

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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<http://www.gracelutheranwinnipeg.ca/>



DECEMBER 2011

Sun Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18; 7:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer - contemplative service of music, readings, silence and prayer.



Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 3:30/5:30/7:30 candlelit service.  
singing carols and celebrating the birth of Christ!

Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Carol Service with Holy Communion

Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 10:00 a.m.

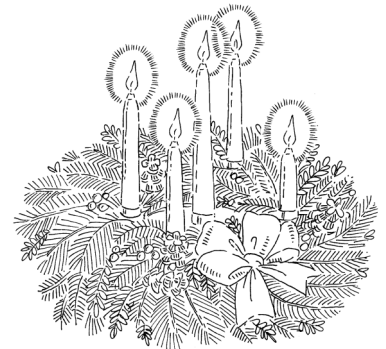
**“The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2)**

One of the things that graces our worship space as we prepare for Christmas is our Advent wreath. The evergreens on both our wreath and the tree remind us of the eternal life that we have in Jesus Christ. Throughout the four Sundays of advent we light yet another candle, while all the world around us is literally going dark we are reminded of Christ the Light breaking into the darkness of the World.

The advent wreath is a contribution of the German and Scandinavian traditions. There are many traditions associated with the advent wreath that use different colored candles and different words associated with each candle. At Grace we have used blue candles which symbolize hope. As well during this celebration of advent the four candles are Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy.

My prayer for you and yours is that you would have a Blessed Christmas. And that you would receive the Peace, Hope, Love and Joy that God Brings in the babe of Bethlehem.

*Christmas Eve*



Peace, Pastor Bruce

## HOW AND WHEN TO SHARE FAITH

“And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” Luke 18: 8b

This piece of scripture is one that gets me thinking in the wee small hours of the night. It bothers me. It makes me wonder: When Jesus comes; will he see and be able to identify faith on earth? What does faith even look like? I wonder if it's possible for many to give a definition that doesn't include “good works.” *The Book of Concord* states in a couple of places that faith is something divine which human reasoning cannot understand. Then I start thinking, what does it mean to share your faith with someone? What's the first thing that comes to your mind?

For some, it is a matter of conversion (either your own or actively converting someone else), but faith-sharing doesn't need to be about converting the masses, or even just that one guy who stands in front of you every morning waiting for his “Triple Espresso Shot Venti Cappuccino with Whole Milk and extra foam...” in the Starbucks line while reading a very well-worn copy of “Finding Your True Purpose in Life”.

Faith-sharing is about two or more people sharing experiences about their relationship with God. It is the conscious decision to become aware of God's Presence in the events of their lives; their struggles to believe in God's Presence; the ways in which they have responded to or resisted God's Presence in their lives; places of suffering, confusion, or joy that have been the entry point for their prayer. It is grounded in humble acceptance of the truth that each of us is a person honoured and loved by God and that God is present and active in all of our lives. It assumes the belief that God often chooses to minister to us through the sharing and support of others.

Faith sharing is a big part of being Lutheran. We have Evangelical in our church body's title. To be evangelical is to take on the role of community, fellowship, and to actually talk about the Gospel, or even to let Gospel do the talking.

When we tell our story as it is connected to God's story, we are sharing our faith. Faith that is a free gift from God in our lives, that draws us closer to God and to the people around us. Participating in a conversation about faith and God, we encourage an

opportunity for the Holy Spirit to create and strengthen faith in us, in the people we are talking with, and in the whole of creation. Such a gift, that draws us all closer to God, ought to be spread abundantly. And we can all help in that process.

Rather than making a resolution, I would like to encourage you to take some time in this New Year to think about your own faith story. The following list can help make it as simple or as elaborate as you want. In taking a little time to do this as time with God, you will come to identify God's work in your life and in the lives of those around you. It is amazing to me how often we forget to name the times when we see God at work. Witnessing to these event-filled times is evangelical. Sharing Gospel and sharing Faith.

### Get Comfortable with Your Story

1. Take some time to do a map or timeline of the recent years in your life. Note both the good times and the bad, the significant events, memorable times, significant relationships, and changes.
2. Reflect on how you perceive that God was present in the events of your time line.
3. In your eyes did anyone in your life demonstrate or reflect the love of God to you?
4. Do you see God at work today differently than in previous years?

