



GRACE VINE



The Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

December 2018

Sunday Worship Hours (except for December 23)

7:30 am Community Pancake Breakfast
8:30 am Contemporary Worship in Hope Hall
9:45 am-10:45 am Grace Time in the North Room
11:00 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
12:15 pm Fellowship

ONE Worship Service on Sunday December 23 @ 11:00 am

All are welcome to ONE worship service on Sunday, December 23 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary as the Chancel Choir shares their Christmas Cantata. This year, they sing portions of JS Bach's Christmas Cantata that includes the well-known *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* and soloists in addition to the choral portions. There will be NO worship in Hope Hall at 8:30 am. Pancake breakfast will be served and Grace Time held as usual.

Christmas Eve Worship Monday, December 24

5:00 pm Contemporary Worship in Hope Hall
7:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary with Extended Prelude at 7:00 pm

NO Christmas Day Worship

December Community Building Goal

Our community building goal for December is to remember in prayer those for whom we do not normally pray: perhaps those with whom we struggle, people who are easily forgotten, or people we may believe do not need our prayer because they are successful. We may offer these prayers up during Sunday morning worship and/or during our personal, daily prayers.

GLOW

(Grace Lutheran on Wednesdays)

Wednesdays, 5:15 pm-7:15 pm

During December, we will celebrate Advent and Christmas in GLOW!
December 5: Phoenix Children's Chorus Christmas Concert & Carol-Sing
December 12: Storyscope volunteers facilitate storytelling around the theme of "LIGHT"
December 19: Storyteller Caleb Winebrenner will share stories of light from his Jewish tradition

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 Others
- 5 All are Welcome

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Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1124 North Third Street

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-258-3787

www.graceinthecity.com

www.facebook.com/GraceInTheCity

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



From Pastor Sarah's Pen



On Tuesday, November 20, I was invited to lunch in the North Room. A small group of Grace members had prepared lasagna and carrot cake and sang Happy Birthday to me. Then, they ushered me into Hope Hall to show me the bulletin board. "Pastor Sarah had a farm, E-E-L-C-A" the board read, accompanied by pictures of pigs, chickens, roosters, a cow, trees, sheep, and honey bees. Margie Betz told me that members of Grace had purchased these animals and other ELCA Good Gifts in honor of my birthday—a farm-worth of animals given to families throughout the world! Gifts that sustain people's livelihoods and diets and spirits! A more meaningful gift I cannot imagine, and your generosity astounds me again.

You are so fabulous.

Beloved people of God, I could not be more proud to share community with you. I could not be more delighted to serve you and alongside you.

The ELCA Good Gifts program is part of ELCA World Hunger. Through the Good Gifts program, families receive animals, trees, fencing, wells, and other items that provide long-term, sustainable hunger relief. By consuming the products of the animals personally or selling them, products such as eggs, milk, and honey, families feed themselves. Families use the fencing to control animals from wandering off or the wells for daily water use. The trees provide fruit and prevent soil erosion and produce shade. The program even includes opportunities to fund education for girls in places where girls often do not get the chance to be educated.

The ELCA Good Gifts catalogue provides an alternative way to give gifts this Christmas, gifts that make lasting and significant change in the lives of God's beloved people. If you are interested in giving gifts in honor of or in memory of someone you love this Christmas, if you ordered a pig or sheep in my honor, you now know how to do this. For those who may not know, you can go to

www.elca.org/goodgifts

We also have a few copies of the catalogue in the

church office. For those people in your life who truly do not need any more material possessions, ELCA Good Gifts can be a blessing both to the person you know and love and strangers who are also our neighbors, part of God's beloved people.

THANK YOU for your loving birthday gift in my honor. And thank you for the beautiful card! I will treasure both. You all are such a gift in my life.

As we enter into the Advent and Christmas seasons, we rejoice that God comes to Earth to share life with us, to work among us and through us. I see God at work in you! And my spirit rejoices!

With love,
Pastor Sarah

Wilbur Emphasis

During the month of December, Wilbur the pig continues to receive donations for the Grace Buddies program. Thank you for your generosity!



