

# January



TOWER  
ECHOES  
2025

Happy New Year!

I will be trying to implement some activities into your prayer and faith life that I learned from our involvement in Faith Forward. We were part of the First Cohort of a five year cohort plan. The directors were leading us but also learning from us what works and doesn't work in their guidance of helping rural churches pass on their faith to the next generation.

I look forward to more fully sharing with you somethings that excited me from the program. What I have found most helpful was occasional zoom meetings that kept me from simply forgetting to think about implementing something from the program. Faith Forward has also helped me not to just glide through the next two years until retirement, but to actively serve my two congregations and God.

What are your plans and goals for 2025? Not New Year's resolutions but plans and goals for 2025. Do you plan to live you life for Christ this Year? What will that plan look like? Will others notice that you are living your life for Christ?

Happy New Year! Joyful Christian Living!

Pastor Jim

**Church Seasons:** The Time After Christmas ends with the Second Sunday After Christmas, January 5. The Epiphany of Our Lord is January 6 and the Time After the Epiphany continues through February. The Wise Men finally find the King of the Jews (Jesus) in Bethlehem 37 days after his birth. The Church Season is a time to search for God's light shining in our lives in ordinary things like stars, babies, family tradition and such.

Church Festival Days: January 1 - Name of Jesus

January 6 - Epiphany of Our Lord

January 12 - Baptism of Our Lord

January 18 - The Confession of Peter

January 25 - Conversion of Paul

January 26 - Timothy, Titus and Silas, Missionaries

U.S. Holidays: January 1 - New Year's Day

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Grace Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

Grace Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025 following worship services. Worship will be a joint service with Hope Lutheran and the time changed to 10:00 a.m.

Lunch/potluck will be provided with the Congregation to bring side dishes – Council to provide meat.

### PIECEMAKERS

The Piecemakers will be meeting **every Tuesday** during the months of January, February and March - **all day**. On January 21st they will be having a Covered Dish Luncheon and on March 11th they will be sharing a Salad Luncheon. Everyone is welcome to join them all or part of the day. Please come and join in the fellowship of making some beautiful blankets for those in need.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st - Les Gerking	13th - Curtis Bohling
Tyllar Roesener	Caleb Eggleston
3rd - Amy Beethe	14th - Brian Wiebke
6th - Amanda Gerking	16th - Brad Medina
Sheridan Thompson	17th - Alexander Perkins
7th - Donna Rosenthal	21st - Kris Gerking
8th - Caleb Walters	23rd - Grant Moles
Kirk Faris	Rodney Roesener
9th - Brady Garday	Lydia Bilsland
Delwin Antholz	25th - Addison Dietz
10th - Nathan Gerking	27th - Jody Wellensiek
11th - Emily Mannschreck	Scott Armknecht
12th - Jodell Bridgmon	28th - Joyce Roesener
31st - Makayla Schippert	



# January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5 <b>8:30 am Worship w/Communion</b>	6 <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>9:30 am Sunday School</b>	7 <b>Piecemakers</b> Blanket Making All Day	8 Kids for Christ 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm	9 2 <i>Happy New Year</i>	10 3	11 4
12	13 Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	14 Piecemakers Blanket Making All Day	15 Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Church Council— 7:15 p.m.	16	17	18 ELCW NSWO Winter Retreat @ St. Paul. Grand Island— 8:30 a.m.
19 <b>10:00 am Joint Worship @ Grace w/ Communion</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>Annual Meeting to follow worship</b> <b>Meal to follow in Church Basement</b>	20	21 Piecemakers Blanket Making All Day Sharing a Covered Dish Luncheon	22 Kids for Christ 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm	23	24	25
26 <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>9:30 am Sunday School</b>	27	28 Piecemakers Blanket Making All Day	29 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	30	31	

## Grace Lutheran Church Council

### December 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Bret Wellensiek at 7:15 pm. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer. Members present were Bret Wellensiek, Sarah Purcell, Robin Eggleston, Cheryl Grundman, Jody Wellensiek, Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken, Church Secretary/Treasurer.

Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. Cheryl Grundman motioned to accept the minutes, Robin Eggleston second. Minutes approved.

#### **The Treasurer's report** was reviewed.

The Treasurer noted that \$760.26 will be charged to memorial account yet for the remaining hymnals. Jody Wellensiek motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Cheryl Grundman second. Motion carried.

#### **Pastor's report:**

Ad approved for the Chieftain for Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve Service.

Reports on visits to shut in's.

The new cranberry hymnal going well. Learning curve to be expected.

Baptism for Raymond Dietz.

Children's program scheduled for 12/22/24 at 8:30 worship time. Christmas Cantata at 7 pm on 12/22/24.

Christmas Eve worship on 12/24/24 at 7 pm.

Confirmation scheduled for 2/16/25 – Kaiden Dorn, 4/27/25 for Kenna Thomas and Samantha Effken.

Annual meeting on 1/19/25 – 10 am joint worship with Hope, meeting to follow.

Linden View worship – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday even months. There may be an opportunity to expand to odd months.

Faith forward discussions involve opportunities to use candles in worships, finding Jesus.

Personnel development goals – Faith Forward, youth ministry, synod involvement.

#### **Correspondence:** Guidelines for Sacramental Practices in a Time of Pastoral Transition or Vacancy.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Property – Brian Mannschreck inspected and oiled the bell mechanism, THANK YOU BRIAN!

Worship, Evangelism Music & Fellowship - Concern with total number of hymnals for holidays. Will copy music for cantata.

Parish Ed and Young People – Melissa and Bret Wellensiek directing Sunday School program – 10 kids involved. Kids for Christ – 15 kids and helpers.

Stewardship and Memorial – Will order name plate for Paul Wilken in January. Annual report will list ideas for memorial money expenditures in next year – matching chairs in basement, photo stand.

**Old Business** – worship duty is complete to end of year.

Budget finalized for 2025 with motion by Robin Eggleston & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah Purcell to approve budget.

**New Business**

Christmas Eve candles/candelabras will be put up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> a 7 pm,

Organist pay schedule approved. \$50 for subs, regular pay adjusted to allow payment.

Report Due dates for Annual report – 12/28/24.

NE Synod Road Show – has asked Grace to host on 4/18/26 from 10 – 3. Area churches invited – council approved by unanimous consent. They have requested lunch be made available.

Annual meeting – January 19, 2025, Worship at 10, meeting to follow. Lunch/potluck will be provided with the Congregation to bring side dishes – Council to provide meat.

Noisy Coin offering approved for Tanzania orphans.

**Other Topics** – Pastor's tentative Retirement is August 2026.

Next meeting date will be January 15, 2025, at 7:15 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Bret Wellensiek and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Wellensiek



***Cultivating Love***

The January theme is Cultivating Love through Peace. We had Hope in December and that hope in God's Son breaking into the world invites us into God's peace. The peace of knowing your sins are forgiven and you can give up your sin, guilt, and shame to God. The peace of knowing the Holy Spirit can help me forgive others, myself, and maybe even God so I can live in God's peace. The peace of finding God in the little things when the big picture of life in the unknown can be scary. One place to find this peace is with our church family.



*Behold*  
I make  
all things  
*new*

*Revelation 21:5*

**May God bless you  
this New Year!**

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