

Current

GET PLUGGED IN!



**COMMUNITY
- of GRACE -**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

gracepeople.church

To Be and Make Disciples

DECEMBER 2023–JANUARY 2024

HELLO

FROM SENIOR PASTOR DARRIN VICK

Dear Friends in Christ,

As one year concludes and another begins, it is a good time to reflect on the past and ponder the future. I like doing this every year, but this year feels different.

We are in an important season for our church, which I believe isn't just about turning the page on a calendar but is more like finishing one book in a series and starting the next book.

You draw from the previous story, and you know the characters, but there is something new and unexpected that awaits you. The last book may have left characters at a crossroads with unfinished business and essential choices.

That feels like the story we are in right now. We are in a season of listening, learning, and discerning as we seek God's preferred future for our congregation.

It reminds me of a verse from Jeremiah 6:16, "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good



way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."

Our rich history has many powerful moments that shaped this congregation — our "ancient paths." We also have new opportunities God will use to shape a bright future — the "good way."

My prayer for you and me is that we will have the wisdom to discern the "good way" and the courage to walk in it.

By Grace Alone,

Senior Pastor Darrin Vick

The Deadline for the February/March Edition of the *Current* is January 10.

REVISED INFORMATION DESK HOURS

SUNDAY	MONDAY-THURSDAY	FRIDAY (NEW)
8:30 a.m.-Noon.	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	8:30 a.m.-Noon
BUILDING CLOSED	NOVEMBER 23 & 24	DECEMBER 25 ^{after service} & 26
		JANUARY 1

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WORSHIP

TWO STYLES

Whoever you are, whatever your story, you are welcome here.

We invite you to slow down, breathe deeply, and open your heart to God. Contemporary Services are modern, informal, and band-led. Our Traditional Services include time-honored hymns and rich liturgical texts.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
(Communion on 1st Sunday each month)

TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

9 a.m. | Sanctuary

STREAM LIVE OR LATER

gracepeople.live

PRAYER FOCUS

In December, we will pray for Finding Joy, and the fruit of the Spirit we seek to grow is Joy. Prayer Champion Joe Ehrman leads us in prayer during worship on December 3.

In January, we will pray for Coping with Life's Season Changes, and the fruit of the Spirit we're seeking to grow is Patience.

Prayer Champions Bill Pratt, Rita Pratt, and Linda Goeppinger lead us in prayer during worship on January 14.

Champions equip the Prayer Chapel with resources around these topics, and Prayer Ministers are in the chapel after worship to pray for you. You are welcome to pray in the chapel any time it is not in use.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PREPARE THE PEOPLE

December 3 | 9 & 10:30 a.m.

LOVE POURS IN: ADVENT

December 3 | 6:30 p.m.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PREPARE FOR THE MESSIAH

December 10 | 9 & 10:30 a.m.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: BEHOLD

December 17 | 9 & 10:30 a.m.

JAMMIE JAM

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 20

6 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

This early Christmas Eve Worship is designed for the littles. Pajamas are encouraged for everyone!

LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31

9 a.m. | Contemporary & Traditional
10:30 a.m. | Contemporary

PRAYERS FOR 2024

SUNDAY | JANUARY 7

9 a.m. | Contemporary & Traditional
10:30 a.m. | Contemporary

SENIOR SERVICES

FIRST WEDNESDAYS:

10 a.m. White Pine
Ecumenical Service of the Word

THIRD WEDNESDAYS:

2 p.m. Boulders
Communion Service

THIRD SATURDAYS:

11 a.m. Shoreview Senior
Bible Study

CHRISTMAS EVE: ALL IS BRIGHT

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24

9 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
Contemporary Worship

9 a.m. | Sanctuary
Traditional Worship
(Livestreamed)

10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
Contemporary Worship
(Livestreamed)

4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Contemporary Worship

4 p.m. | Sanctuary
Traditional Worship

9 p.m. | Sanctuary
Traditional Worship

All services are candlelight services and offer Holy Communion. LED candles are provided for littles. **Nursery is available at 9 and 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 25

10:30 a.m. ONLY | Sanctuary
(No livestream or nursery)

FOURTH THURSDAYS:

10 a.m. Waters of White Bear Lake
Ecumenical Service of the Word

1:30 p.m. Cerenity
Ecumenical Service of the Word

TWO SUNDAYS PER QUARTER:

4 p.m. Waverly Gardens
Ecumenical Service of the Word

Contact: Pastor Mary Ellen
maryellen@gracepeople.church

KIDS

HISKIDS

HISKids is the umbrella for our Children's Ministry where children will grow in faith and learn the heart of God.

HISKids serves infants through fifth grade. **HISKids Sundays** are the main event and drop-ins are always welcome.

Contact: Britta Maly
britta@gracepeople.church



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 17

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

All Sunday School classes are learning and practicing their program parts during HISKids. The rehearsal brings them all together in the Sanctuary to get the real feel for the performance.

Scan the QR Code to RSVP for the service time(s) your kids plan to participate in, download practice videos, and find costuming details!

