

Grace & Truth Bible Church

Virginia, Minnesota

January 2021

To our Dear Friends at Grace & Truth, A difficult year has come and gone, and we face another one, not knowing what to expect. “These are times that try men’s souls.” We can identify with this quote from Thomas Paine written during the War of Independence. We do not want to be known as a “summer soldier or sunshine patriot”, but someone who stands firm even in the face of difficulty and opposition. The Apostle Paul challenged believers in 1 Corinthians 16:13 saying: *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.* May we take those words to heart and stand for truth in these last days!

Making resolutions is popular at the beginning of the year. I would suggest that we make a New Year’s resolution, **not to allow ourselves to bow, bend or break.** We will **not bow** to headlines and circumstances and be run by our emotions. We will **not bend** and compromise our convictions to get along with a Christ rejecting world. And by God’s grace, we will **not allow 2021 to break us,** to diminish our faith and destroy our testimony.

Despite the hardships, we had a fruitful year in 2020. Many new people attended our services and children’s ministries, many heard the gospel through personal witness and outreaches, and our Sunday messages were streamed online for people to hear who otherwise could not attend. We thank our Lord for those who have ministered in prayer, giving and active participation to make these things possible.

We expect that there will be more challenges in 2021. Our nation is divided, there may be violence in our major cities and turmoil across the land. Yet, our mission remains the same: *Go into all the world and preach the gospel...* May we be faithful to fulfill that charge!

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Love in Christ, Pastor Dan & Connie

January Services

January 3	Communion – Evan Johnson
January 10	Pastor DeMarte
January 17	Pastor DeMarte
January 24	Pastor DeMarte
January 31	Potluck after morning service

Happy New Year to everyone! We trust you are doing well and will enjoy the service this morning. God has been good and gracious to us this past year, and we trust He will continue to be faithful to keep His promises to us in 2021. This may be the year that our Lord returns for us. What a day that will be!

Pastor and Connie would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and prayers. We are so thankful for our church family!

Pray for our nation – You are invited to remain after the communion service for a time of prayer for our President and our country. The board is requested to meet downstairs and others are asked to break into small groups for prayer upstairs. This is a critical time in our nation's history, and we need God to intervene to preserve our freedom as He did when our nation began.

A Ladies luncheon will be held at the church at 11 a.m. on January 16th. All ladies are invited to come and bring a friend.

Sign-up sheet for cleaning the church in 2021 is on the counter in the foyer. Thank you for those who worked so diligently in 2020.

Men's Bible Study every Friday, 7 a.m. at the church downstairs (use rear entrance).

Ladies Bible Studies at the church every Tuesday at 1 p.m. downstairs. At Ellen Nygaard's every other Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

December Offerings

Missions - \$3671.00

General - \$15,003.09

Building - \$700.00

Arnie & Rubenita Johnson- \$1220.00

2B Free - \$310.00

Scripture for December from Revelation 7

(7:13) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

(7:14) And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

(7:15) Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

(7:16) They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

(7:17) for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."