Think about what you know about God's story and how you describe the presence of God.

1. What is your favourite Bible story? What are some of your favourite Bible verses?
2. What do you know about the life of Jesus?
3. What do you recall of the stories of any of the key people in the Bible?

Recall any times in your life that a person shared a story about the presence of God.

Clarify what you know about God.

1. How do you describe God? (Creator, lover, father, spirit, redeemer, mother, etc.)
2. How would you describe Jesus? (Forgiver, healer, teacher, saviour, Lord etc.)
3. How would you describe the Holy Spirit? (Comforter, advocate, living power of God, breathe of God etc.)

Intern Pastor Zsófi



# SOCIAL MINISTRY

“...so that you become an example to all the believers”  
1 Thessalonians 1:7....and to non-believers as well.

The work of Social Ministry reveals the love of Christ through its work with those in need. Doesn't matter who they are and what they are struggling with. People who are in emotional pain and/or have day to day living challenges find that this time of year is the worst to get through. We can make it a little easier.

## GRACE FOOD BANK

The food bank tries to give food bank patrons that little extra during the Christmas season. Please donate food to the food bank and consider signing up with Ralph Feniuk to help pick up food, prepare food, or help on food bank mornings.

## CLWR

You picked up the pamphlet in your mailbox in November and saw the WeCare kits on Nov 20 at the Social Ministry Committee info booth. Spread some love around the globe during this season. See Kathy Teetaert or Ruth Anderson about these CLWR opportunities.

## NEST

Once each year, Grace Social Ministry Committee organizes a pot luck fundraiser for North End Sponsorship Team, who sponsors and helps refugees settle in Winnipeg. There are some active Grace members who do NEST work. We are now looking for someone (or two) to take an organizing role for this annual event held at Grace with proceeds going to NEST. Of course, the Social Ministry Committee and Grace NEST members would be a guiding, helpful force that would participate in making it happen...as always...Anyone interested, please see Doreen Thorlacious, Ernest Bergbusch or Claudia Eisbrenner.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Please sign up to feed hungry school kids breakfast at Prince Edward Elementary School. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex...If the sign up sheet is full, check with someone who is on the list if you can share the task...

## COOKIE CARING COMMITTEE

These guys are always looking for folks to do some extra special visiting to those isolated and shut in. This would be a great time of year to reach out to someone who is feeling pretty alone in the world right now. Check with Karen Colquhoun.

## STAMPS FOR CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

You know all those Christmas cards? Cut off the stamps and put them in the box in the Narthex....over by the drinking fountain...

Thanks to everyone who are offering their time, talents, and resources during this challenging time of year. Thinking of others is really what it is about...become a living example....  
Yours in Christ,

## TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Christmas Party Dec 10.

Christmas dinner will be served to 50 families and children 13 and under will receive a Christmas present. The Food Pantry relies on the generosity of Metro congregations especially at Christmas to cover the cost of the gifts (average \$25), the turkey dinner and the Christmas hampers.

Make cheques payable to Grace Lutheran Church and designate for Trinity Food Pantry.

## MITTEN TREE

See that wooden tree like thing in the Narthex with yarn and mittens? The Grace Seniors put that out. If you knit, grab some yarn and make some mittens. If you are like I am (inept at all things householdy/crafty), you can buy mittens and put them on the tree by Dec 12) They will be collected and added to the Christmas Hampers.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

On Nov 27 our church collected gifts of food and donations of money for Christmas hampers that will be distributed to needy individuals and families in the community. Donations are still gratefully accepted as hamper delivery is scheduled for Tues, Dec 20. This year we expect to distribute 14 hampers.

We are asking for donations of the following non-perishable food items: juice, canned soup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, jelly powder, pork and beans, spaghetti (pkg.), pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, rice, oatmeal, canned tuna, sugar (2kg), scalloped potatoes (pkg.) gravy mix, cookies, jam, peanut butter, pancake mix, candy, tea and coffee. Where possible, donated items reflect a "healthy choice" i.e. more fibre, less salt. Food items may be placed in the boxes at the display table in the narthex. Donations of money will be used to purchase perishable food items such as frozen turkeys, milk, eggs and fruit as well as toys.

