

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin

January, 2024



Christmas Message from Bishop Erickson

“This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” —Luke 2:12-14

This photo, of a nativity scene with the infant Jesus placed in a pile of rubble, was taken several weeks ago inside Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, located in the West Bank. Though it is located miles away from the intense combat in Gaza, the impact of the Israel-Hamas war is clearly felt there and around the world. The death and violence and destruction of recent months is hard for us to fathom, and while we may be tempted to scroll past these images or shrug our shoulders and turn away, this haunting image reminds us that Jesus was born in the midst of chaos and violence.

On December 28, the church commemorates the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs, recalling the order from King Herod that all children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and younger be killed, so as to prevent the new king, Jesus, from threatening his hold on power. While the circumstances surrounding this tragic event and the current realities are different, we mourn the estimated 8,000 children who have died in Gaza since this conflict began, innocent lives lost in the war.

And yet, Christ is still born in our midst. Lutherans call this the “theology of the cross,” recognizing that we most clearly experience the presence of God in times of hardship, loss, and suffering. Even though we may be tempted to gloss over and turn away from the painful and hard times in our lives and in our world, we give thanks that God finds a way to gather the rubble of our broken lives, our broken relationships, our broken dreams, our



broken world, and place the infant Jesus right in the middle of it all. Christ is born; love wins; peace will find a way.

Thanks be to God,
Bishop Paul Erickson

Gathering Liturgy for the First Sunday of Christmas

AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME STATEMENT

P Let us affirm our Welcome Statement.

C Grace Lutheran Church commits to live as a community of people seeking reconciliation and wholeness in our life together and in our ongoing outreach to the world. We commit to the work of anti-racism, anti-ableism, liberation, and environmental justice for all of God's beloveds.

We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, culture, disability, age, or physical demeanor. We affirm the sacredness of those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or

anything that too often divides us.

You are absolutely invited to share your gifts as you join us in this lifelong journey. We welcome and embrace all who are seeking God's love and grace. We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together we will know the kin-dom of God has come near.



GATHERING SONG: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (ELW #289)

1: *Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing through the
night,*

*and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.*

Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2: *Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you
see?*

What glad tidings did you hear?
Refrain.

3: *Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn
King.* Refrain.

4: *See him in the manger laid,
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.*
Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Scripture for December 31

GOSPEL: **Luke 2:8–20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a

child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest
heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken

place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Prayers and Communion Liturgy

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Joyful"

1: *Come, O Lord, and make us joyful
as you came to Mary's womb;
buried deep beneath our sorrows,
where our hopes take root and bloom.
Be the promise that sustains us
through the seasons of the years
'til at last we see your radiance
when you shine beyond our tears.*

2: *Come, O Lord, and show your mercy
as you came in Bethlehem;
let us see the sunlight bursting
through the shadows once again.
Let us hear the song of glory
where the silence held us fast.
We will come to you rejoicing
from the shackles of the past.*

3: *Come, O Lord, as living water;
make our deserts green again
where the wellspring of our laughter
will refresh us like the rain.
After all the years of waiting
for the promise long foretold,
come at last, and let the day break
in the morning of your joy!*

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VERSE: "Lord, Have Mercy"

Chorus: *Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy*

1: *Holy Spirit rest upon us
Lead us in the way of your justice
Holy Spirit rest upon us
Teach us how to serve in our weakness* Chorus

2: *Holy Spirit rest upon us
Teach us how to tend to creation
Holy Spirit rest upon us
Guide us from our path of destruction* Chorus.