Grace Time for Children Ages 3-11 Children's Storytime Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, Basement Classroom

All children ages 3-11 are welcome during Grace Time to participate in Children's Storytime in the freshly-decorated church basement. Crafts and activities will help children connect with the Bible stories and with other Grace members! If you have questions, please speak with Linda Schwall.

CALL

***(Confirmation Among Local Lutherans)
Sunday, December 9, 12:45 pm***

Celebration Lutheran Church, Peoria

Congregations participating in CALL include Grace, Faith, Our Saviour's, Prince of Peace, Trinity, Shepherd of the Valley, and Celebration (in Peoria). Class sessions are held at each of the participating congregations on a rotating basis, and Grace will host in February and March.

From the Church Office

Pastor Sarah will be at continuing education learning how to conduct behavioral interviewing for potential mission developers in Sacramento on December 6-8. In case of emergency, please call her cell phone, and if necessary, she will connect you with a local pastor to provide care.

Faith Formation Update

Greetings Grace community, Advent is upon us, we welcome it with praise, thanksgiving and contemplation. Here is the overview for Faith Formation Team emphasis this month: Grace Time continues with adult Bible Study in the North room. 10 to 15 people attend each week; there is plenty of lively discussion. Lori Thompson, Andrea Sigala, and Sheila Petry are the rotating leaders. Give it a try! There is room at the table for you. Linda Schwall is available each week to provide Bible Stories for little ones. Joey Lay is available for teen discussion time. The Grace Buddies will be hosting the children on December 1 for a parent appreciation, "Drop and Shop" morning from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please consider donating a \$10 Walmart gift card. In fact, that is a most helpful donation at any time for this program. We have 23 children signed up to come to Grace Buddies this month! 7 of the children are aged three or younger. THANK YOU to everyone for your prayers, time & donations toward this project. We will be presenting a framed certificate of thanks acknowledging the extraordinary gifts in support of Grace Buddies from True North Studio. They are proving to be amazing community partners.

The Advent & Christmas program will happen Sunday, December 2 at second service. Yes, it's a big change, but circumstances drive this change; roll with it.. it will be special! What can you expect and what will you miss if you're not there? The Holy Family, Angels, Animals, favorite music, Special talent, cookies, eggnog and hot chocolate. Be there to get your Advent going!

Joyous December to all,

See you in Church
Fran Fry, Council Liason

"Caring for Our Community" Service Projects

The youth, young adults, and everyone going on the Holden Village trip this summer will be serving members of our community who need help cleaning, moving furniture, or doing yard work this year. Simple forms to request service are available at the back of the sanctuary and on the west side of Hope Hall. You can fill out the simple form and place it in the offering plate. We are delighted to be of service to our community!

2019 Mission Planning Cards

If you have not already done so, please turn in your 2019 mission planning card as soon as possible. These cards help the council and the entire congregation determine how we do ministry together. Cards are available at the back of the sanctuary and in Hope Hall.

Soul Journey to Holden Village

In late June 2019, YOU are invited to go to Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Instead of going on a regular "mission trip" this year, the youth and young adults of the congregation are opening up the opportunity to people of any age to go on a "soul journey." Participants will covenant to regular participation in worship, monthly service projects, and a full-hearted embrace of the journey itself and the relationships between participants.

Beautiful and remote, getting to Holden Village is half the fun and involves planes, busses, and a boat! Because of the remote nature of the Village, this trip is probably not best for people with health concerns. As well, in the nature of a trip with young people, we will be active on every day of the trip, including significant walking and hiking.

Our foci on our soul journey will be...

- Relationship-Building between participants as equal voyagers of this journey, regardless of age
- Simple Living—as expressed in Holden's way of life
- Meeting the Larger Church by intentionally meeting with other guests at Holden
- Spiritual Growth—through participation in Holden's daily worship life and our group's shared exploration

If you have interest in the soul journey to Holden Village, please talk with Pastor Sarah and attend the service project and team-building on Sunday, December 16 at 12:30 pm, meeting in Hope Hall. Every participant will need to confirm their participation no later than December 31, 2018; Pastor Sarah will be booking plane tickets the first week of January.

