



The whole earth is filled with the presence of God.

Grace Lutheran Church is a Christian Family—  
Welcoming people to live God’s Word and strengthen their faith.

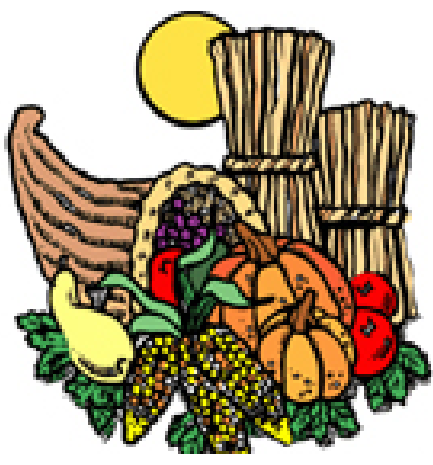
“The best pumpkin pie you’ve ever had was probably not that much better than the worst pumpkin pie you’ve ever had...” or as Kevin, our Youth Guy, might say, “It’s all good.” For anyone who loves pumpkin, the above quote from Garrison Keillor is likely true. I would full-heartily agree, except I can’t help but remember the time I accidentally used salt instead of sugar in a baked pumpkin pudding recipe. Big whoops. It smelled great. It was also completely inedible.

We had hoped for delicious, warm pumpkin pudding right out of the oven. Instead, we ended up being thankful for the hearty laughs and the story we got out of my blunder. What we hoped for and what we ended up being thankful for changed. This can often be the reality of our lives - We hope for conversations with our teen and end up being thankful for a brief moment of connecting. We hope for good health and end up being thankful for a few hours of respite. We hope for a cure of an illness and end up being thankful for the care others show. We hope for work that is satisfying and

end up being thankful for a paycheck. We hope for certainty and end up being thankful for the blessed surprises we couldn’t imagine. And so it can go. Being thankful for the unexpected does not negate the hurt or pain that might come with the unexpected. Disappointment is still disappointment. Hurt is still hurt. Inedible pumpkin pudding is still inedible pumpkin pudding. In this season of thanksgiving, days with less sunlight, and with Advent right around the corner, we are invited to trust in the promise that the unexpected is not void of the Spirit of God.

Christ’s love can be found beside us, whispering as the Gospel writer of John proclaims, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (1:5)  
Thanks be to God –

*Pastor Kristi*



## Thanksgiving Service ~

we will gather for worship on Tuesday, November 22nd at 7 p.m. to give thanks to God. Following worship, there will be a time for fellowship, with pie and more.

Also, be sure and check out the TALENT sign-up sheet for upcoming Thanksgiving and Advent Services on the window by the Church Office.

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***Ground Crew Sign Ups*** – On Grace’s last mission trip, the Ground Crew served a valuable role in making the trip a success. These are people who make a difference by putting together the Action Packers, serving meals to the Mission Team at their meetings, taking pictures, sending the team off, unloading the bus and welcoming the team home with breakfast - - and more. Once again, people are needed for the Ground Crew. Sign up sheets will be passed around at worship Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Sign up then – or contact the Church office to put your name on the list.

*Womens*  
 *Group*

We’ve gotten up and running! There is a great mix of interests and life stages – It’s never too late to join in. Contact Pastor Kristi for further details.

***Dinner Theater News!!!--***

# Tryouts

The event of the Decade is on the horizon! Come join us for tryouts for the Grace Dinner Theater, on **Sunday, December 11th at 4pm** in the Grace Youth Center. Hard to believe, but this is our 10th anniversary! This year’s production will be “The Grace Dinner Theater Presents: A Blast from the Past!” We look forward to seeing everyone that is interested in acting or “acting up”. If you are interested, but unable to make the scheduled tryout date, please contact Christine Sullivan, Ann Trzinski, Sandy Schreier, or Pat Brott with any questions. See you there!!

## ***NOISY OFFERING ~***

During the months of November, December and January, we will be making a “Noisy Offering” every Sunday. This is our opportunity to make some noise about the mission God has for us. All the money which is collected will be used to support Grace’s mission trip to Guatemala. So, when the pot comes around, throw in whatever you want – including the coins which will clang around on the bottom. *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands.”* Ps. 100:1

The first Noisy Offering is Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Did you know...?**

That a member of one of our ELCA’s international companion synods was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize? Leymah Gbowee, along with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Tawakkul Karman were named “for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work.” They played key roles in ending Liberia’s Civil War. Kuddos to them! You can read more about Gbowee’s story under News Releases at [www.elca.org/news](http://www.elca.org/news).

## ***Our Commitments – working together***

On Commitment Sunday, more than 92 Commitments were brought to the altar as, together, we look at the ministry and mission God gives us for 2012. 36 of these were either brand new Commitments or increases in giving. As we look at the great need around us, we hear God’s call to do what we can to make a difference.

