and desserts to share. We also hope to have a Youth lock-in that night. However, the lock-in is tentative, depending on whether enough adult chaperones volunteer. Bring your sleeping bag and plan to be picked up at 8 a.m. Thursday morning. Youth in grades 3 or below will need a parent or guardian to stay with them overnight. Please join us and invite your friends!



### Youth Lock-In

However, the lock-in is tentative, depending on whether enough adult chaperones volunteer.

Bring your sleeping bag and plan to be picked up at 8 a.m. Thursday morning. Youth in grades 3 or below will need a parent or guardian to stay with them overnight. Please join us and invite your friends!

Join us Dec. 17 and 24 for Youth Sunday School as we explore *The Greatest Story* on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. We have finished the books of Genesis and Exodus. If you're running late, grab breakfast in the Ministry Center and bring it to class with you.



### Christmas Parade Float Plans

Grace Youth are sponsoring a float in the Prosperity Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. Our theme is *Christmas in the First Decade*, celebrating the birth of Jesus. Youth and families are encouraged to stay after worship for the congregational soup and sandwich lunch to "kickoff" the Advent season. Everyone in the congregation is invited to ride the float, but you will need to dress in costume.



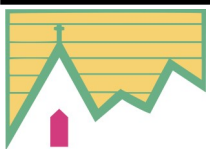
**FLOAT DECORATING:** Youth will decorate the float on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m. All volunteers are welcome to help!



Thank you to Julie and Dale Shealy, Mike Shealy, Donna Jacobs, Deborah Ruff, Lynn Wessinger, and Melodie Waters for providing food for our yummy November meal of tacos!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 28** - Monthly GYM Time  
Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
Food, Fun, and Fellowship!!!



**Our Offerings**  
**For November**

**Church FINANCES** *Through Nov. 26*  
*(Does not include November EFTs)*

**CURRENT FUND** *Our Monthly Need: \$13,344*

Given during month.....	\$ 8,494.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$105,691.42
Goal through Nov. 30.....	\$146,784.00

**BUILDING LOAN FUND** *Our Monthly Need: \$4,720*

Given during month.....	\$5,756.38
Given year-to-date.....	\$51,226.32
Required through Nov. 30.....	\$51,920.00
Gifts to Be Applied to Principal.....	\$3,200.00
Fundraisers for Principal.....	\$1,558.66

**MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP FUND**

Given during month.....	\$1,553.38
Given year-to-date.....	\$6,617.52

**PARSONAGE FUND**

Given during month.....	\$200.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$320.00
Fund Balance, Nov. 26.....	\$4,640.38

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Given during month.....	\$105.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$1,107.03

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Given during month.....	\$25.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$371.38

**CAMPERSHIP FUND**

Given during month.....	\$100.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$702.61

**COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

Community Assistance.....	\$ 70.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$1,476.58
Bookbag Food Ministry.....	\$45.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$205.00
Thanksgiving Meal.....	\$345.00
Given year-to-date.....	\$345.00
Total year-to-date.....	\$2,026.58

**SPECIAL 2023 OFFERINGS**

Estate of Larry Spotts.....	\$25,000.00
Disaster Response (Maui bucket offering) ..	\$1,773.97
St. Jude (Preschool Trike-a-thon).....	\$1,275.00
Bereavement Meal Fund.....	\$1,245.00
Manna House (bucket offering).....	\$1,091.55
Boston Butt Building Loan Fundraiser...	\$937.51
Youth.....	\$907.62
Shrove Tues. Building Loan Fundraiser...	\$621.15
Scholarship Fund Match 2022.....	\$550.00
Boys' Farm (Preschool Chapel Change).....	\$525.00

<b>BUDGET Update</b>	<b>MINISTRY BUDGET</b>	
	Needed Thru Nov. 30:	\$146,784
	Given thru Nov. 26:	\$105,691
	<b>Amount Behind Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 41,093</b>
<b>BUILDING LOAN</b>		
Required Thru Nov. 30:	\$ 51,920	
Given thru Nov. 26:	\$ 51,226	
<b>Amount Behind Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 694</b>	

**Year-end Contributions: Dec. 28**

Year-end contributions should be received in the church office no later than 11 a.m. on Dec. 28 to be included on your 2023 giving statement. The office will make one final year-end deposit that morning.



**Annual Advent Offering: Interfaith Community Services**

Grace Council has designated our 2023 Advent offering for Interfaith Community Services. This organization helps individuals in need in our community with heating bills, electricity, and other basic needs. Special offering envelopes will be available in the narthex and pew racks during the Advent season for your gifts.