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is December 1. For the sake of the health and wellness of our whole community, please know your status. Free HIV testing is available at the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS, 1101 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ AND at Terros Behavioral Health, 333 E Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ, both on weekdays during regular business hours.

Youth & Young Adult Parking Lot Fundraiser

Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am

Youth, young adults, and anyone going to Holden Village: we will be raising funds for next summer's soul journey to Holden Village and Campfirmation on Saturday, December 8 for the Phoenix Festival of the Arts. Please let Loraine Ark or Pastor Sarah know if you plan to help.

Ministry Partner Christmas Cards

All are welcome and encouraged to join the Outreach team for our annual Christmas card signing party to thank our wonderful Ministry Partners whose generosity provides food, water, supplies, cash, time and prayers for the benefit of our ministries at Grace. Meet Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 pm in the North Room.

Epiphany Worship Leadership

This year, the celebration of Epiphany, always on January 6, lands on a Sunday. To embody the message of Epiphany—that God comes into the world in an unexpected way—we especially invite unexpected people who do not normally lead worship to serve as worship leaders at both or either service. Worship roles include the following:

1st Service: scripture reader, communion assistant, usher, preacher, Faith in Motion leader

2nd Service: greeter, usher, scripture reader, crucifer, psalm leader, communion assistant, preacher, Faith in Motion leader

Our worship that day will honor the courage of those who don't normally lead worship and celebrate the unexpected ways God works in the world—and our lives. Please speak with Pastor Sarah if you have an interest in serving as a worship leader on that particular day.

True North Proposal

The developer True North is proposing to Grace a long term ground lease on our west parking lot to build a parking garage. The lease would allow us to keep nearly the same number of parking spaces solely for our own use on the ground floor while offering parking to the community above. To learn about the proposal, please attend one or both of the informational meetings at which True North will present: Sunday, December 2 at 12:30 pm in Hope Hall and Sunday, January 6 at 9:45 am in Hope Hall. If you cannot attend either meeting for scheduling reasons but would like to learn about the project, please be in touch with Pastor Sarah or Renee Waterstradt. We will vote on the project at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 20.

WELCA Bible Study Group

WELCA Bible Study meets on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the North Room. Please join or ask Bev for further detail.

Biblical Equipping

Biblical Equipping will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the North Room. For more information, please reach out to Nancy Tickle.

ISLAMIC COMMUNITY CENTER OF TEMPE
131 E. 6TH STREET
TEMPE, AZ 8528

OPEN HOUSE

The theme of the night is "The Qu'ran"
Please come and enjoy a
free dinner and discussion

VISIT US ON DECEMBER 15TH AT 6 PM

No babysitting is provided but children are
welcome to attend





*The Festival
of
Nine Lessons
&
Carols*

Presented by
The Valley Chamber Chorale
Dr. Christopher Samuel, Conductor

Saturday, 15 December Four o'clock p.m. American Lutheran Church 17200 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City	Sunday, 16 December Five o'clock p.m. Saint Mary's Basilica 231 N. Third Street, Phoenix
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A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Celebrate the 2018 Yuletide Season by joining the Valley Chamber Chorale for a presentation of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*. 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the first *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* held at King's College, Cambridge, England on Christmas Eve, 1918. The program, modeled on the annual event held in the chapel at King's College, includes choral selections, Advent and Christmas readings, and favorite carols. Performances are Saturday, December 15 at 4:00 pm at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, and Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 pm at Saint Mary's Basilica. The festival is free of charge.

The Magic of Christmas

A Program of
Holiday Music
performed by

The Voices of
Phoenix
College



Grace Lutheran Women Invite You to Attend the Annual

Christmas Concert & Luncheon

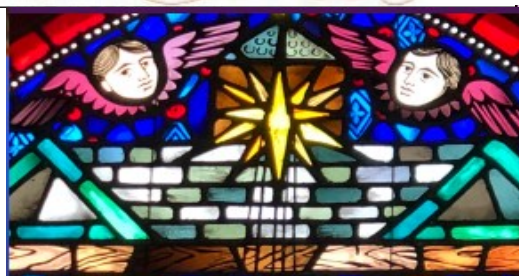
Thursday December 6th, 2018

11:00 am

In the Sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church
1124 N. 3rd Street
SW corner of Moreland & 3rd Street

Luncheon will
follow in the
Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP with the number in your party by calling the Grace
office at 602.258.3787 or Bev Zannos at 480.502.1483



Advent Organ Recitals

at

Grace Lutheran
Church

Fridays at noon in December

Followed by reception with refreshments



Dec. 7 - Jeffrey Porter



Dec. 14 - Julia Tucker



Dec. 21 - Karen Taylor

All recitals are given free of charge

Grace Lutheran Church
1124 N 3rd St
Phoenix, AZ 85004





IT IS POINSETTIA TIME!