Instrumental

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you

bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

C **your mercy is great.**

P Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God,

C **your mercy is great.**

P Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God,

C **your mercy is great.**

P Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness, especially:

- Darlene Bard
- Kate Barker
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Doug Becker (Marlene's son)
- Eric Berge (Paul's brother)
- Pat Bernacchi
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
- Andrew Calvert
- Cameron Carr (Karen Cassiday's nephew)
- Wayne Cornelius (Dan's brother)
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield
- Jan Dugdale
- Barb Ehlen
- Gregory Foster
- Judy Gregory
- Shirleen Gulick
- Cogan Holly Hall
- Aggie Hartnell (Bert's mother)
- Christine Hill
- Sydney & Skyler Houston
- Dick Kauffman
- Rubel Pierce (Randy's father)
- Rex Reeve
- Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytasha
- Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez
- Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)

- Patti Shields
- Jill Swails
- Marcia Swanson
- Joyce Swift
- Andrew Tate
- Ron and Linda Wadham
- Steve & Heather Waldron
- Henry, Florence, and Jacqueline Walker
(Carolyn's brother and sisters)
- Charles and Timothy Walker
- Dottie Watts
- Kristi Weiss
- Chris Webb (Bert's sister)
- Pam Wisse

We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God,

C **your mercy is great.**

P Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God,

C **your mercy is great.**

P We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace (*especially...*). Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God,

C **your mercy is great.**

P Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

***Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy Name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory forever
And ever. Amen***

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS: "Now Behold the Lamb"
(ELW #341)

1: *Now behold the Lamb,
the precious Lamb of God,
who bore all my sin, that I may live again:
the precious Lamb of God.*

2: *Holy is the Lamb,*

*the precious Lamb of God.
Why you love me so, Lord, I shall never know;
the precious Lamb of God.*

*3: Thank you for the Lamb,
the precious Lamb of God.
Because of your grace I can finish the race;
the precious Lamb of God.*

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“Joy to the World” (ELW #267)

- 1: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*
- 2: *Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*
- 3: *No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*
- 4: *He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.
God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you

grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (ELW#290)

Refrain: *Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

- 1: *While shepherds kept their watching,
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain*
- 2: *The shepherds feared and trembled,
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. Refrain*
- 3: *Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain*

DISMISSAL

P Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace.
Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God!

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Poinsettias this Christmas were given:

By Julie Newhouse in memory of Davin Misurilli

By Paula & Randy Pierce in memory of Paula’s mother, Charlotte Prothero

By David & Janice Riutta in memory of Ruth & Wes Riutta



Bulletin, Flower Sponsors

Thank you to Bert and Brian Felland for giving the altar flowers and sponsoring worship bulletins in December.

New sign-up sheets for 2024 are posted in the entryway to the sanctuary. Altar flowers are \$20 per week; bulletins are \$10 per week in monthly increments.


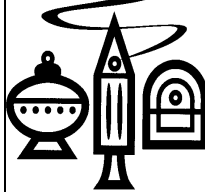


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	Family Video \$10.00	12%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$25.00	3%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Fandango \$25.00	4%		\$	Pizza Hut (Not AK or HI) \$10.00	8%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$	Festival Foods (WI) - Skogens \$25.00	3%		\$	Pizza Ranch \$25.00	8%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$	Festival Foods (WI) - Skogens \$50.00	3%		\$	Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$	Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Golf Galaxy \$25.00	8%		\$	Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$	Gordon Food Service Store \$25.00	4%		\$	Roundys (IL and WI only) \$25.00	4%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Hallmark \$25.00	4%		\$	Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Honey Baked Ham \$25.00	12%		\$	Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	8%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$	Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	13%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$	Sendik's Food Market \$25.00	4%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$	Shell \$25.00	1.5%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$	Shopko \$25.00	3%		\$
BP \$50.00	1.5%		\$	Kwik Trip \$25.00	4%		\$	Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings \$25.00	8%		\$	Lane Bryant \$25.00	8%		\$	Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Little Caesar's Pizza \$20.00	8%		\$	SUBWAY Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	8%		\$	Lowe's \$20.00	4%		\$	Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Cheddars \$25.00	8%		\$	Macy's \$25.00	10%		\$	Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	Marcus Theatres \$25.00	9%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	Meijer (not AK and HI) \$25.00	3%		\$	TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$	Menards \$25.00	3%		\$	The Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
Cinemark Theatres \$25.00	4%		\$	Mobil \$50.00	1%		\$	Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Columbia Sportswear \$50.00	12%		\$	Nike \$25.00	12%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Container Store \$25.00	9%		\$	Nordstrom \$25.00	6%		\$	Williams Sonoma \$25.00	8%		\$
Cousins Subs \$10.00	9%		\$	Office Depot / Office Max \$25.00	5%		\$				
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$				
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$				
Crate and Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$				
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$	Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$				
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Payless Shoes \$20.00	13%		\$				
Dressbarn \$25.00	8%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$				
EB Games \$25.00	3%		\$	Pick 'n Save (WI only) \$25.00	4%		\$				
Exxon \$50.00	1%		\$								