Each of us is asked to prayerfully consider growing in our giving so new ministries will touch people’s lives. Make sure your Commitment is returned or go to [www.glcwr.org](http://www.glcwr.org) and fillout a pledge card. Put it in the offering on Sunday or drop it off at the Church office during the week. Thank you for your faithfulness.



## Two Book Group Opportunities ~

**Coffee House** is a book discussion time over bring-it-yourself lunch and provided coffee. All are welcome – even if you didn't finish all the reading! It meets Mondays, 12:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

The next book is *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor is a former Episcopal priest and the book summary notes, "Through Taylor's expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in." We've just begun discussing it on October 24th - chapters are short and easy to catch up on! Check with the church office for what chapter we are at. (Books are available in the church office for \$9.)

**November Book Club** ~ "It's Not About Me" by Max Lucado. "In this book, Max Lucado reminds us that it's not about us, it's all about God. It is through this shift in thinking that we can truly live an unburdened, happy life." Tammy will lead this book discussion on Wednesday, November 9th at 5:30 p.m. by the fireplace. Book Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss the book chosen for that month.

Save  
the  
date!

**Prayer Partner Revelation Coffee**  
Saturday, November 12th  
at 9:30am a.m.

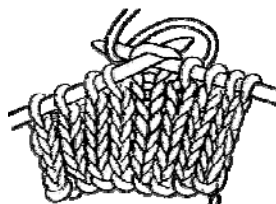
## Get your needles clicking. . . two of Grace's ministries need you!

Grace has two crafting ministries that are in need of knitted or crocheted blankets and shawls.

**Baptismal Blankets:** Each time a child is received into faith by baptism, he or she is presented with a blanket. These give warmth and comfort and are often kept as heirlooms. Use your creativity, whatever patterns you have, and whatever colors you choose.

**Prayer Shawls:** These shawls are given to individuals at Grace that are in need of comfort or suffering from illness or hardships. The color choices are optional with these shawls, but there are some specific requirements. Directions are available at [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Gale Jackson at 423-3529.



Thank you to Kathy Bohman, Anne Lee, Tim Leverance, and Pastor Kent for teaching and all who participated in October! We have a gifted bunch here at Grace! Mark your calendars and plan to attend the last two classes of the year -

### November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Risky Behaviors: Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy with Carrie Siler.

*A parent's role changes as their children move through the teen years. One thing that doesn't change is a parent's desire to keep their teen healthy and safe. Come together to learn and share the keys to raising teens who avoid risky behaviors, such as drugs and alcohol. Being informed is the first step to prevention!*

### November 9<sup>th</sup> - 10 Things Parents Should Know About High School with Ann Felker and Sue Zirnhelt

*Kids grow up fast! While trying to make it through the teen years, it can be hard to even think about your kids' futures – and yet how they prepare (or don't prepare) during high school can have a great impact on their lives and options. Not sure of where to start? This class will give a brief overview of what to expect during those high school years – from the academic to social/behavioral and beyond.*

These take place 6:45-7:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. Simply show up to any or all of interest. Feel free to invite others too – All are welcome! Keep posted for new classes in the new year. For questions or sharing of ideas, talk to Pastor Kristi or Joanne.



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**We're on the Web!**

**[www.glcwr.org](http://www.glcwr.org)**

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30 TOPS 4:30 Board of Worship 6:30 5-8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice 6:45 Grace University 7:30 Grace Out Loud Practice	3 6:30 Men's Breakfast at FourStar 4:45 TOPS	4 Lakeland College  Youth Center & Kitchen Reserved	5 Lakeland College  Youth Center & Kitchen Reserved
6 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 10:30 Worship	7 12:00 Coffeehouse 6:00 Church In Society	8 6:00 Quilters 6:30 Church Council	9 9:30 TOPS 5:30 Book Club 5:30 Board of Worship 6:30 5-8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice 6:45 Grace University	10 6:30 Men's Breakfast at FourStar 4:45 TOPS 6:00 Women's Group	11 Lakeland College	12 Lakeland College Entry by Youth Center Reserved 9:30 Prayer Partners
13 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 9:00 Cross Confidence Practice 10:30 Worship 11:30 Mission Team	14 12:00 Coffeehouse	15 6:30 Stewardship	16 9:30 TOPS 6:30 5-8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice	17 6:30 Men's Breakfast at FourStar 9-11:30 Pastor's Conference 4:45 TOPS 6:30 Women's Group	18 Lakeland College  Mt. Morris Women's Weekend (November 18-20)	19 Lakeland College
20 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 10:30 Worship	21 12:00 Coffeehouse	22 6:00 Quilters 7:00 Thanksgiving Worship	23 9:30 TOPS 6:30 Choir Practice	24 	25 Lakeland College	26 Lakeland College
27 8:00 Worship 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Education 10:30 Worship 1:00 Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved	28 12:00 Coffeehouse  5:30 Board of Evangelism	29	30 9:30 TOPS 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Advent Worship 8:00 Grace Out Loud Practice			