



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

December 2023

## Monthly Ministry Focus

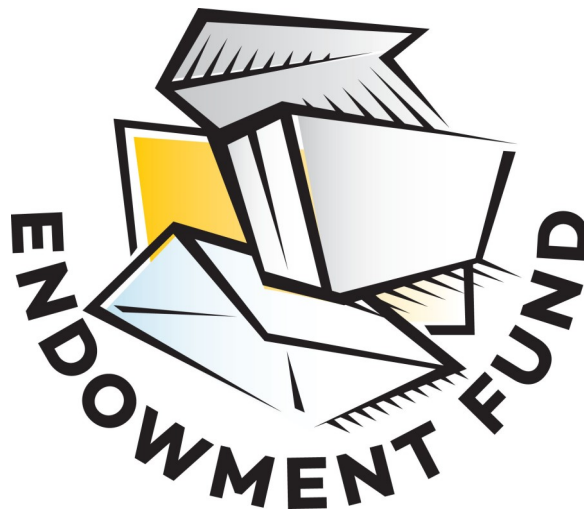
### Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

This month's ministry focus is **The Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund**. The Endowment Fund is a permanent fund established in January 2017 to support two activities: The Elseroad Scholarship Fund and New Ministries. The vision of the fund is to reach the ultimate goal of expanding the Kingdom of God by supporting new ministries that **CONNECT** people to Christ, granting scholarships to **GROW** Pastors and Christian leaders, and providing opportunities for Christians to **SERVE**.

In the 2023-2024 school year, the Elseroad Scholarship Fund is supporting two gentlemen studying for the Pastoral Ministry at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis with scholarships totaling \$18,000. Garrett Anklam is in his second year of seminary, and is a member of a church in our District; and James Doebler is in his final year of seminary. The fund has also supported our own Grace member, Daniel Bueckman, through his first three years of seminary. Daniel is currently on his vicarage this year and receiving support from his vicarage congregation. He can apply again for support from the Scholarship Fund in his final seminary year. To date, the Elseroad Scholarship Fund has supported Pastoral and Concordia students with more than \$80,000 in scholarships, and two of those students were confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church!

You were probably already familiar with the Elseroad Scholarship Fund, but did you know that the Endowment Fund also supports New Ministries with "seed money" to help start new ministries at Grace Lutheran Church or

within other recognized arms of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod? Eligible ministries are organized, sustained efforts or initiatives to advance, promote, or serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ that are different in concept or approach from current ministries. In 2022, two grants were given for new ministries at Grace: "**Cancer Companions**" and "**Bibles for the Incarcerated**". If God has been tugging on your heart to start a new ministry, The Endowment Fund is here to support you! The grant application is available at <https://www.visitgrace.org/endowment/>.



To date, more than \$420,000 has been contributed to the Endowment Fund, and those monies are independent of Grace Lutheran Church daily operations. The Endowment Fund has its own Bylaws and Guiding Principles, independent of the Grace Lutheran Church governance, to ensure the Fund is used only for the purposes described above. The Administration Team prudently invests the Fund assets for dividend yield to support the Scholarship and New Ministry disbursements. The Scholarship

and New Ministry Teams review the applications in their respective area and determine recipients of the funds.

You can also be a part of this ministry supporting church leaders through your financial giving. If you designate your gift as "**Grace Endowment/Unrestricted**" the earnings from your gift will be used for scholarships and new ministry. This allows the endowment teams flexibility as they make their decisions during the grant application

(Continued on page 2.)

## Endowment Fund *(Continued)*

process. If you prefer, you can designate your gift for "Grace Endowment/Scholarship" or "Grace Endowment/New Ministry". These gifts will be restricted per your designation, and the earnings will be used accordingly. Regardless of designation, the fund's administration will consider your designation as permanent and administer the earnings accordingly.

More information about the Endowment Fund, including New Ministry grant applications and Scholarship applications, is available at <https://www.visitgrace.org/endowment/>.

~ Sandi Larson, Chair  
Endowment Administration Team

## Coffee or Lunch with Pastor Danny?

**P**astor Danny would like to share a cup of coffee or meal with you—no strings attached! You can sign up to meet with Pastor Danny at:

<https://calendly.com/pastordannygraceknoxville/breakfast-lunch-meeting>

## WEST OF BETHLEHEM

*by The WordPlayers*

**Y**ou are ALL invited to lunch and a presentation of "WEST OF BETHLEHEM," a one-act play by the **WordPlayers** on **Saturday, December 9** in Grace Family Life Center. A lunch of chili and potato soup will be served by *Lutheran Women in Mission* from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. The play will begin at 1:00 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken for the lunch and performance.

The **WordPlayers** are a professional Christian Drama Group from Knoxville. The 35-minute play focuses on the lowly state of shepherds who honor Jesus at His birth. The play is suitable for ALL ages, so bring the family and invite your neighbors. You will enjoy laughter and music as we celebrate this Advent Season together!

