

Grace Lutheran Church

821 5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

January 2024

Volume 23 Issue 1

Called together by the Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church is a loving family of believers, growing in Christ through God's Word and Sacraments, and reflecting God's love by ministering to others and sharing His Word with community and the nations.



PIFs* and SETs** for our 13 candidates have been placed in the Upper Room for review by Grace members prior to the next call meeting set for *Sunday*, *January 14*, *at 2 pm*.

Again, it is very important that the names and profiles of the candidates are not shared with those outside the congregation or made public in any way.

All PIFs and SETs are to remain in the Upper Room.

*PIF: Pastor's Information Form
**SET: Self-Evaluation Tool (for Pastors)





2024 Offering envelopes are available for pick up by the North Entrance to the church. Please be sure to grab yours so that you're ready for the New Year! Need help? Reach out to Amber Smith (320-249-9185)

Annual "Statement of Contribution" for 2023 will be available beginning January 15 in the entrance hallway.

Please collect yours to reduce postage costs.

Statements remaining after worship on January 30 will be mailed January 31, 2024.





1/18/24
6:30 pm
Executive Board Meeting
1/28/24
Quarterly Voter Meeting

following Worship service

Our congregation still participates in the 1-1-1 Mission Giving Program. If you have not taken part before, the New Year is the perfect time to consider 1-1-1! Everyone can participate from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member of the congregation. This mission program demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith, and it shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. The concept of the program is \$1/per baptized member/per week. If every baptized member of our district congregations did ONLY this plan, we could produce \$2.5 million in addition to our district's total budget of \$1.8 million. The numbers are staggering. Just think about what else we could do! The box for 1-1-1 Mission Giving is at the entrance to the Sanctuary. We hope you'll consider this wonderful giving opportunity!



The LWML will be having their helping hands work shop on Saturday, January 20 at 10 am with the General meeting starting at 9 am. We will be tying blankets to send Phil's Friends. If you would like to bring items to send with the blankets here is their wish list:

Playing Cards Puzzle Books Store Gift Cards Lip Balm Small Tissue packs Fuzzy Socks Hats (knitted / crocheted / baseball) Journals (5x7 – not spiral bound)

January Circle Meetings

Thurs., Jan 4: 7 pm Circle @

church (A. Nitschke)

Fri., Jan. 12: Circle Packing FMSC meals

Sat., Jan. 6: 9 am Circle @

church (S. Shearer)

Upcoming events . . .

Sun., Jan. 14: Mite Box Sunday (Tues., 1/9) Sun., Jan 212: Sat. Circle Serves Treats Sat., Jan. 20: 9 am Gen Meeting

10 am Willing Hands Workday

Mission of the Month . . . Perry Center

Main Street Living Missionaries . . . Paul & Ali Federwitz Ashley Lehr

The Board of Human Care would like to thank everyone for the Thanksgiving offerings as well as the many items given to the New life Center, Churches United and the Food Pantry over the past few months. These items were greatly appreciated by all of the organizations!! Thank you again.

Because it is so cold outside there is still a need in our community for donations of warm clothing to include coats, socks, thermal underwear, sweatshirts etc. Please consider these items when giving to these organizations. Church's United can also use ibuprofen, alcohol free cold medicines, hand sanitizer, female personal items, and diapers size 4, 5, & 6. We will continue to keep the boxes on the pew by the office for your donations. There is a need for volunteers at the Emergency Food Pantry. If you are interested call the Pantry directly

Please keep these and many other organizations in your prayers. They do such a wonderful job helping those in need.

God's Blessings for a wonderful New Year.

(701) 237-9337 or let us know and we can set up a date to work.

Board of Human Care

Operated by: The Red River

Happy New Year from Grace Lutheran School! This is an Lutheran School Association excellent time of year to count blessings and we have 103 if them in our care. We're thankful for each and every one of them. **Lutheran** Our fervent prayer would be to continually grow the ministry at Grace.

CHRIST · CHARACTER · COMMUNITY January starts enrollment season for Grace. Grace Lutheran School is YOUR school. Students from Grace can receive up to 60% tuition subsidy.

Additionally, students who attend Grace for all years from Kindergarten through 7th grade pay only 10% of total tuition for 8th grade.

Prospective students are invited to Preview Day on Monday, January 15th. Spend the morning in the classroom, meet teachers, and experience the difference Grace offers. Register at www.glsfargo.org. Open houses for all grades, and especially Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, are on Monday, January 15; Thursday, February 22; and Monday, March 4 from 4:30 to 6 pm. Pre-register at www.glsfargo.org. National Lutheran Schools Week is January 22–26. Activities include daily all-school chapel, special service projects, and all sorts of zany fun. The theme for this year's NLSW is "Connected," based ib John 15:1–5, "He is the Vine, we are the branches."

As always, thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers, and prayer partners. We can do all things through Christ as He works through you.

Growing Together in Grace Article for Church and District December 2023

Grace Lutheran School's Growing Together in Grace campaign continues to move towards construction if all necessary funds can be pledge/raised.

A couple of large donations recently came our way. We are very blessed and excited to announce that the pledge total as of December 18 is now \$1,289,843. We continue to push toward a fully-funded project. Fundraising is a slow process, so if the GTIG committee has not reached out to you yet, know that we want to give all donors a chance to participate. Small-group events are in the works for 2024. If you would like to speak to a committee member about your gift, please contact Amy Hirsch via the contact info below. Donations can be sent to the church, to PACE at the school's address, or through Vanco at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHMF. Contact Amy Hirsch at 701-232-7747 or amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org with any questions.

