

**Lay Reader Schedule for
December**

Dec. 7 – Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lay Reader: Laura Blom

Dec. 14 – Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lay Reader: Joanne Groves

Dec. 21 – Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lay Reader: Ardie Freeman

Dec. 24 – Holy Eucharist 5:30 p.m.
Lay Reader: Michael Mornard

Dec. 28 – Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
Lay Reader: Kelly Alford



Coffee Servers - December

Dec. 7 – Connie Vicuna
Dec. 14 – Michelle Hotchkiss
Dec. 21 – Wendy Voss
Dec. 28 – Beckie Freeman

***Ushers for December –
Rodney & Beckie Freeman***



*Bishop Tarrant will
be visiting Grace
Church on Sunday,
December 14th. A
brunch will follow
the service.*

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*Grace Church
Christmas Pageant

Wednesday,
December 17,
5:30 p.m.*

*Potluck and party to follow
(An invitation with more information
is inside on the youth page.)*

**Acolyte Schedule
December**

Dec. 7 – Holy Eucharist
**Henry Rubish &
Nick Freeman**

Dec. 14 – Holy Eucharist
**Joey Hotchkiss &
Emma Freeman**

Dec. 21 – Holy Eucharist
**Donika Bjorke &
Cecelia Kleinsasser**

Dec. 24 – Holy Eucharist
**Audrey Rubish
& Jena Alford**

Dec. 28 – Holy Eucharist
Patrick & Will Burns

VESTRY will meet on
Tuesday, December 16th,
at 7:15



Notes from Mother Jean...



*In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on
snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.*

I've always loved that poem by Christina Rossetti, which we sing faithfully every Christmas season (and sometimes earlier, as I struggle to find Christmas carols to sing during Advent which won't rush the season too badly.) I'm sure there was a time when I rather skeptically thought that midwinters aren't all that bleak in Bethlehem in December. There wouldn't be any earth as hard as iron or water like a stone, and it is far more likely to rain than having snow falling, snow on snow.

And yet, for all of those meteorological facts, there is truth in these lyrics. Advent, although less bleak than Lent, is a time of waiting. It's a time of anticipating the first rays of dawn after a long night. It's a time of hoping for the first warm day of spring, even though it's far off yet. Advent contains our entire spiritual journey in four brief weeks, and if we're too distracted by the season, we may miss it.

During Advent, we joyfully await the birth of our Savior. We anticipate God touching the earth in a way that is unprecedented in

its love for us. But to anticipate Jesus' birth is also to anticipate his crucifixion. And then again, to anticipate his death is to anticipate his rising from the dead and living again, which, in turn, anticipates our own resurrection, promised to us at our Baptism. And to anticipate that, is to anticipate the coming of the Kingdom of God at the end of time.

Take time this Advent to savor the journey. Take time to anticipate. Take time to think about the cataclysmic in-breaking of God into our world and into our lives, in the form of a tiny, helpless little baby, and take time to think about what this means in your lives, not just at Christmas, but all year long. Take time....

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him –
Give my heart.*

Give Jesus your heart this Advent and Christmas! Pray for peace in the world and good will among all peoples, and may God abundantly bless you and your families in this joyous season and always.

Love,

Mother Jean



DECEMBER

Wednesday, Nov. 26

No Episcopalooza
Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Senior Youth Bell ringing
Coborn's & Kmart 2-3:30
Episcopalooza & Practice
6:30 - 7:45.

Eat supper before you come; dessert
at church.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Senior Youth Bell Ringing
Fair City & Coborn's
3:30 to 5:00

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Pizza & Pageant Practice
5:30 to 6:30
Salvation Army Community Service
6:30 to 7:30

Sunday, Dec. 14

Bishop's Visit & Holy Eucharist
9:30

Wednesday, Dec. 17

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & PARTY

5:30-7:30

Kids meet at the church after school.
We'll have games, toons, snacks & a
final dress rehearsal. Angel Choir
members can come around 5:00 or
5:15.



**Lower Brule
Boys & Girls Club
Wish List**

Each year, the Episcopalooza Kids collect
donations to purchase gifts for the youth of
Lower Brule. If your family would like to
make a contribution, please bring it to
Episcopalooza or leave it in the office
marked "Lower Brule".

Sunday School

Sunday School is every Sunday morning
from 9:20 until 10:15. All children, ages
Pre-K through 6th grade, are welcome to
attend. Mrs. Zeyna Kleinsasser is the
teacher. She can be reached at 352-4050, if
you have any questions.



Dear Members of Grace
Church,

It's time for the Grace
Episcopal Church Christmas
Pageant, which will be held on
Wednesday, December 17th, at 5:30.

As always, we would love to have help in
the kitchen.

Most importantly, you can encourage our
youth and help our church flourish by
making this beautiful Grace Church
Christmas tradition a part of your week.

Join us for the pageant and stay for the
potluck afterward. Please bring a large
dish to pass and some Christmas goodies,
too.

We hope to see all of you!



Lower Brule Boys and Girls Club Wish List:

Crayons -- preferably Crayola
 Markers -- many & multiple colors
 Dry Erase Markers
 Electronic games
 Games for X box
 Rubber bands & looms for making bracelets

And, of course, \$\$\$\$ so that I can purchase oranges and apples for them at Christmas. Tonya, Director of B & G Club, says these are a true hit. Along with the fruit, I usually purchase hot chocolate mix, apple cider and a few mixed nuts. Please give your donations to me by December 12th.