## Lutheran Women in Mission



## Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests

**T**he Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** at [kdmcgee08@gmail.com](mailto:kdmcgee08@gmail.com) (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** ([evbrown3@gmail.com](mailto:evbrown3@gmail.com) (757-870-5603)). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church fami-



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Articles for **GraceNet** are due by the **1st of each month** for  
the  
following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in **GraceNet**, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

*Celebrate* *Christmas With Us*

December 2 10:00 a.m.—Deck the Halls (breakfast provided)

December 6, 13, 20 6:30 p.m.—Advent Services

December 9 "West of Bethlehem" Play  
11:30 a.m. —Lunch / 1:00 p.m. play

December 10 9:00-10:30 a.m.—Christmas Brunch

December 10 5:00 p.m.—"12 More Songs of Christmas" Multi-Choir  
Program

December 24 9:30 a.m.— One Morning Worship Service Only

December 24 4:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services  
(Candlelight Communion at 11:00 p.m. service)





12/1 Nancy Duthey	12/19 Dale Henderson
12/1 Mickey Tunstall	12/19 Kim Radochonski
12/2 Pastor Paul Muench	12/20 Blakely Hicks
12/4 Daythan Collins	12/20 Brooklyn Hicks
12/4 Cecil Peters	12/20 Anna Vick
12/5 Elaine Huether	12/20 Kristen Walker
12/6 Cheryl Denton	12/21 Caitlin Kothe
12/7 Kayla Cleland	12/23 Finn Knoernschild
12/7 Jill Peterson	12/23 Lucas Kothe
12/9 Robert Colbert	12/23 Larry Voorhees
12/9 Emily Cole	12/24 Bob Kurtz
12/9 Brian Kaul	12/25 Rich Cole
12/9 Sheila Wittke	12/25 Steve Jergesen
12/11 Virginia Zimmerman	12/25 David Lampman
12/12 Janice Ishee	12/25 Carol Plyler
12/12 Aidan Zimmerman	12/25 Mary Schultz
12/13 Deanne Collins	12/26 John Beeler
12/13 Stacy Henderson	12/26 Christi McIlwain
12/13 Linda Pyles	12/26 Joan Woodruff
12/14 Don Thaemert	12/27 Molly Kronquist
12/15 Erik Walker	12/27 Georgene Pitcher
12/16 Charlotte Holden	12/28 Bailey Ann Smith
12/16 Brian Strobel	12/29 Sarah Smithey
12/18 Amanda Newport	12/30 Traci Roth
12/18 Blake Thompson	12/31 Grace Schoenfelder
12/19 Mitch Fisher	12/31 Susan Wright



12/1 David & Linda Lampman
12/4 Charles & Tina Stine
12/10 Steven & Jill Peterson
12/11 Rod & Terri Maples
12/12 Sam & Sarah Smithey
12/13 David & Amy Williams
12/20 Gwen & Jim Erpenbach
12/20 Cecil & Lu Anne Peters
12/27 Erick & Christi McIlwain
12/27 Jesse & Laura Smithey
12/29 Erik & Tiffani Aanestad
12/29 Brock & Cheryl Kothe
12/30 Doug & AdriAnne Kothe
12/30 Robert & Linda Schmid
12/30 Mickey & Kristi Tunstall

## Bible Quiz

**E**lizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?



- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41)

### Save the Date

**Sunday, January 7, 2024.**

**Installation of  
Pastor Danny Anderson  
as Senior Pastor of Grace Lutheran  
Church.**

*Installation service will be followed by a dinner.*

## December Scripture of the Month

*"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

~ John 1:14

## December Children's Curriculum Themes

In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for December .

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i><b>DATE</b></i>	<i><b>THEME</b></i>	<i><b>VERSE</b></i>
December 3	<b>We prepare our hearts for Jesus.</b>	<i>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)</i>
December 10	<b>Jesus is God.</b>	<i>The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)</i>
December 17	<b>Jesus was born for us.</b>	<i>Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)</i>
December 24	<b>We thank God for Jesus.</b>	<i>Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. (Psalm 100:4)</i>
December 31	<b>Jesus deserves our worship.</b>	<i>For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues for all generations. (Psalm 100:5)</i>



## Operation Christmas Child

There's still time to join us in this opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with children around the world who would not otherwise receive gifts. Please consider filling a shoebox to bless a child. If you don't want to fill the box yourself, you can contribute funds for a box and we'll fill it for you. If you don't know what to put in a box, there's information in the Children's wing on suggestions for items. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at [childrensmin@visitgrace.org](mailto:childrensmin@visitgrace.org) or Paul Guthrie at [pgvint3@gmail.com](mailto:pgvint3@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!