HISKIDS' REHEARSAL

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16

Check-in by 9:30 a.m. | Sanctuary



Scan for
Christmas
Program
Details

HISKIDS SUNDAYS BEGIN IN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 3 & 10
JANUARY 7, 14, 21, & 28

9 a.m. Sundays

Children grades one through five will join us for the first part of worship before they are released to their HISKids Sunday School teachers.

Children in preschool and kindergarten go directly to their classrooms.



JAMMIE JAM IS BACK!

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 20

6 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Get your holiday PJs ready! Our second annual Jammie Jam is kid-focused Christmas worship featuring a storybook reading of "Itsy Bitsy Christmas" written by Max Lucado.

Lots of wiggle worship here with blankets and birthday cake.

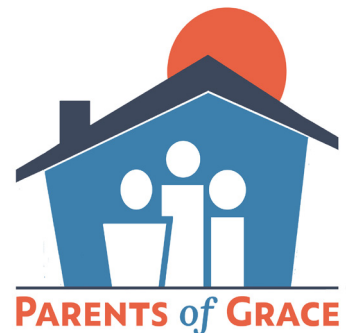


KIDS IN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 24, & 31

9 & 10:30 a.m.

HISKids are usually in Worship on First Sundays throughout the year. There are exceptions, so watch for changes like those we see in December and January.



JANUARY STUDY

SUNDAYS | JANUARY 7, 14, 21, & 28

9:15-10:15 a.m. | Fireside Room

Parents of Grace will meet Sunday mornings in January for a book study of "Grace-Based Parenting" by Dr. Tim Kimmel.

There is an online registration which suggests a \$10 donation to help cover book costs. Books are available for pick-up at the Parents of Grace Library by HISKids check-in. Join us for one or all sessions.

HISKIDS NURSERY

Nursery is available for infants through three-year-olds during the 9 a.m. Worship Services. Please check in at the north end of the Commons.

Contact: Victoria Mathisen
victoria@gracepeople.church

STUDENTS

REFUGE & CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAYS
SEPTEMBER–MAY

6:30–8 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Refuge is the umbrella for activities for students in grades 6–12. It is a safe place for teens to connect and learn how to apply biblical principles to their lives.

Confirmation-Faith Formation is a pathway within Refuge. When you choose to be confirmed, you demonstrate you are a follower of Christ!

Contact Student Ministries Associate Andrew Kelly at andrew@gracepeople.church to inquire about *Refuge* and Confirmation.



REFUGE CHRISTMAS PARTY WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 13

6–8 p.m.

Attention 6th–12th grade students! We're having a Christmas party at Refuge on December 13, so wear your best, ugliest, and tackiest Christmas attire, or kick it up a notch by wearing red and green. Friends are always welcome to attend.



MISSION TRIP 2024 AUGUST 11–16, 2024

We're partnering with BRNC for a Mission Trip in our own backyard this summer! It will be an unforgettable week that you won't want to miss. This event is for current 9th–12th grade students. **Registration is limited, so sign up now to secure your spot!**

THE BIG NIGHT WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 3

6–8 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

In January, we will start The Big Night with a pasta dinner and fellowship together. **There is no advance sign-up for the Big Night in January.**



HS WINTER LOCK-IN

DECEMBER 29–30

9 p.m.–7 a.m. | CGLC

Hey 9–12th grade, you're off for break, so invite all of your friends and come join us for an entire night of non-stop fun! You'll have the time of your life staying up late, eating food, and playing games!

Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up online at gracepeople.church.



REFUGE RISE & SHINE SUNDAYS | 10 AM

10 a.m. | Large Choir Room

This is an awesome Student Ministry gathering on Sunday mornings from 10–10:30 a.m. Each week we will have breakfast treats (like donuts, a cereal station, bagels, etc.) and time for a short activity.

We will not meet December 24 or December 31, but will resume on January 7.



SNOW TUBING WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 7

Green Acres | Lake Elmo

We're going snow tubing at Green Acres for the Big Night! This event is for all students in 6th–12th grades.

The cost is \$18 per person. Please sign up online by February 1.

ADULTS

J.U.L.I.E.T.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 4

11:30 a.m. | Olive Garden
Maplewood

MONDAY | JANUARY 1

11:30 a.m. | Applebee's Vadnais
Heights

Just Us Ladies Informally Eating
Together gathers the first Monday
of the month. **Please sign up at the
Information Desk.**

Contact: Pastor Angie Way
angie@gracepeople.church

R.O.M.E.O.

THURSDAYS

DECEMBER 7 & JANUARY 4

9 a.m. | Perkins on County Rd E

Retired Old Men Eating Out meets
every first Thursday.

Contact: Curt Schneider
curtisschneider@comcast.net

FARE FOR ALL (FFA)

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 8 FRIDAY | JANUARY 12

1-3 p.m. | CGLC Commons

Stretch your grocery dollars
right here on the CGLC campus.
FFA is able to offer groceries at
a 30 to 40 percent discount.
**This program has no income
restrictions.**

CIRCLE LEADER STUDY

THURSDAY | JANUARY 18

3 pm | Community Room

Leaders will study lesson #5.