Cheques should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church and placed in an envelope marked "Christmas Hampers."

Volunteers are needed for delivery of hampers on the evening of Dec 20. If you are able to help, please contact Jeff or Marla Barron either in person or at 254-8745, or by email at barronj@shaw.ca.



## MONTHLY MEAL SERVICE AT THE URBAN

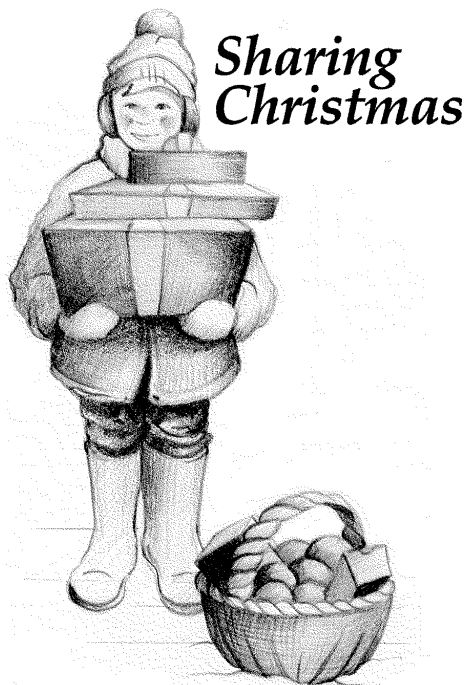
Grace continues to host a monthly meal service at the Urban Mission. By the end of October the Urban reported that they have served over 10,000 meals in 2011. Wow, to think that we are a part of this. As a Congregation we have truly embraced the spirit of helping others through service. Social Ministry has already begun planning to continue the Meal Service in 2012 and into 2013. Please check the bulletin board by the library to find out our next service days. Thank you to all the volunteers who have served through out the year. We continue to make a difference.

## RUN FOR THE URBAN

The "Run for the Urban" is all about raising the funds to support our ministry in food service at the Urban Mission. We are hoping to raise \$2,000 in personal pledges over the coming year to pay for Food and Food Preparation for the Urban Meal Service hosted by Grace in 2011 and 2012. All donations to the "Run for the Urban" will be tracked and reported through the Church Office and added to your annual tax receipt.

How does it work? Ron Hermann has committed to run 1 kilometre for each dollar pledged. Good News is that he has a whole year to complete the run. All his time running outside and on a treadmill will be tracked and he will report back to those who have pledged on his progress and he will post his ongoing results on the bulletin board. If you want to make a pledge you can either track Ron down or you can put an envelope in the offering plate. Make sure you label it with "Run for the Urban" and of course your name information. We want to keep you up to date as to his progress and when he has completed your kilometre pledge.

Thanks for fantastic support we have already been given.



## CLEARING OUR VISION 2011 UPDATE

On Sat, Oct. 1, 2011, 38 members of Grace gathered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Clearing Our Vision event. Clearing Our Vision is primarily a Dreaming, Planning, and Goal Setting event and this year, our focus was on Learning, Growing, and Living our lives according to God's will. We started the morning with a wonderful breakfast and then each of the 7 groups represented gave a brief presentation about who they are and what they do. The 7 groups were Witness, Worship, Learning, Youth, Property, Social Ministry, & Stewardship. Following the presentations, all those present attended one of the work group sessions to do some dreaming about what these groups could become and then set some clear goals for the coming year. A summary of each group's goals are available to view at the "What's New" section on the Grace Lutheran Website ([www.gracelutheranwinnipeg.ca](http://www.gracelutheranwinnipeg.ca)). If you would like to see the details behind these summaries, please contact the appropriate group or committee chairperson or anyone from the Stewardship Committee.

Feedback from those attending the 2011 Clearing Our Vision event was very positive in terms of the timing and content covered during this 3.5 hour morning session. The one regret that was almost unanimously echoed was that only 38 people attended and very few young people were present. "How can we get more Grace members and youth to attend?" was a common comment on the feedback forms that participants completed.