Thank you. Joanne

Epiphany Guild

The Guild will meet for dinner at The Hangar on Monday, December 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

Our recent UTO Sunday was very successful. Your thankful giving resulted in gifts of \$255.36. Thank you to everyone for supporting the United Thank Offering!

Sherry VanDoren
 UTO Chairman

December Birthdays, Anniversaries & In Memorium

- 2 Eli Ries (B)
- 3 McKenna Lichty (B)
- 4 Donna Edwards (I.M.)
- 5 Robert Lincoln (I.M.)
- 7 Donika Bjorke (B); Dean Engel (I.M.)
- 8 Matthew Voss (B)
- 9 Jayden Engel (B); Mavis Clark, Edith Webster (I.M.)
- 11 Jackie Bjorke, Byron Severtson, Vern Tate (B)
- 12 Danielle (McDonald) Spain (B); Elizabeth Sauer (I.M.)
- 13 George Turner, Robert Lusk (I.M.)
- 14 Bailey Engel (B)
- 15 Madeline Kleinsasser, Carrie (Wheeler) White (B); Helen Neiffer (I.M.)
- 16 Marla Lichty, Greg Gogolin (B)
- 17 Sheri Kopka (B)
- 20 Shana (Severtson) Ries, Terron Thomas (B); Dell Boyd (I.M.)
- 21 Danielle Hauck (B); Bertha Lampe, Mary Lampe (I.M.)
- 24 Shaun Klinger (B); Lloyd Avery, Willis Engel, Pearl Woledge (I.M.)
- 25 Genevieve Fuglsang, Walter Edwards (I.M.)
- 26 Mary Jepsen (B)
- 27 John Clark (B)
- 28 Kathryn Wilcox (B)
- 31 Roy & Marjy Milliken (A)



VESTRY MINUTES – Nov. 18, 2014
(unapproved)

The Grace Episcopal Church Vestry met with the following members present: Mo. Jean Mornard; Marla Lichty, Sr. Warden; Douglas Bjorke, Jr. Warden; Marie Wheeler, Treasurer; Dean Kleinsasser; and Connie Vicuna.

Mo. Jean opened the meeting with a prayer.

Rector's Report: Mo. Jean reported on her recent trip to CREDO conference at Canton, Mississippi. The purpose of this conference was retreat for ministers to avoid burn-out, discuss church pension clergy retention. Most of the expenses for this trip were covered by the Church Pension Fund. Mo. Jean did use \$100 of the continuing education fund to attend.

Sr. Warden: Nothing to report.

Jr. Warden: Doug reported that he cleaned the gutters and found 3 holes in the roof. He patched them with flex seal days later on a sunny day, all before the snow came. The lights on the poles out front are on all the time, due to the fall decorations. The parish hall furnace needed a new circuit board and ignitor; the furnace was inspected and is in good shape. With the recent snow falls, come snow removal expenses.

Old Business: Tony Jones was here to hunt and preach on Sunday, November 16th. His sermon was on the emerging church movement. His hunting was successful with Jorge Vicuna.

Safe Church Update: Dean reported he is

checking on the supplies needed to install a window in Mo. Jean's office door.

Stewardship Report: 22 pledges have been received, lost 2 from last year, gained 1 new pledge, and more pledges to come in.

Sarah will schedule the sanctuary carpet cleaning.

New Business: The 2015 proposed budget was discussed.

The 2015 vestry members: Two vestry member's terms are up, Joanne Groves and Cheri Bjorke. Joanne Groves has indicated she would continue on the vestry as the Sr. Warden, so there will be 2 seats open on the vestry.

The Lower Brule outreach visit will be soon after December 12th; donations of items or money are to be given to Joanne Groves by the 12th.

Mother Jean reported on the change in liturgy and colors for Advent Rite 1; she received blue vestments from someone at the cathedral. The Advent wreath must be hung by November 29th. Bishop Tarrant is scheduled to visit on Sunday, December 14th. There will not be a Christmas Day service.

Next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, December 16th at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Bjorke, Clerk



December is Grace's month to donate to the **Salvation Army**. Each week we will call for different items:

Week 1 – Paper Goods

Week 2 – Boxed Food

Week 3 – Canned Food

Week 4 – Personal Items

Leave your donations (in bags or boxes if they're small) at the back of the church by the Christmas tree—thank you!

When our Grace's families receive the *ChurchNews* every other month, it costs the church \$5 per subscription per year. In an effort to reduce our expenses, you have the opportunity to receive the *ChurchNews* on the diocesan website. If you would like to do so, we will send your e-mail address to the diocesan office, which will in turn notify you on the first of every other month when it is available. Also, if you do not wish to receive the *ChurchNews* either by e-mail or hard copy, let us know that as well. Please let us know of any changes as soon as possible – thank you!

Don't Forget..

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH. IF YOU ARE E-MAILING, PLEASE SEND IT TO THE CHURCH (graceepiscopal@g.com) AS WELL AS TO MARIE (rmwheeler@hur.midco.net)—THANKS!

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KINDERNOOK CORNER

Preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday was lots of fun, and the children looked so precious in their Pilgrim hats and Native American headbands, feasting on food galore. We hope you and your family enjoyed a Thanksgiving filled with happiness!

With our "Caring and Sharing" Food Drive, we were able to donate many wonderful items to our local Salvation Army.

Our Christmas Program will be held on the evening of December 18th at 7:00 pm. Both classes will celebrate the season with a Christmas Party on Monday, December 22nd.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!