**JORDAN
MICHAEL**

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 2

1 p.m. | Sanctuary

All are invited to this free event! We
will enjoy a Christmas program in
the Sanctuary with vocalist Jordan
Michael, and then have treats in the
Commons. The event is hosted by
Women of Grace.

Contact: Mary Nell Clemens
idasbaby159@gmail.com

BIBLE STUDY W/ANGIE

DECEMBER 6 & 13

JANUARY 10, 17, 24, 31

4 p.m. | Prayer Chapel

All are welcome at this weekly study
led by Pastor Angie Way.

PICKUP CHOIR

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 10 9 A.M. | SANCTUARY

Please join us for this low
commitment choir opportunity. The
choir will sing "For Unto Us a Child
Is Born" from Handel's *Messiah* at
our Traditional Service.

Rehearsals are:

Wednesday | December 6, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday | December 9, 9 a.m.

Contact: Mark Hanson
mark@gracepeople.church

BAKE SALE

SUNDAYS | DECEMBER 10 & 17

8:30 a.m.-Noon | Commons

Support our ministry partner
Magnuson Christian School while
filling your cooking jar.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16

Morning | Sanctuary

7:30 a.m. Tech run-through
8:30 a.m. Dance Practice
9 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal
9:25 a.m. Sanctuary Choir
9:30 a.m. Worship Band
9:30 a.m. HISKids Check In
9:40 a.m. Cue to Cue run-through
10 a.m. Final song rehearsal with
all groups.
10:15 a.m. HISKids are dismissed
10:15 a.m. Run-through with adults
11:30 a.m. Dismissal

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

NOVEMBER 9-16, 2024

We are heading to the Dominican
Republic (DR) with Mission of Hope
next year! The DR is a neighbor
country of Haiti, and a new home
for many Haitians that have fled their
embattled homeland. Let us know if
you have an interest joining us.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPANT:

\$845.00 plus airfare

NON-MEDICAL TRIP PARTICIPANT:

\$595.00 plus airfare

Contact: Hannah Collins
hannah@gracepeople.church

ADULTS



COMMUNITY PANEL

SUNDAY | JANUARY 7

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Hear from community leaders about the needs they see in our area.

The panel is part of our process to discern the Lord's calling for CGLC. Snacks are provided.

Contact: Mike Mathisen
mike@gracepeople.church



YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL

SUNDAY | JANUARY 14

8 p.m. | Jimmy's in Vadnais Heights

Life is better in community, so let's connect. Please join us for a night of appetizers and hanging out at Jimmy's. This gathering for 18 to 28-year-olds is an excellent opportunity to eat, laugh, reconnect, or make new connections. **Please sign up online at gracepeople.church.**

Contact: Melinda Kern
melinda@gracepeople.church

MINISTRY FUNDING UPDATE: GIVING THROUGH

OCTOBER 31

Though our total giving for 2023 is below budget by \$168,075—**our giving is ahead of 2022 by \$134,199.** Our Year-To-Date expenses exceed our budget by \$18,173.

	2023	2022
BUDGET	\$1,351,208	\$1,250,000
INCOME	\$1,183,133	\$1,048,934
EXPENSES	\$1,368,548	\$1,155,965
DIFFERENCE	(\$185,414)	(\$107,031)

November numbers are in the end of December eNote and Traditional Bulletin.

Mn Adult & Teen Challenge
— CHOIR —
 SUNDAY | JANUARY 28
 ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

CGLC ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY | JANUARY 28
 11:45 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mark your calendars for this very important meeting of our congregation.

CGLC members, please sign in as you prepare to vote so we can establish a quorum before entering the meeting.

Unlike our previous visioning meetings, as per our constitution, voting and participation in the Annual Meeting requires having already committed to membership.

Contact: Mike Mathisen
mike@gracepeople.church

4 WAYS TO HELP PROJECT HOME

- Adopt a Family to provide winter outerwear
- Donate gifts to the Dignity Store so parents can pick out items for their children (see page 4 for details)
- Volunteer as an elf to help parents pick out gifts
- Volunteer to assist children in a craft project while parents are shopping

Contact Donna Franklin
DFranklin@interfaithaction.org

ANNUAL MEETING FUNDRAISING LUNCH

SUNDAY | JANUARY 28

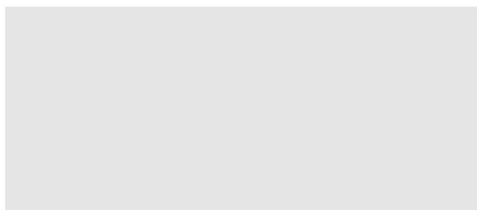
11 a.m.-Noon | CGLC Commons

Refuge Student Ministries will serve a lunch to benefit their summer mission trip. Grab some food after church services before you join us for the Annual Meeting! **Freewill Donation.**

Contact: Melinda Kern
melinda@gracepeople.church

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livestream at: gracepeople.live



TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