**SPECIAL 2023 OFFERINGS** *continued*

Livestream Upgrade.....	\$515.15
Interfaith Comm. Services (Lent Off.)....	\$488.00
Manna House (Preschool Closings).....	\$390.00
Vacation Bible School.....	\$310.00
Disaster Response (for Mid East Crisis) ...	\$300.00
MC Football Team Meal.....	\$290.00
Easter Lilies.....	\$270.10
Christmas Poinsettias.....	\$270.00
Youth (Thrivent).....	\$240.00
Souper Bowl (Wolves Pantry/Newberry Col.) ...	\$212.25
Interfaith Comm. (bucket offering/fans).....	\$184.01
World Central Kitchen (bucket offering)....	\$135.10
ELCA World Hunger.....	\$100.00
LSC New Americans Program.....	\$60.00
Christian School.....	\$50.68
Disaster Response.....	\$20.00



### Bucket Offering

Our Bucket Offering is designated for World Central Kitchen to help feed those still suffering due to the war in Ukraine and others who hunger around the world. The Bucket Offering will continue to be for World



Central Kitchen through December.

Children are asked to bring offering for the bucket to Children's Time, but adults are encouraged to contribute as well.

### Livestream Upgrade Update

The planned upgrade to our livestreaming capabilities should take place in the next few weeks. Gattis



Pro Audio, who installed our sound system, will be installing the upgrades which include a camera and wiring to connect to our sound

system. This should improve the quality of both the picture and the audio of the weekly livestream of our worship services. If you would like to make a donation toward the cost, mark your donation "Livestream Upgrade."

### New Devotional Booklets

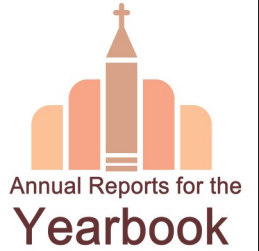
Christ in Our Home devotional books for January, February, and March - regular and large print - are available on the narthex table near the Ministry Center entrance. Pick up one for your household.




**GOod Works**  
**Live Nativity**  
Tuesday, Dec. 12  
5-7 p.m.  
115 Birchtrace Ct.  
Chapin  
All are invited.  
Refreshments will be served.

### Attention: Team Chairs, Fund Treasurers, Group Leaders

Please don't forget that Annual Reports are due Jan. 15, 2024. It is important that you meet this deadline so that the 2024 Yearbook can be produced in a timely manner.






*The church office will be closed Dec. 20-21, Dec. 25-27, and Jan. 1. The office will be open Dec. 28 to receive year-end contributions (due by 11 a.m.)*



**Heartland Conference**  
**School of Religion**  
January 9, 16, 23, 30  
at Grace  
*Mark your calendar. Details to come.*

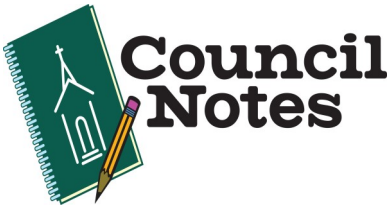


*A Drive-Thru Nativity  
in Nine Living Scenes*

a re-enactment of the Christmas story  
by members of  
**Silverstreet Lutheran Church**

**Saturday, Dec. 16**  
From 6-8 p.m.  
No Rain Date

120 Long Street, Silverstreet, SC  
silverstreetlutheranchurch@gmail.com



### Council Meeting - Tuesday, Nov. 14

Council met with Pastor Rick Carter from the SC Synod Office. Pastor Carter emphasized that Grace has ownership over what church is chosen for partnership. Pastor Carter shared that the process for exploring partnership between two churches generally starts with meetings between the two congregational executive committees. Deborah suggested

to wait until after the new executive committee is elected in December for this outreach. Until then, Pastor Carter recommended to review the partnership covenant drafted by the Wake Up Team to ensure expectations of the pastor for office hours and pastor care, finances, and worship services are included; this document is used in conversation with potential partnership congregations. Pastor Carter also suggested for Grace to update its ministry site profile, which helps the Synod identify pastoral candidates.


All reports were accepted as presented, and the draft budget was approved for presentation at the December congregational meeting. Council voted to maintain the monthly contribution toward mission support in the Synod over the next year and decided to contribute the Advent/Christmas offering to Interfaith Community Services.

Robert presented an estimate of remaining debt on the Ministry Center, and Council voted to apply Spotts' gift funds toward the approximately \$5,200 needed to pay off the loan before the year's end. Council discussed the need to focus efforts on maintenance once the loan is paid off and advised for the Facilities Team to create a list of upcoming property/maintenance needs and approximate costs.

Council voted to apply funds from the sound system account toward the balance of the livestream installation. The candidate for church administrative secretary accepted the position, and Beverly planned to explore another candidate for treasurer duties.

Beverly and Lynn are continuing to review the inactive member list and the outreach letter.

*Submitted by Christina Henricks, Council Secretary*



**Monday,  
Dec. 11**

**at 7 p.m. in the  
Ministry Center**

**Newly elected  
members should  
attend as Council  
will elect officers  
for 2024.**

### Called Council Meeting - Sunday, Oct. 29

Council approved a recommendation to work with Gattis Pro Audio for installation of audio/visual equipment for livestreaming the worship service and a recommendation from the Personnel Team to offer the administrative secretary position to the qualified candidate who was interviewed. Council also approved the job description, salary, and work schedule for the position.