Name _____

of Poinsettias _____ @ \$10.00 _____

Poinsettias will be available to take home after
the Christmas Day Worship Service.

*Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran.
Purchases can be made the day of Christmas worship.*

This poinsettia is in memory of:

OR

This poinsettia is in honor of:

Suggested Bible Readings for December

December 2 (First Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

December 9 (Second Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

December 16 (Third Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

December 23 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7

Gospel: Luke 1:45b-55

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: Psalm 96

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

December 30 (First Sunday of Christmas)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm: Psalm 148

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

December Birthdays

December 2 Barbara Buta

December 6 Chelsea Bowman

December 6 Lori Cecil

December 9 Linda Erickson

December 11 Clinton Reiswig

December 12 Nick Huska

December 14 Helen Mariscal

December 21 Joe Dani

December 24 Eric Hanson

December 28 Stephanie Rodin

December 31 Leiana Hokanson

December 31 Desi Walker

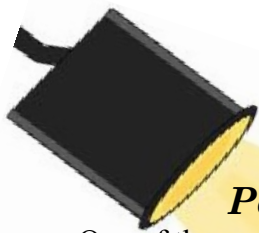
December 31 Shirley Warner

December Worship Assistants

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 24	December 30
Preach	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Lessons & Carols
Greeter	Lori Cecil Julio Devora	Bev Zannos Nancy Tickle	Lori Cecil Clark Olson	Jim Spitler Kathy Spitler	Bev Zannos Nancy Tickle	Brian Flatgard Bev Zannos
Reader		Brian Flatgard	Judy Baker	Donna Martin	Fran Fry	Clark Olson
Ushers	Dorothy Ziehl John Erickson	Julio Devora John Erickson	Marty Dusenberry Thomas Waterstradt	John Erickson Dorothy Ziehl Jim Spitler	John Erickson Dorothy Ziehl	Renee Waterstradt John Erickson Dorothy Ziehl
Sound Board	Joey Lay	Tim Gallen	Maria Ramirez	Daniel Ramirez	Joey Lay	Tim Gallen
Crucifer	Solveig Muus	Sue Thun	Lori Cecil	Solveig Muus	Lori Cecil	Sue Thun
Bread Baker	Marjie Bell	Evalyn Ehlen	Nicole Gallen	Solveig Muus	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah
8:30 Reader	Wright Edler	Hannah Khatter	Erica Khatter	(one service)	Margie Betz	Kenda Khatter

