



THE VIKING VOICE

GET THE GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE LUTHERAN!



DID YOU KNOW?

GRACE SCHOOL HAS STAFF OPENINGS

Do you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our fantastic faculty in the following positions?

First Grade

We need a certified teacher to teach first grade beginning when students return to school in January through the end of the school year.

Reading Specialist

We also need a part-time reading specialist. Applicants must have or be working toward his/her Master's Degree in Reading.

For more information and full details on both positions, please visit our website and share these positions with your networks.

<http://www.graceriverforest.org/grace-lutheran-school/about-our-school/employment-at-grace-school/>

Marketing/Enrollment

Unfortunately, the Beasley family will be moving to South Carolina during winter break. Jenn began in the role of Marketing and Enrollment this past fall. She will support the school remotely and will even come back in for the Open House in January. More details to follow regarding filling her open position.



Junior High students earning service hours by serving at an Advent dinner.



Stockings filled for The Night Ministry

SCOOP FROM THE SCHOOL

GRACE IS GREAT, SPREAD THE WORD

Glimpses of Grace

Glimpses of Grace are needed! Please share your photos with Jenn Beasley, to include in materials for the school that tell the story of Grace. Email them to jbeasley@graceriverforest.org or text them to (727) 237-3242. She will filter through them to be sure photo permissions have been granted.

Open House

Share the warmth this winter season by inviting someone you know to our **Open House on January 26, 2020, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.** Postcards will be available in Jenn B.'s office beginning December 12th. Please pick a pile up to deliver to prospective families.

SERVICE HOURS SOAR AT SCHOOL

As previously shared, our sixth, seventh and eighth graders must now complete a certain number of service hours each trimester at Grace and/or in the greater community. In the first trimester our students performed more than 356 hours of service! What a wonderful way to give back to our neighbors.

GET INVOLVED WITH GRACEFUL EVENING:

Grateful for Whiskey

Thank you to all who came out to our Whiskey Tasting event last month! It was a huge success. We had dozens of bottles donated for the Whiskey Pull and are excited about the money that will raise for the school!

Graceful Evening Mailing Night

Planning is already underway for the March event. Next up is our mailing night on Wednesday, January 8. We will need many volunteers to fold, stuff and post hundreds of letters and invitations!

Graceful Evening Sponsors & Donations

Do you have ideas for silent auction items or are you part of an organization that would like to sponsor Graceful Evening? Let us know! We would love to include your business!

For all things Graceful Evening, please reach out to Amanda Steelman or Emily Hartung or email gracefulevening@graceriverforest.org.



CLASSROOM CHATTER

PK: PK learned all about friendship in November. Students learned how to recognize the written name of each of their classmates. A lot of time was spent sharing and cooperating in building activities.

JK: JK has been learning about all of the ways they can be helpful and all of the reasons to be thankful this holiday season. They learned different ways to help at home and at school, as well as ways to help others and the Earth. The JK class celebrated all they have to be grateful for with a “JK Feast.”

SK: Ms. Johnson’s Senior Kindergarten superstars decorated turkeys with their fourth-grade chapel buddies. They also enjoyed a great Thanksgiving feast and talked about all of the reasons they are thankful this year.

3rd: Ms. Watson’s third grade class enjoyed a day at the Museum of Science and Industry where students learned about “how things work” and the mechanics behind items and machines we use every day.

4th: The fourth graders have enjoyed decorating turkeys with their chapel buddies and they also came up with many creative ways to disguise turkeys. They've begun memorizing the 50 states and capitals and learning about Ecosystems in Science. These super sailors have also begun the great conquest of long division.

5th: During Religion time, the fifth graders have been talking about and writing about prayer. Just before Thanksgiving break, they held a circle prayer and used prayer squares knitted by Grace congregation members. The square is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of God's presence in our lives. These squares are delivered to elderly congregation members and sent to VBS in Slovakia. Taking a square was optional for the students but they were excited about having one or two to share with their families and those in need.

6th: Sixth grade students recently finished a unit on Western Africa and created ceremonial masks that are hanging in the upstairs commons. They also visited Pastor Costello in the organ loft for Science to discuss sound waves and receive a demonstration on how the organ pipes use waves to make music.

Ms. Washburn: Pop Tab Collection- Grace School has been collecting pop/seltzer tabs for Ronald McDonald House and would appreciate families continuing to collect them. Every little bit helps!
Basketball is back at Grace and in full swing! We have five teams (7th/8th grade girls, 7th/8th grade boys, 5th/6th grade girls, 5th/6th grade boys, 4th grade Co-Ed) this year that have been busy practicing for the last couple of weeks. Three of our teams have already played games, with our Jr. Varsity girls taking 4th place in their tournament last weekend. Make sure you come out and support our student-athletes at our home games coming up soon!