*From Minutes Submitted by Christina Henricks, Council Secretary*

<b>October Financial Reports</b>					
	<u>Balance, 10/1</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance, 10/31</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
Current/Budget Fund	\$50,383.82	\$12,306.50	\$14,121.77	\$48,568.55*	\$11,099.03 CD
Building Loan Fund	\$32,191.61	\$ 8,069.17	\$ 5,119.85	\$35,140.93	(\$43,697 balance owed)
Maintenance Fund	\$ 7,716.79	\$ 425.48	\$ 955.42	\$ 7,186.85**	n/a
Sunday School Account	\$ 2,427.18	\$ 237.00	\$ 555.97	\$ 2,427.18	n/a
Christian Schools Acct.	\$23,287.40	\$ 6,576.16	\$ 8,813.11	\$21,050.45	n/a
CS Educational Fund	\$ 6,713.21	\$ 7,216.00	\$ 6,778.94	\$ 7,150.27	n/a

\* Current Fund Balance does not include designated monies for the LED Bulb Fund (\$534.37); Sound System Fund (\$335.39); Bereavement Meal Fund (\$1,434.45); Choir Fund (\$325); Livestream Upgrade (\$515.15); Sydney Shealy Memorial Gift (\$5,555.68); or Larry Spotts Gift (\$22,500) contained within the Current Fund Checking Account. \*\*Maintenance Fund balance does not include Parsonage Fund (\$4,440.38) contained within the Maintenance Fund Checking Account.

# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Float Decorating - 10 a.m.  Prosperity Town Tree Lighting - 7:30 p.m.
<b>3</b> <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> <b>Deadline for Christmas Gifts for Poinsettia Insert</b> Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School - 9:30 Christmas Program Practice - 9:30 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m. Advent Fellowship Lunch - after worship Prosperity Christmas Parade - 3 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Women's Bible Study - 6 p.m. Christmas Music - 7:15 p.m. ( <i>Wightman</i> ) Adult Choir - 8 p.m. ( <i>Grace</i> )	<b>7</b> <i>Bulletin Deadline - 9 a.m.</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Christmas Cantata Practice at Wightman - 10 a.m.
<b>10</b> <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> Cantata at WUMC - 9 a.m. Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 Christmas Program Practice - 9:30 Worship - 10:30 a.m. <i>Congregation Meeting after Service</i>  Youth Christmas Program - 6 p.m.	<b>11</b>  Congregation Council - 7 p.m.	<b>12</b>  Preschool Christmas Program - 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b>  Women's Bible Study - 6 p.m. Christmas Music - 7 p.m. at Grace	<b>14</b> <i>Bulletin Deadline for Dec. 17 and 24 - 9 a.m.</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Christmas Cantata Practice at Grace - 10 a.m.
<b>17</b> <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 Worship - Cantata - 10:30 a.m.	<b>18</b>  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  ← <b>Church Office Closed</b> →  Youth Caroling - Meet at church at 5 p.m. Leave at 5:30 p.m.  Women's Bible Study - 6 p.m. Adult Choir - 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Advent Worship - 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve  Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion - 4 p.m., 10:30 p.m.	<b>25</b>  ← <b>Church Office Closed</b> →	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Women's Bible Study - 6 p.m. Adult Choir - 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> <b>Final Deposit for 2023 Giving Statements</b>  <i>Bulletin Deadline - 9 a.m.</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> _____  <b>31</b> <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i> Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 Worship - 10:30 a.m.



## Grace Lutheran Church

210 Grace St.  
P.O. Box 188 (Mailing Address)  
Prosperity, SC 29127

[www.graceluth.org](http://www.graceluth.org)

803-364-3331

[gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com)

Ministers: The People of Grace

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Jane P. Mitcham

### Online Giving

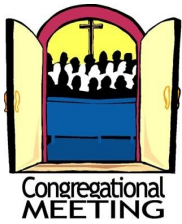
Scan this symbol  
with your smartphone  
to be connected to our  
online giving page.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## December Highlights



Congregational  
MEETING

Annual  
Congregation  
Meeting  
Dec. 10

Youth  
Christmas  
Program  
Dec. 10



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Preschool  
Christmas  
Program  
Dec. 12

Cantata  
Dec. 18  
10:30 a.m.



CAROLING

Youth  
Christmas  
Caroling  
and  
Lock In  
Dec. 20

Christmas  
Eve  
Worship  
Dec. 24  
4 p.m.  
10:30 p.m.



Christmas Eve

## Looking Ahead



Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30:  
Heartland Conference  
School of Religion  
at Grace

Jan. 28: Monthly GYM  
Time for All Youth

Due in the Office Jan. 15:  
Year-End Reports from  
Ministry Teams, Fund  
Treasurers and other leaders  
Address, Email, and  
Telephone Number Updates