It's never too early to plan so I'd ask everyone to mark Sat, Sept 22, from 8:30 to noon on your 2012 calendars as the time you will attend Clearing Our Vision 2012. Grace Lutheran is YOUR CHURCH and for Grace Lutheran to effectively minister to the needs you feel are important, your input is required.

May God Bless you all!  
Rick Schindel

## NEEDED: FOOD BANK DRIVERS



Biweekly Grace Food Bank distributes food to 20 families. This food is picked up at Winnipeg Harvest and then distributed to the clients. This pickup requires 2 vans or SUV's to bring all the food to the church.

If you have such a vehicle, can give 2-3 hours every 2nd Thursday afternoon and are able to help with carrying of food, Mike Colquhoun would very much like to speak with you.

Please contact Mike at 667-1076 for further information or to volunteer your services for this essential segment of the Grace Food Bank.

## CONFIRMATION

### Gr. 7, 8, 9 - Mission component Dec 13 & 14

6 pm at the church to go to the Christmas Cheer Board to deliver Christmas hampers to the needy in Winnipeg. Everyone is welcome. Parents please come with your children to deliver!

Parents/Children –please refer to the schedule for confirmation, mailed in July to see which classes you need to take. Call Karen at church 661-2562 if you have any questions.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Sunday School children will be singing as part of the worship service for the four Sundays in Advent. The ages 3, 4 and 5 sang on Sun Nov 27. Sure hope you saw What a wonderful job they all did.

Sun Dec 4 Gr. 1 - 6 will sing followed by the Gr. 7, 8 and 9 on Sun Dec 11. Dec 18, fourth Sunday in Advent will feature all the children together! They will sing during the usual time of the children's message

**Christmas RIOT** during Sunday school on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a time when we all gather for a message, a song, a game, a craft and a snack. It is a time of group fellowship! It takes place from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. ALL Sunday school children are welcome!

Parents/Children please note there will be NO Sunday School on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> or Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Parents/Children – please email in your email address to the church ( glchurch@mymts.net) so we can save on postage and paper. It will also cut down on all the phone calls that need to be made. How much easier it would be to just send a group email update.



## WINTER OUTING

Planned date is February 26  
Mark your calendars!

Watch for posters and ticket sales for the super-fun winter outing.



## GRADES 4 - 6

### Christmas Party

Come celebrate the birth of Christ!

Sunday, December 18, 2-4 pm

Friends are welcome

Call Amy Northcliffe 222 9470 with any questions or to RSVP

## YOUTH NEWS

Christmas is quickly approaching! We the youth have had a great Fall season! There have been a few new faces at Youth on Friday nights. We love to see them! Grade 7's are starting to come more frequently and we have loved having them around! The more the merrier!



### Poinsettia Sale

Fund raising for the next Youth Gathering in 2012 in Saskatoon.

Youth and Parents watch for registration forms for the annual February MNO retreat. Forms will be available on the Youth Bulletin Board. This year we will be off to Steinbach, MB.



Dec 2nd - TBA, keep listening for details.

Dec 9th - Tobogganing/Swimming depending on weather. Meeting place is TBA

Dec 16th - Mall gift exchange at St. Vital Centre. Meet @ St. Vital at 6:30, pick up from the mall at 8:45

Dec 23 and 31 No Youth.

## OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES!

Ann's little boy Tim went out to play one day with the neighbourhood children. He came in the house an hour later quite upset. Ann asked Tim what had happened and he told her that the other children were being mean and picking on him. Ann hugged him and said "Now Tim you know what to do". Tim replied "I remember what you told me Mom but I am running out of cheeks".

## DINNER AND A STUDY



Our annual dinner and a study is scheduled for seven Wednesdays beginning on Wed Jan 11 through to Feb 22. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the studies will follow at 7:30 p.m. Our goal is to have four study opportunities and we would like to encourage you to attend.

Some time in December there will be sign up sheets in the entry way to our church. A menu will also be provided for you to sign up and contribute food for one of the evenings. Please remember to save your bills and you will be reimbursed. A free will offering basket helps cover the cost of meals.

All the studies have not been finalized. However to peak your interest one study opportunity will be based on the book "Giving To God" written by Mark Allen Powell from the Lutheran Seminary in Columbus Ohio.

