



*From
the
Pastor's*



Desk

Going from Advent and Christmas to Easter

Why end this year with a story about a burial when we are getting ready for Christ's birth? Part of the reason is this is an amazing story. But another reason is that every New Year we move from the cradle to the cross!

The funeral I presided at recently at Black Hills National Cemetery was for a 98-year old cowboy and veteran of the United States Marine Corps. In his last years he lived in a Rapid City care center. His family says once you heard him laugh, you knew he had a kind heart.

His only granddaughter says her grandpa often gave her perfume and/or jewelry for Christmas—except one Christmas! As she wondered what kind of sparkly thing she would find in her ring box—to her surprise—she found a mouse skull in it. What an intriguing and unusual gift!

In his later years, after serving in the Pacific during World War II, he had a serious case of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. One time in the care center, a PTSD flashback made him think the Japanese were attacking. Another time, he thought the motel being built across the street was being built by the Russians. He was anxious, afraid, and wanted to leave. But the care center staff and his family came up with a clever plan. They told him the Marines sent him a message that he needed to stay put!

In his younger days, after getting back from the war, he was tossed off his horse, broke 6 ribs, and had a punctured lung. Yet, he did not just lay there and wait for help. He got back on his horse, rode up the hill to the barn, unsaddled his horse, went home and changed out of his muddy clothes, and then called for help! Was he a tough cowboy or what?

This man bravely fought and was at the bottom of the hill during the raising of the U-S flag at Iwo Jima. Not bad for a guy who was born in Minnesota and ended up in an orphanage after a family tragedy—and then was raised by a foster family on a farm by Carter down by Mission.

His wife's most cherished artwork is of Jesus cradling a lamb in his arms. And she was glad I always recite the Lord's Prayer at every funeral. As the senior pastor of the largest Lutheran church in Sturgis, I have called to preside over many nonmember funerals out there, but this was by far the biggest!

Now as we move from the manger to the cross in the New Year, I pray we will trust Christ's forgiveness and grace, making 2024 the best ever!

Love them like Jesus, ><> Pastor Kevin

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS



Sunday, Dec. 10 - 2:00 pm

Sturgis Community Christmas Concert
Community Center Theater, Come enjoy choirs from area churches.

Saturday Dec. 16 9:00 am

Please come and join GLCW in the fun of preparing and delivering gift packages for the shut-ins of Grace. We need donations of treats (cookies, candy, caramel corn, etc.) for 25 individuals, and drivers to deliver the goodies. We hope to see you on Dec. 16th at 9am! If you have questions, contact Lynette at 605-499-9320.

Sunday Dec. 17 - 9:00 am

Special Christmas Music Sunday Worship Service
Presenting the musical talents of Grace Lutheran
Children and Musicians.

Blue Christmas at the Presbyterian Church - 4pm

Wednesday Dec. 20-6:30 pm

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday Dec. 24 – 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service
You are invited to join us in this wonderful service.



Serving Grace December 2023

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9:00 AM

Position	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
Greeters (2)	Karrels Family	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Boone & Caron Collins	AM -David & Lydia Gibson PM - Baldwin Family	Lorayne Schaefer & Kenna Schummer
Ushers (4)	Brandy and Doug Nikkila	Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	AM - Dale & Mary Ellen Kreutz PM - Kreutz Family	
Assisting Ministers	Tim Patmore	Kim Webber	Garland Dobler	AM - Tim Patmore PM - Tim Patmore	JD Williams
Lesson Reader (1)	Tim Patmore	Mary Ann Stroschein	Carolyn Ruff	AM - PM -Ethan Dschaak	Blake Williams
Serving Communion	Garland Dobler	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Brandy Nikkila	AM - Bonnie Lange PM - Jared & Andria Williams and Ethan & Shanna Dschaak	Tessa Gunderson
*Coffee Hosts (3)	Robin Baldwin and The Gunderson's	Deb & Bob Haivala and Marcia & Tim Potts	Al & Pam Weidenbach and Ann Bertolotto	NO COFFEE HOUR	
Sunday Acolytes	Lily Meunier and Pate Gunderson	Kaydence and Owen Aldren	Madeline Vliem and Braylee Blakeman	AM - Danny Tedder & Levi McPherson PM - Kwynnlee Meland & Willow Nikkila	Torin Monahan and Christian Pankratz

*Coffee Hosts– please bring 4 dozen cookies each, help set up, serve and clean up. Worship helper instructions are located near the greeters' welcome table.

~ WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE ~

Position	December 6	December 13	December 20
*WNL Meal Hosts	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore
Wednesday Night Acolytes	Danny Tedder and Levi McPherson	Kwynnlee Meland and Willow Nikkila	

December Serving Grace Members

Ateyo, Tim and Tonya
Baldwin, Pat and Robin
Bostrom, Dorothy
Collins, Dan and Caron
Dobler, Ward and Garland
Gunderson, Al and Tessa
Haivala, Bob and Debbie
Heikes, Rod and Shannon
Huntley, Terri

Keeton, Michelle & Jennifer
Lyons, David
Meland, Arvid and Paulette
Molitor, Bill and Sandy
Morgan, Joan
Myers, Tim and Misty
Patmore, Tim and Debbie
Raforth, John and Eileen
Rasch, Deb

Sigman, Ted
Stroschein, Mary Ann
Tucker, Lennie and Katina
Weidenbach, Al and Pam
Williams, Jared and Andria
Wilson, Char
Wolf, Jake and Rosalie
Workentine, Doris
Zeiner, Dan and Ramona

Serving Grace January 2024

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9:00 AM

Serving Grace sign up board is located near the entrance of the church.
If your name is listed below, please sign up for January before December 25th.

Position	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Greeters (1)				
Ushers (4)		Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Dale & Mary Ellen Kreutz
Assisting Ministers				
Lesson Reader (1)				
Serving Communion	Brandy Nikkila			
*Coffee Hosts (3)				
Sunday Acolytes				

Adam, Laura
Aldren, Kelly and Jennifer
Bertolotto, Jerry and Ann
Carlson, Randy &
Petrowske, Denise
Curry, Jarred and Inga
DeKraai, Jeff and Darla
Engebretson, Dave & Jackie
Geppert, Dan and Dawn
Gibson, David & Lydia

Halverson, David & Shirley
Halverson, Sonja
Hurlburt, Mick and Connie
Kaufman, Bob and Marie
Kopren, Darlyne
Kvanvig, Lynette
McPherson, Elizabeth & Luke
Meyer, Gary and Liane
Potts, Tim and Marcia
Rush, Grant

Schaefer, Lorayne
Schummer, Kenya
Selting, Rob and Carmen
Tesch, Bob
Tesch, Norma
Ward, Jeff and Shellie
Whitford, Sue
Williams, J.D. and Michelle



PROJECTOR OPERATORS IN DECEMBER

1st Sunday: Debbie Patmore
2nd Sunday: Deb Haivala
3rd Sunday: Debbie Patmore
4th Sunday: Bob Tesch /
5th Sunday: Michelle Williams

ALTAR GUILD IN DECEMBER

Debbie Patmore and Sheri Boy

HS Youth Group and Confirmation Serve Seniors of GLC Thanksgiving Meal



2023 YEAR TO DATE

OFFERINGS

\$191,416.93

EXPENSES

\$244,445.80

BUDGET

\$213,129.20



NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sundays

Nov 5 - 137

Nov 12 - 127

Nov 19 - 117

Nov 26 - 79

Wednesdays

Nov 1 - 41

Nov 8 - 35

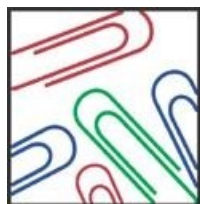
Nov 15 - 40

Nov 29 - 37



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Allen Anderson, Ed Pickar, Graylee Turbiville, Myles Hupp, Ron Monson, Paulette Walker and the family of Teena Sigman.