# Upcoming EVENTS

**December 3—12:30 p.m.**  
**Annual Voter's Meeting**  
 Family Life Center  
 (Childcare will be provided)

**January 6—10:00 a.m.**  
**Un-Decorate the Church**

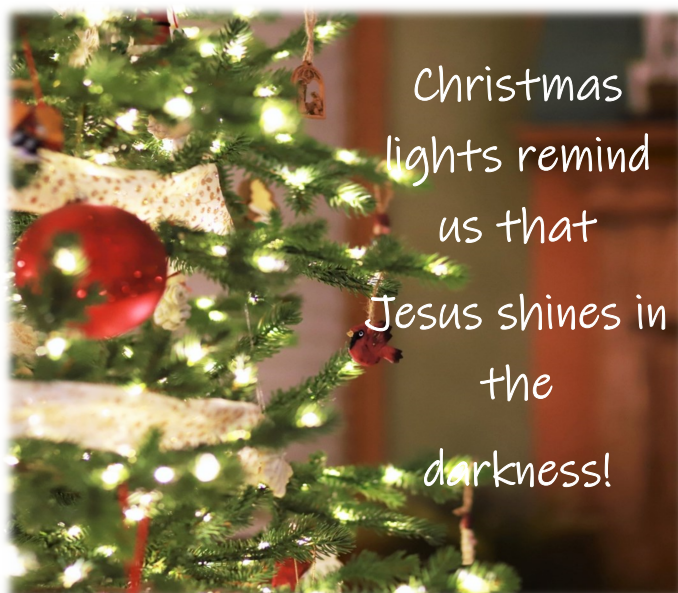
**January 7—4:00 p.m.**  
**Pastor Danny's Installation and Dinner**

*Mark your calendars for these  
 important events*



## *Grace Quilters 2023 Accomplishments*

**T**he Grace Quilters recently packed and sent 120 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. These quilts will be used in areas of the world with pressing humanitarian needs. In addition, during the 2023 quilting year, 10 baby quilts were completed (and donated to a local charity). Also, the Grace Quilters completed 5 school quilts to be used for First Lutheran School graduation in the spring of 2024. The quilters who helped pack the quilts (pictured above) are Holly Mings, Deb McFall, Kathy Bohlken, Mary Schultz, Marj Jergesen, Sandy Heath, Darlene North, and Mary Krempasky. Wonderful job, ladies!!



## **ADVENT DEVOTIONS**

*Advent devotionals for teens, families, and  
 individuals are available at the  
 Welcome Desk in the Family Life Center.*



## Social Ministry

### **Social Ministry Pantry Restock**

**P**lease help us restock the Social Ministry food pantry! An Advent Food List is available at the Welcome Desk in the Family Life Center. Please pick one up, fill a bag (or two) with items listed, and drop them off at the Social Ministry Box.

### **Ministry Needs**

**Wednesday Meal Coordinator Needed**—We are looking for someone to serve in this ministry as the coordinator for our Wednesday evening meals. The meals may not be able to continue without this position being filled. For more information, contact Dale Henderson: daleh@visitgrace.org or 865-691-2823.

**Diaper Ministry**—The Diaper Ministry is in need of diapers sizes 4, 5, 6 and pullups. This is an important outreach for our church. Please help fill this need if you can! Thank You!

### **AARP Tax-Aide**

**T**his is the second tax season that Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting an AARP Tax-Aide site for free preparation and e-filing of federal and state individual income tax returns.

This site will be managed by Allen Schultz, who has volunteered with the Tax-Aide program for 16 years. The program always needs more volunteers to help taxpayers with their tax filing requirements. The program provides all the training necessary to provide this service. No prior knowledge of taxes or experience in this field is needed. If interested or have questions, please contact Allen (865-947-0334) or sign up at [www.volunteers.aarp.org](http://www.volunteers.aarp.org).

AARP membership is not required to volunteer for this program or to participate in having your tax return prepared. The Tax-Aide program is national in scope, therefore, this site will be open to the greater Knoxville community.

Operating days for this site are planned for Tuesdays from February 6 to April 9, 2024. Contact information for phone or website arranged appointments will be published in January 2024.



### **HealthLine**

**P**lease note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



### **Ultra-Processed Foods Linked to Dementia and Cancer**

**A**ccording to a study published in the journal *“Neurology,”* people who eat the most ultra-processed foods, such as soft drinks, chips, and cookies, have a higher risk of developing dementia. Researchers found that every 10 percent daily increase in ultra-processed foods increased the risk of dementia by 25 percent. Study author, Huiping Li, Ph.D., of Tainjin Medical University said, *“Ultra-processed foods are meant to be convenient and tasty, but they diminish the quality of a person’s diet. These foods may also contain food additives, such as xanthum gum and guar gum or molecules from packaging or molecules produced during heating, all of which have been shown in other studies to have negative effects on thinking and memory skills.”* This same study also found that replacing 10 percent of the ultra-processed foods with unprocessed or minimally processed foods, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, reduced the risk of dementia by 19 percent. In another study, researchers at Imperial College London found that the more ultra-processed foods you eat, the higher your risk for developing cancer, especially ovarian and breast cancers. They added packaged breads, most breakfast cereals, foods high in salt, fat, sugar, and artificial additives to the list of ultra-processed foods. This study of 200,000 middle-aged adults found similar results: For every 10 percent increase in ultra-processed foods in a person’s diet, the risk of dying from breast cancer rose by 16 percent, and the increased risk of dying from ovarian cancer rose by 30 percent.

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:



**Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve**