Another study will be offered for our youth, the curriculum used is confirmation based and is aimed at Junior High aged students. More information on these and other studies will be forthcoming as we finalize details but for the time being mark these seven Wednesday evenings off on your calendar.

At this year's Dinner and A Study, Intern Pastor Zsófi will be providing a bible study on Single Role Models in the Bible. There will be times for reading, sharing, and personal reflection. Discussion will cover the person's life, how they lived for God, and what it means for people today. You don't have to be single to attend, just interested in how to lift up the life of a single person in the midst of a partnered world.

Companionship, Fellowship, Partnership. There are a lot of parts of the Bible that call all of humanity to seek each other out, to seek a partnership with someone. In fact, most of the famous biblical figures that come to mind are couples: Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Joseph, etc. The scriptures that speak about the importance of companionship are, in fact, very important, but what does all of this mean for a "single person"? What does it mean for a single person to live a life dedicated to God?

Our very culture leads us to believe in the importance of getting married. Being "single" can become a stumbling block, a stigma, or result in *third-wheel syndrome* – where you never feel as though you belong or are a part of something important. Singleness comes in all shapes and styles. There are people who are single: by choice, or by circumstance; by divorce; by separation from family; through death; and still other ways. And there are a great number of role models in the Bible who can show how to find meaning in being single. They also point to hope and give advice on how to live a good life with God.

## NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

As we approach our annual meeting on Sun Feb 12, 2012 the Nominating Committee is looking to fill some positions on church council. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider serving in a leadership role and to respond positively if and when you are approached. A big part of what the nominating committee does is to brain storm the names of those in whom we see the gifts for a particular area of ministry and we try to match those gifts with ministry here at Grace. In other words if you are approached it means that we have identified gifts in you. The sad reality is that we are still looking for a Witness Chair, a Learning Chair and a Second VP to fill out last year's council. Yes you read that correctly, "to fill out last year's council" the council of 2011. Part of the reality is that people are busy. The other part of the reality is that from time to time council is called on to make hard decisions and I think this scares off some people. However some of the positive things about being on church council that we fail to mention is the camaraderie that develops between the members of council. It is a good way to get to know some of the members of Grace. It is also comforting to know that we are answering God's call to be a servant and a positive response brings with it a sense of satisfaction. If you feel called to serve you may want to approach one of the staff or a council member and let your intentions be known.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

One of the strong foundations for Grace Lutheran Church has always been the sharing of musical talents. We regret that Lorelie and Sarah have decided not to continue as Choral leaders of our choir. Thank you both for all your efforts and support in organizing a great musical program. We will work hard to continue to grow with the enthusiasm for music you have both nurtured and inspired in our Congregation. We hope you will continue to share your musical talents with our community.

## CHORAL DIRECTOR



At the time of the writing of this newsletter a time line for review, advertising, interviewing and hiring a choral director has not been put in place. We will make every effort to keep the congregation informed in regard to the time line and process.



## "Grace under Fire"

a military recruiting comical play with a message. The play reads like it will be a lot of fun. As you may know Dinner Theatre takes a lot of time and energy but it is a very wonderful and rewarding way to spend time with other members of Grace. We become very close, kind of like a family.

**March 9, 10 and March 15, 16 and 17, 2012.**

This includes two weekends. Friday and Saturday have always been the most popular so these dates make the most of this. We were almost sold out last year so have also added another performance. This makes 5 performances for this year our 8<sup>th</sup> year of Dinner Theatre!

Tickets go on sale Jan 29<sup>th</sup> between services and after second service.

Make arrangements with your family and friends to come, have a great meal and a good laugh

**Auditions** will be held Sun Dec 4<sup>th</sup> noon to 2:30 in the Fireside room.

The next audition time is Wed Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 7 to 8 pm for those unable to come on Sunday

Please let Karen Colquhoun or Dennis Teetaert know if you are coming especially on Wednesday or just show up and surprise us!

Everyone is welcome to audition and there will be a part for all.