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

PENNIES PAY OFF

We told you last month of the tradition of our 5th and 6th grade unit to pack hand-sewn Christmas stockings for those struggling with poverty or homelessness through The Night Ministry (www.thenightministry.org). Your generous response to our service project was incredible. Thank you for donations of stocking stuffer items and coins for the Penny War. Kids had a blast making plans and deals with other classes and it all went to a great cause. We raised an amazing \$1,265 which helped purchase additional items like gift cards for the stockings. Students packed the stockings on December 2, so they were delivered in plenty of time before Christmas. The teachers and students in this unit want to thank you very much for your support of this ministry. This is just another way we should all be grateful for Grace and the wonderful things that happen within and beyond our walls.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Advent Dinner
Dec 11, 6 pm

3rd & 4th Grades Help Lead Advent Service
Dec 11, 7-8 pm

Early Childhood Christmas Pageant
Dec 13, 10:30 am

Support the Sports Pizza Fundraiser
Dec 13

Christmas Camp
Dec 14, 9-11:30 am
Contact: Julie Modrich

Advent Christmas Concert
Dec 15, 4 pm
Contact: Janel Dennen

Faculty Lunch Coverage (All Grades)
Dec 18, 12pm

Advent Dinner
Dec 18, 6 pm

Hot Lunch/Spirit Wear Day
Dec 20

First Look Friday
Dec 20, 8:30-10:00 am
Contact: Jenn Beasley

Last Day Early Childhood and those not in Christmas Eve Services
Dec 20

Strike Team Performance
Dec 22, 9:45-10:45 am

Last Day 1st-8th grades in Christmas Eve Services Only (Early Dismissal)
Dec 23, 8-11:30 am

Christmas Eve Services
Dec 24, 4:15 pm and 6:00 pm

Back to School (TUESDAY)
Jan 7

A Graceful Evening Mailing Night
Jan 8, 6:30 pm

Hot Lunch/ Spirit Wear Day
Jan 10

GPO/Room Parent Meeting
Jan 10, 8:20 am

IN THE KNOW WITH GPO



GPO Tuesday Email Blast

As you have noticed, there have been emails coming out every Tuesday afternoon. GPO has implemented this weekly email not to replace Principal Notes, the Viking Voice or any Room Parent or teacher emails. This is meant to be more of a parent-to-parent communication for a weekly glance and last-minute reminders. This is also open to all parents to contribute to so feel free to let us know if there are items you want us to include. We just ask that you get that content (and any applicable links) to Alison Welch (aliwelch@gmail.com) by Monday of that week at 3:00 pm.

Hot Lunch 2.0 (or 2.0.2.0)

Beginning in January our Hot Lunch Program will be revamped. If your student is currently a part of the Hot Lunch Program at Concordia, the last two days will remain the same (December 20th and January 10th). After that semester concludes, we will bring hot lunch in-house (sort of!). We will offer hot lunch twice a month on Fridays. One week will be sandwiches from Firehouse Subs and the other will be pizza. We are excited for the students to still have fun Friday lunches, giving parents a break from making lunches while also providing a fundraising opportunity for GPO. Look for ways you can help support this program while getting a glimpse of lunchtime at Grace. More information will come after the new year.

Winter After School Enrichment

After School Enrichment is a wonderful opportunity for our students. We are wrapping up the fall season and have already planned what will be available in the winter. You will see offerings before winter break which include many options to choose from based on your child(ren)s age. Classes will begin the week of January 27.

Green Plates and Minimal Waste for Holiday Parties

Grace is going green! Along with our Green Team led by Ms. Washburn, the building is currently installing solar panels on our roof! And, now we are trying to minimize waste for class parties. GPO has purchased “party kits” for each grade which will include reusable plates, cups, bowls and silverware to be used at your parties. Instead of purchasing disposable plates and cups, a new volunteer opportunity will be to wash the items (don’t worry, they are dishwasher safe) and return them to school. The kits will be available for your Christmas parties on the 20th.

SAVE-THE-DATE

Dad’s Night Event

Thursday, January 23rd

Early Childhood Event

Saturday, January 25th



ROOM PARENT ROUND-UP

Faculty/Staff Christmas Gifts

It is our tradition to show our appreciation to faculty and staff by giving them a monetary gift collected from the families of our students at Christmas. Before Thanksgiving break you should have received a green letter detailing the process. If you choose to contribute, the deadline is Tuesday, December 17th so the money can be counted and organized. The Room Parents will then give the gift in a card on behalf of your class at the Christmas party. All non-homeroom teachers will receive their gifts before they leave for the break. If you did not receive one or need a new form, Mrs. Maggio has extra copies at her desk.

Snacks Between Services

Christmas Eve service rehearsals are in full swing. It is such a magical experience for the children and the parents (see section in the previous VV for more info), but it can be exhausting. Our fifth-eighth graders (both singers and ringers) will be leading both 4:15 and 6:00 services so it has been our tradition in past years to have a little snack ready for them between services to keep their energy up. Allison Yumlu has graciously taken on this responsibility, but she needs your help! Please see the Signup Genius link in the “Pitch In” section for ways to help.

Christmas Parties

All Christmas parties will be held on Friday, December 20th. Early Childhood classes will take place in the morning, while grades 1-8 will be sometime in the afternoon. Your Room Parents have the exact time and details, please reach out to them with any questions you may have. And please check out your Shutterfly (or similar) site to see if you are signed up to bring anything.

PITCH IN!



FIRST LOOK FRIDAYS:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22a5fc1-first3>

BASKETBALL CONCESSIONS:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094faaae2aa6f58-basketball>

CHRISTMAS EVE SNACKS FOR STUDENTS

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4ca8ac22>

SMILES FROM THE SCHOOL