On-going prayers: Bud Rank, Kelly Collins, Sharon Rank, Jody Wilke, Dale Kreutz, Morgan Myers, Ramona Hultman, Bill Molitor, Ally Tedder, Marcia Potts, Larry Schemmel, Robert Johnson, Joy Conway, Dawn McCarthy, our homebound members and those serving in the military. *(Please notify the office of changes)*



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Deadline to submit items for the January newsletter is *Monday, December 25th.*

Please send your newsletter items to Keri at gracelutheran@rushmore.com.
Let us send you an email with a link to our newsletter when it's posted to our website.
If you are interested, please send your email address to the office at:
gracelutheran@rushmore.com or call Keri at 605-347-2713.

Did you know... Our website contains the weekly worship bulletins, monthly newsletter, sermon broadcast, monthly calendar, Council and Committee minutes, and much more. For a printed copy, see the info rack at the entrance of the church.

Check it out at: www.sturgisglc.org.

See special events on Facebook.



Has your address or phone number changed?

Please let Keri know at 605-347-2713 or e-mail us at gracelutheran@rushmore.com.



Live Nativity

Outlaw Ranch

12703 Outlaw Ranch Rd. Custer. SD. 57730

December 17, 2023

3-7 pm



Outlaw Ranch will be putting on a live Nativity on December 17th from 3-7pm. Activities will include live animals, a baked goods sale, craft fair, and hot cider and cocoa. If you would like to donate baked goods for the event, or assist in the Nativity experience itself, please contact Camp Director, Matt Rusch, at 605-673-1014 or matt@losd.org.

Thank You!

Thank you to my church family for all of your expressions of kindness and caring during the loss of my brother, Darrel Swenson. It means a lot to me. God's blessings to all of you.
~ Lynette Kvanvig

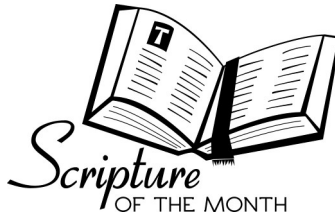
Dear Family of God, We are so thankful for your love, prayer and support during our changes.
God Bless You. ~Believers Fellowship

Thank you to all of the High School Youth and Confirmation students for the delicious Thanksgiving meal. ~ Ruth Mechling

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Thanksgiving meal served by the GLC Youth. And special thanks to all the youth, parents, and families who were able to help serve. ~ Michelle Williams

December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 10

Isaiah 41:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 31

Isaiah 61:10- -62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

9 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

The radio broadcast calendar for 2023 is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the church. You are invited to place your name on the date you wish to sponsor. You may also call the office 347-2713 to reserve a date. The cost per broadcast is \$65. Partial sponsorships are invited and encouraged.

- Dec 3 - Darlene Mullins and Family, in loving memory of Arlie Mullins.
- Dec 10 - Ruth Smit and Family, in loving memory of Jeff Smit.
- Dec 17 - In memory of Mick Hurlburt's sister Carol Fitz.
- Dec 24 - Norma Tesch, in memory of David Tesch's birthday and her niece Caitlain Walsh.
- Dec 31 - Mary Ann Stroschein, in memory of Dale.

Offering Information

Send your offering to PO Box 577,
Sturgis, SD 57785,
or drop off at the church Office
Mon - Fri 8 am - 12 pm / 1 pm - 5 pm

To Use Venmo:

1. Scan the QR code with your smartphone.
2. Login or setup your account (first time only).
3. Make your gift.



**The Red Bucket Ministry
For the 4th Quarter**

**Camp Scholarships
for all 5th Grade Students**

Leave a donation in the Red Bucket located in the back of the church and your donation will help send all of our 5th grade students to summer camp at Outlaw Ranch.





**44th Annual
Sturgis Community
Christmas Concert**

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00 p.m.

**Sturgis Community
Center Theater**

Free Admission

Come enjoy area church choirs
share the music of Christmas.



FALL/WINTER 2023/2024 PLANNED GENEROSITY PROMOS FOR BULLETIN/NEWSLETTER October 8 – March 10

(NOTE: Most of these pieces are not date-specific and may be used whenever time and space permit.)



DECEMBER 3: ***One of the easiest gifts to make.*** If you've decided that generosity should be a part of your estate plan, but don't want to amend your will or trust, a beneficiary change might be the solution. Did you know that you can leave a gift to (insert church name here) with a simple form provided by the company managing your investment account or insurance policy? Call Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota at 605.274.5030 or email lpgsd@sdsynod.org for more information on proper language and how to coordinate your plans to accomplish your wishes.