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2- 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/Christmas Program- Sanctuary 11:00 am Vida Nueva Parking lot Fundraiser 12:15 pm Fellowship– Hope Hall 12:30 pm Informational Meeting– Hope Hall 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary</p>	<p>3-9:00 am Grace Room 10:00 am Christmas tree decorating– Sanctuary Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	4-	<p>5-8:30 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm GLOW– Hope Hall</p>	<p>6– 11:00 am Phoenix College Choir Concert – Sanctuary 5:30 pm Bells of Grace– Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision– Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice– Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting– North room Office Closed Pastor Sarah at Continuing Education</p>	<p>7– 12:00 pm Advent Organ Recital– Sanctuary 12:00 pm NAUM Parking lot fundraiser 6:00 pm First Friday– Sanctuary/Hope Hall Lester's Sabbath Pastor Sarah at Continuing Education</p>	<p>8– 10:00 am NA-UM–Hope Hall 10:00 am Grace Parking lot fundraiser 5:00 pm Grace Cinema Club Pastor Sarah at Continuing Education</p>
<p>9- 7:30 am Community Breakfast– Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship– Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time– North Room 10:00 am Vida Nueva Parking lot Fundraiser 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship– Hope Hall 12:30 pm Faith Formation Ministry Team Meeting– North room 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary 12:45 pm CALL– Celebration (6630 N Central Ave)</p>	<p>10-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>11– 6:30 pm Outreach ministry partner card signing– North Room</p>	<p>12-8:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Knit Wits– North room 5:15 pm GLOW– Hope Hall</p>	<p>13– 9:30 am WELCA Bible Study–North room 5:30 pm Bells of Grace– Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision– Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice– Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting– North room Office Closed</p>	<p>14– 12:00 pm Advent Organ Recital– Sanctuary Lester's Sabbath</p>	<p>15– 10:00 am Oasis Church meal– Hope Hall 4:00 pm The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols—American Lutheran Church (17200 N Del Webb Blvd., SunCity)</p>
<p>16- 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 12:30 pm Holiday Team Building 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary 5:00 pm The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols— St. Mary's Basilica</p>	<p>17-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>18-6:30 pm Council Meeting– North Room</p>	<p>19-8:30 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm GLOW– Hope Hall</p>	<p>20– 5:30 pm Bells of Grace– Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision– Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice– Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting– North room Office Closed</p>	<p>21– 12:00 pm Advent Organ Recital– Sanctuary 6:00 pm First Friday– Sanctuary/Hope Hall Lester's Sabbath</p>	<p>22– 10:00 am NAUM–Hope Hall</p>
<p>23- 7:30 am Community Breakfast– Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time– North Room 10:00 am Vida Nueva Parking lot Fundraiser 11:00 am Christmas Cantata– Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship– Hope Hall 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary</p>	<p>24-9:00 am Grace Room 5:00 pm Contemporary Worship– Hope Hall 7:00 pm Extended Prelude– Sanctuary 7:30 pm Traditional Worship– Sanctuary Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>	<p>25–Office Closed Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>26- Pastor Sarah on Vacation</p>	<p>27– 9:30 am Biblical Equipping–North room 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision– Hope Hall 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting– North Room Office Closed Pastor Sarah on Vacation</p>	<p>28– Lester's Sabbath Pastor Sarah on Vacation</p>	<p>29– Pastor Sarah on Vacation</p>
<p>30- 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 Pastor Sarah on Vacation</p>	<p>31-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</p>					



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Partnership with Celebration Lutheran Church in Peoria

One of the younger congregations of the Grand Canyon Synod, Celebration Lutheran Church was founded by Pastor Paul Nelson who retired about two years ago; Celebration is also a fairly new ministry partner of Grace. In spring 2018, the playground equipment that was removed from the south portion of our property—when we put in the labyrinth—ended up blessing Celebration Lutheran Church. That equipment now provides a place for the children of their congregation to play. Since then, youth volunteers from Celebration have come to serve the pancake breakfast once, and they will do so again in January 2019. We recently received a donation of handmade hats and scarves for the Grace Room. Additionally, Celebration participates in CALL: Confirmation Among Local Lutherans and Campfirmation. For these various reasons, we give thanks to God for Celebration’s partnership!

Tithe.ly: A New Online Giving Option

The ELCA has reached a preferred vendor agreement with Tithe.ly, a company that offers online tools to enhance financial giving to ELCA congregation and ministries. Through Tithe.ly, donation forms are integrated into the congregation’s website instead of sending donors to third-party sites. Donors have the option to make one-time or recurring gifts to provide more consistent giving.

Here at Grace, we are participating in Tithe.ly to reduce the cost of online giving. To sign up, go to www.graceinthecity.com/donate. On the donations page of our website, you click on either one of the “give” buttons and then fill out the online form with either your credit card or bank account information.

This program is similar to PayPal but less expensive and used only by churches. Thank you for giving to Grace!

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: Brandon Burns,
blburns3@asu.edu, 828-493-3353
Praise Band Leader: Chad Hernandez-Cole
602-619-3172, praisebandleader@graceinthecity.com
Bookkeeper: Chris Morris
Social Worker: Jeff Jirak

Grace Lutheran Church Council Members

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

Grace Lutheran Church Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 am-12:00 pm