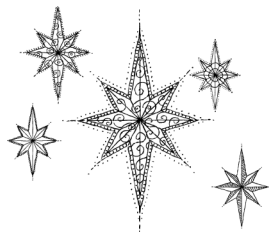
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

as of October 31, 2011

2011	2010
Revenues	
\$295,702	\$287,252
Expenses	
<u>\$294,598</u>	<u>\$292,788</u>
Income / (loss)	
\$1,104	(\$5,536)

Grace's financials are looking positive - revenues are up approximately 3% over 2010 which is allowing revenues to cover expenses putting the church in a good position to end the year positively.

Adelle Fenn, Treasurer



## KIMBERLY GRACE SENIORS

Dec 7 - 12:15 Bible Study  
1:00 Meeting - Oct/Nov/Dec Birthdays

Dec 14 12N Christmas Party

Meetings resume January 11, 2012  
Have a safe & happy holiday season.



## Bible Readings for the Month

**Advent 2 Sun Dec 4, 2011**

Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; Mark 1:1-8

**Advent 3 Sun Dec 11, 2011**

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

**Advent 4 Sun Dec 18, 2011**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27  
Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; Luke 1:26-38

**Christmas Eve Dec 24, 2011**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14  
Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

**Christmas Day Dec 25, 2011**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4  
Psalm 98; John 1:1-14

**New Year's Day Jan 1, 2012**

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



## **KILN-FORMED GLASS ALTAR, AMBO & BAPTISMAL FONT**

### **Building Strength in Community**

I believe that Grace Lutheran Church personifies the building of strength in the community. With each and every visit, I have been struck by the accepting and community strength that thrives here.

Winnipeg artist George W. Shannon has utilized kiln-formed and cast glass techniques to create a bespoke installation featuring the altar, ambo and baptismal font at Grace Lutheran Church.

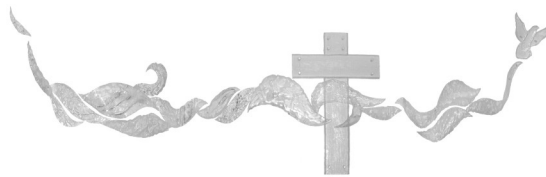
The artist explained that he is fascinated with glass, and has a particular affinity for kiln-formed glass, because visually the glass lends itself to displays of fluid, watery-like characteristics. The resulting transparency suggests a sense of timelessness. This combined with light, shape and form encourages the observer to interpret the installation in a personally meaningful way.

Observers of the Building Strength in Community installation will notice the use of trees and their arching branches that sweep and encircle one another in the imagery. Trees, a reoccurring theme in the work of the artist, are very symbolic. Deep roots represent a connection to what we deem to be the foundations in our lives; the trunk – our own strength and fortitude. Branches signify opportunities, choices and challenges, all of which we approach with faith. As a whole, the tree is a reminder about the importance of nurturing, the passing of time, and the many branches or paths we encounter in our lives. Reminiscent of the importance of a community whose roots run deep, trees display a quiet luminosity and purity of form – small saplings grow unabashedly alongside mature, majestic trees whose branches bend to offer shelter and support.

This installation, Building Strength in Community, is unquestionably about the importance of unwavering faith, purity, and beauty. I am deeply honoured to have been asked to create a visual representation of this community's faith. I thank the community of the Grace Lutheran Church for this privilege and especially for its shared spirit of grace.

### **Ambo**

On the ambo, weathered hands are clasped together in prayer. The blemished, imperfect hands are those of a person who has endured hardship, depicting a common experience. On either side of the praying hands, kiln formed shapes represent the wind that is ever-present, challenging our faith.



### **Altar**

The imagery used in the altar piece features trees, trees that are grouped densely together representing the greater community. At the center, a translucent cross is suggestive of our faith that remains at the fore-front supporting us. Internal lighting has been incorporated into this piece to alter the hue of the glass, making it reminiscent of the changing of the seasons.

Looking beyond the altar, observers will notice a ribbon of glass appearing from the heavens. This ribbon represents the wind's gentle embrace of the cross before it travels skyward, to transform into the shape of a dove. The accompanying dove represents one of Christianity's most enduring symbols; its simple white form exuding purity and peace. There is a gentle suggestion of the Holy Communion through the imagery of grapes and wheat. In this installation, wind is representative of the everyday toil and troubles we all encounter. Here, the wind swirls around the cross. The cross represents faith; and it is through our faith that the cross symbolizes our strength and center.