DECEMBER 10: ***A gift to last a lifetime.*** When you give your family the gift of a carefully thought-out estate plan, your gift is more than the assets you leave behind. It's peace of mind, it's preservation of relationships, and it can be a testament to your faith and values. An envelope containing your promise to make that plan might be the most valuable gift you give this year! Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota can help you walk through the process. Call 605.274.5030 or email lpgsd@sdsynod.org for more information.

DECEMBER 17: ***Endowing Our Future – It's easier than you might think.*** A gift to the (insert name of your endowment fund here) can be made in memory of a loved one or as a part of your own legacy plan, but also in honor of a special birthday, anniversary or even Christmas! Contact the church office or Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota (605.274.5030 or lpgsd@sdsynod.org) for more information.

DECEMBER 24: ***The way we treat people who don't have a place to stay is the best way to describe what the manger means.*** *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* 1 John 3:17-18. With sincere gratitude for your generosity, we wish you every blessing this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Kathy McHenry, Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota, www.lpgsd.org.

DECEMBER 31: ***Can you imagine?*** It's a guessing game, and numbers vary, but many experts state that if everyone made a gift to their local congregation as a part of their legacy plan (anywhere between 2.5% and 10%), there would never be a need to pass an offering plate. Can you imagine? Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota is a free service provided by the SD Synod and ELCA ministry partners across the state to help you create an estate plan honoring your faith and supporting your family. Visit www.lpgsd.org for more information.

your life can make a difference

Kathy J. McHenry, Executive Director
Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota
Augustana University Campus
2001 S. Summit Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Office: 605.274.5030
kmchenry@sdsynod.org

Cell: 605.868.8754
www.lpgsd.org



December

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Bud Rank
Karen Jordan
Brinley Heikes | 12 Bob Haivala | 21 Einar Mortenson
Tyler Selting
Leslie Whitford
Morgan Jost |
| 2 Emily Bertolotto
Leonardo Comperatore | 13 Ella Atyeo | 22 Layton Wilson |
| 4 Emma Ogdahl
Carmen Selting | 14 Dan Boy
Eldon Christians
Marjorie Jutting | 24 Danny Chapman
Chris Koontz |
| 7 Erik Haivala
Gloria Wiedmann | 15 Traeton Monahan
Cody Paul | 25 Corey Aga
Carolyn Stubstad |
| 8 Jeff DeKraai
Brent Lange | 16 Daniel Tedder | 30 Brexten Pudwill |
| 9 Keeley Heikes
Lacey Scherer | 17 Christopher Bergman
Boone Collins | 31 Andrea Collins
Mick Hurlburt |
| 10 Bob Tesch | 18 JD Williams
Jarred Curry | |
| | 20 Hope Reder | |



December

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 18 John & Debra Rasch | 29 Bill & Marie Jones |
| 23 Eldon & Kathy Christians | 31 San & Jen Monahan |

Grace Lutheran News and Events

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Coffee Hour/ Journey with Jesus 10:30 Choir	4 Pastor's Day Off	5	6 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Alive 5 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Supper 6:30 pm HS Youth 6:30 pm WNL Service	7 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Council Meeting	8	9 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
10 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Coffee Hour/ Journey with Jesus 10:30 Choir 2 pm Community Christmas Concert	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 6:30 pm GLCW Exec. Mtg. 7 pm GLCW Mtg.	13 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Alive 5 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Supper 6:30 pm HS Youth 6:30 pm WNL Service	14 9:30 am Bible Study	15 	16 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
17 Christmas Music Sunday 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Coffee Hour/ Journey with Jesus	18 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline	19 5:30 pm Worship Meeting	20 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Dress Rehearsal 5 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Supper 6:30 pm Children's Christmas Program	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship (HC)  5 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 GLCW Circles 1:30 pm Martha/ Rachel Circle 5 pm Mary Circle	27 8:30 am Quilting NO WNL	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship (HC) w/ Pastor Dan Johnson 10:00 am Coffee Hour/ Journey with Jesus 10:30 Choir						