Make Checks Payable To: **Grace Lutheran Church**

Total Due All Columns: \$

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY <i>No Welcome Center volunteers</i> <i>No Prayer group</i>	2 9:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	3	4 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses diaper ministry	5 TWELFTH NIGHT 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast	6 EPIPHANY 
7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 am Song warm-up 9:30 am Worship service 7:00 pm NA	8 8:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 9:00 am Prayer group 6:30 pm l'Arche	9 9:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	10	11 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses diaper ministry	12 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast	13 ST. KNUT
14 9:00 am Song warm-up 9:30 am Worship service 7:00 pm NA	15 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 8:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 9:00 am Prayer group	16 9:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	17	18 CONFESSION OF PETER 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses diaper ministry	19 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast	20
21 9:00 am Song warm-up 9:30 am Worship service 7:00 pm NA	22 8:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 9:00 am Prayer group 	23 9:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	24	25 CONVERSION OF PAUL 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses diaper ministry	26 TIMOTHY, TITUS & SILAS 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast	27 LYDIA, DORCAS & PHOEBE
28 9:00 am Song warm-up 9:30 am Worship service 7:00 pm NA	29 8:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 9:00 am Prayer group 5:30 pm Kenosha Education Justice Coalition	30 9:00 am-noon Pantry volunteers 4:00-5:30 pm Food pantry	31	Feb. 1 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses diaper ministry	2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD 8:30-9:15 am Welcome Center breakfast	3 ST. ANSGAR 

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 15 Ian Clyne

Jan. 18 Michelle Vesnefsky &
Roger Krueger (3)

Jan. 21 Greg Foster

Jan. 24 Isaiah "Zeiah" Barker

Jan. 29 Rich Knapp

Jan. 30 Sydney Houston

Grace Receipts: December 24, 2023

General offering \$ 2,785.00
 Benevolence..... \$ 5.00
 Initial offering / envelopes..... \$ 37.00
 Christmas \$ 125.00
 Compressor repair..... \$ 200.00
 From non-members:
 General offering \$ 942.21
 Grace Welcome Center..... \$ 50.00

Compressor repair \$ 225.00
 In memory of Tim Pfaff \$ 25.00
 NA building use \$ 40.00
 Holy Assembly building use \$ 500.00
 Minus internet banking fees..... \$ (65.59)
 Total \$ 4,927.62
 Grace weekly budget in 2023: \$ 2,671.70

Message Board

Dear Friends at Grace,
Thank you very much for the beautiful reception this past Sunday. It is always such a joy to be with you, and I thank you so much for



your kind support and loving prayers during this challenging time for me. I so look forward to when I can visit and be with you again. Special thanks to Randy and Greg for the lovely

Christmas flowers and card, delicious chocolate cake, and even a pillow for my sore back. All at Grace are very dear and precious to Charles and me.
Very much love,
Kate Barker

2024 Pledge Drive Report

As of December 26, sixteen pledges have been received in the church office for 2024. Pledges for

the year total \$50,516 to the General operating fund and \$2,880 to Benevolence.