### **Baptismal Font**

The baptismal font is comprised of three sections representing the holy trinity with the tree's branches extending upward to support the vessel. The vessel has a nest-like quality that cocoons the soul with faith. Again, the essence of purity is evoked through the presence of a white dove.

by George W. Shannon





Our Thoughts & Prayers are with... Brett Adam / David Allen / Lauré Balogh / Melanie Bauer / Emily Bay / Edna Boehler / Sue Boyce / Sharon Bretecher / Guy Brisson / Rolly Burnet / Eleanor Conn / Ed Deibert / Mary Deibert / Millie Deibert / Eric Derby / Joyce Dietrich / Oscar Domke / Lori Ebbeling-Treon / Barbara Feakes / Reinhard Fershau / Helen Flatt / Elsie Frank / Jane Goodall-George / Theresa Gutwein / Stephanie Hawkins / Martha Heckert / Kay Hendricks / Chantal Jenin / Audrey Johnstone / Russell Johnstone / Kay Kelln / Daniella Kendel / Dale Kergen / Frank Koesters / Louise Kohlmeier / Bob Leeson / Bernie Lemanski / Ruby Lotz / Rose Manning / Sidney Matthes / Mervin Mauthe / Brad McDougall / Sarah Megyeri / Terry Miller / Gord Moore / Peter Neufeld / Jackie Petrilli / Conrad Plemel / Harry Popke / Diana Rodger / Ann Rueb / Amanda Sachvie / Joan Schleining / Joy Schmidt / Jim Schultz / Linda Selch / Herta Shuparsky / Carol Smith / Elsie Steiner / Louise Steinke / Ryan Veldkamp / Erika Werbowesky / Bob Wilson / Olga Wruck / Edna Yaegar / Laurie Zubert

## MNO Synod Nominating Committee Search

The 2012 MNO Synod Nominating Committee is searching for individuals who want to serve in the wider church in the following areas:

Member on MNO Synod Council

Member on one of MNO Synod Council Committees:

Committee for Christian Education, Committee for Church in Society, Candidacy Committee, Committee for Mission, Committee for Worship & the Arts Committee for Youth Ministry, Member on Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors.

If you or someone you know is willing to serve in any of these areas, please go to [www.mnosynod.org](http://www.mnosynod.org) to receive a list of the available positions, their descriptions and a Biographical Data form to be completed and sent to the synod office by Feb 1, 2012.

The Nominating Committee will nominate 2 individuals for each position to be filled. All individuals who submit a biographical data form will be informed as to whether or not their name will be presented for election or appointment in the spring of 2012.

Question: Contact MNO Synod Office – (204) 896-0690

If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of the MNO Synod newsletter “CrossWord” send an email to [rschenger@elcic.ca](mailto:rschenger@elcic.ca) asking that you be put on the email list.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Grace is blessed with a beautiful building that we are all proud of. Like any structure, we need to be diligent in its upkeep. Some maintenance or repairs are simple, others not so much. At times, though, repairs can be considered more major or substantial. At this time there are three significant situations that need to be addressed by the church – beams, roof, and boiler.

Grace was designed and built with a system of laminated beams in the roof structure. These beams are visible from the worship space. Their ends extend through the exterior walls and are somewhat exposed to the elements. Unfortunately many of these ends have rotted over time. An engineer has inspected the beams and is preparing a report. Once he makes his recommendations we can begin the process of finding a contractor to make the necessary repairs.

Some of the roof is near or past its effective life span. Before repairs or replacement commences we must take care of the issue with the beams.

The boiler has been in service for many years. Still, it is not necessarily easy to determine if it is ready for rebuilding or replacement. We will be gathering professional opinions on the health of our boiler and what needs to be done to ensure we don't have any unwelcome surprises.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jeff Barron in person or at 254-8745, or by email at [barronj@shaw.ca](mailto:barronj@shaw.ca)

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

All articles, event information and calendar items must be submitted by **December 7 to Rob Woodrow – [woodrow@shaw.ca](mailto:woodrow@shaw.ca)** or into the Newsletter mailbox.

**The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate!**