January Meetings & Gatherings

Worship Leaders

Worship leaders meet after the worship service this Sunday.

L'Arche

L'Arche will meet on January 8 instead of January 1 because of the holiday. Meeting time remains at 6:30 p.m. in the narthex.



Church Council

Church council will meet after the worship service on January 21. Council members are asked to send their reports in to Jarlene by January 13.

Annual reports are due in the church office (GraceOffice@wi.rr.com) two weeks before the annual congregational meeting.

ELCA Reopens 2009 Human Sexuality Statement

After a seven-year process of discernment and dialogue across the ELCA, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to adopt Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust as a social statement of the ELCA. In 2022, the Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations (see pages 4-5 and 11) of the social statement:

- A review of specific text references that “would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between individuals;” review specific wording “in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;” and “consider references to

diversity of family configurations;” and

- A possible revision that reconsiders the “church’s current concept of the four positions of bound conscience” found on pages 19-21 of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.

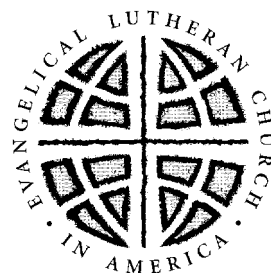
In response to these actions, a task force will begin working in 2024 on both reconsiderations. Throughout the process, the task force will be listening deeply and working closely with people across the ELCA. More information about the process and specific opportunities for joining the conversation will be shared as soon as possible.

The first step in this process is to gather a task force from across the church. This task force is intended to represent the diverse perspectives, identities, backgrounds, and contexts of ELCA members, including the diversity reflected in the four

conscience-bound positions of the current social statement.

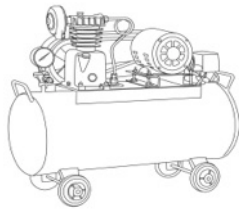
Applications and nominations to participate in the task force will be open until January

31, 2024. You can also use the link below to nominate someone else for the task force. Find the links at <https://www.elca.org/reconsiderations>



Share the Warmth This Holiday Season

Happy holidays from your Grace family! We are in need of a little bit of a Christmas miracle, a Christmas blessing. Down in the boiler room, our compressor unit, which heats the office part of our building, is malfunctioning and needs to be replaced. It's from the early 1960's, and it's going to



cost about \$4,300. We have been fortunate that the weather has been mild so far this winter, but we will need to get this compressor fixed before it gets much colder.

If anybody would like to contribute toward its repair, you

can send checks to the church or donate through our website, gracekenosha.com/donations, write us a comment in the box provided that your gift is for fixing the compressor.

We have great faith that God will show powerfully this holiday season for us at Grace. Many blessings to you this holiday season.

Welcome Center Thanks Volunteers

Merry Christmas to the best group of volunteers around. It sure felt like Christmas this week! Everyone was dressed up on Friday, and there was good cheer in the air. Amazing people came in on the day after Christmas in answer to our call for help. If you missed us then, we also welcome help on January 2!

Thank you to Lakeside Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and Grace Welcome Center volunteers for making this week's pantry and breakfasts special for all our guests. Merry Christmas to all.

Grace Welcoming Center has a part-time opening for a Fund Developer. Contact Denise

Russell, drussell.GraceWelcomeCenter@gmail.com for job description.





www.GraceKenosha.com

Worship services 9:30 a.m., in person and livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranKenosha

Pastor Jonathan Barker: jonathan.w.barker17@gmail.com ☎ 626-864-6404

Church office: graceoffice@wi.rr.com ☎ 262-654-9143

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

Presiding Bishop Eaton's 2023 Christmas Message

In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels say to the shepherds,



At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right. Nevertheless, we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

The angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring." We pray for peace in our world and in our communities. Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace. We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle. Some may walk to

other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor.

"The peace of Christ be with you."

"And also with you."

We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us. In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

-Elizabeth C. Eaton



The Word became flesh and lived among us

John 1:14