No Greater Gift than Love – a Simple Gifts Devotion

But earnestly desire the highter gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:31

Higher gifts. More excellent way. These sound like comparatives. They are, if you are talking about us. But these words that the Holy Spirit gives to Paul are not about us. They are only and always about what He desires us to have!

The Lord wants you to know that your simple gifts are in now way simplistic. They are glory! But not your glory. They are His glory. If you read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 12 you see some fantastic gifts being called lower gifts. Healing. Tongues. Interpretation. These are all fantastic if you were to have them. It is hard to see any way in which these are lesser gifts.

That is until you read what the Lord desires as a higher gift. I Corinthians 13 talks about it. The higher gift is love! There is no greater gift than love. Jesus talks about that in John 15:13 when He says that "greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friend." This is the kind of love that we have been given. God loved the world so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus love us so much that He died and rose There is no greater gift of love. Jesus says so!

And this greater love that God has given us in Jesus

is an active love! It is given so that we can give it away. That is what our stewardship is all about. Giving freely of the greater love that we have bee given!

The financial gifts we render are indeed lesser gifts. It doesn't mean that they aren't important or valuable.

But they are lesser if they are not connected to love. The love they are connected to by the Holy Spirit is a love that comes from the Lord, through us, to others. We become a conduit of love that flows out to those who need it. This involves service. This involves activity. It also involves financial resourses. When taken together, packaged in love, these simple gifts do amazing things! Let's see together what the Lord will do with these simple gifts!

Prayer

Blessed Lord, we give You but Your own in all these gifts we bring to You this day and throughout this year. Fill our heart with a love of the Lord, a love of the Gospel and a love for our neighbors that will lead us to give of all of ourselves so that they may know the extravagant, radical love of God that comes in Jesus Christ! Amen.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Please join your Board of Fellowship and Brothers and Sisters in Christ in helping to provide meals for the hungry and needy around the world! We will be filling meal packs with *Feed My Starving Children* on:

Saturday, January 6, from 1pm to 3pm; and Friday, January 12, from 6pm to 8pm.

This will take place at the Fargodome. Children must be older than 5 to participate and must be accompanied by an adult.

Sign up sheets are in on the sign-up table! For questions, please contact your Board of Fellowship: Bri Isaak, Pam Smith for Jan Brelje.



A new baby is coming, we're making a fuss. Would you celebrate with us?

A baby shower in anticipation of Dorothy & Joshua Baumann's new baby will be held on Saturday, January 13 at 3 pm at Grace Lutheran Church. All women are invited!





If evolution doesn't explain how all life came to be, why is it taught as truth in the classroom?

........... If the earth is young, then why does it look so old?



Isn't the Bible just another ancient document, like so many other contradictory ancient documents?

Did Jesus really rise from the dead?



And what does "worldview" have to do with any of this?



Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe grew up in a Christian household but began to drift from church in his teenage years. You could say he was full of questions and desparately seeking answers. Those answers were found in God's Word and later studies in apologetics - at CUNE and CTSFW. Using Dr. Brad Alles' book LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS; GOD'S BIG ANSWERS and insights from his own learning and ministry, Rev. Dr. Trampe will lead us in a journey through these big questions.

January 12-13 | Friday 6pm - Saturday 2pm | \$100 Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads | RSVP to Corey Isaak corey.isaak@gracefargo.org | 701-281-0240



2024 LCMS YOUTH & FAMILY DAY at ANDES TOWER HILLS

Annual Circuit Event! Congregations & All Ages Invited!
Saturday, January 27th

CHEDITE

- Traveling with the group? Meet at Beautiful Savior at 7:30 AM
 - Arrive at Andes at 9:30 AM check in at 9:45 AM
- Leave Andes at 4 PM and stop at Pizza Ranch in Fergus Falls on the way home
 - Arrive in Fargo around 8:00 PM

COST

- Group Rate Lift Ticket: \$30
- Ski Equipment Rental: \$10 / High Performance Ski Rental: \$35
- Snowboard Equipment Rental: \$20
- Helmet Rental: \$8

Tubing is also available at Andes! Tubing rate: \$25 all-day pass. People tubing will pay once they arrive at Andes.

If you are paying by check, **please make payable to**: Eastern Zone LYF

TRANSPORIATION: Meet at 7:30am at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (2601-23a Ave. SW, Fargo) to travel with the group so that we can arrive at the ski resort @ 9:30 AM. Each congregation is responsible for their own transportation. Carpooling is encouraged as needed/available!

FOOD: Cost of meals are on your own. The resort has a nice variety of hot and cold foods available for purchase (if you have special dietary concerns, you may pack a lunch. Otherwise, outside food is not allowed). Also bring money for supper if you plan to stop at Pizza Ranch on the way home with the group.

HELPFUL HINTS: Dressing in layers of clothing is better than one heavy outfit. Cover your head and ears as most of your body heat is lost through the head. Goggles and/or sunglasses are helpful. For a comfortable fit- one pair of good, warm socks is much better than layering socks.

PARENTS: 5th grade students and younger must be accompanied by an adult. We will need parents and adults to help with transportation and chaperoning. Participants must know their full mailing address and parent phone number to write on the rental form at the resort

DEADLINE: Complete and return registration form with payment by Jan 21st ** Fill out the waiver online at Andes website before you arrive**





LEARN WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD ENGAGE

Religious Liberty & Speake **Emeritus for Lutheran Executive Director of Lutheran Center for JR. GREGORY SELTZ** Hour Ministries

DISCOVER HOW WE CAN INTERACT WIT

CULTURE FOR ITS BENEFIT AND THE

LEARN THE PRINCIPLES OF RELIGIOUS

WITH CULTURE.

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024 pyerene

9:00 TO 3:30

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - BISMARCK, ND

JR. SELTZ WILL DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING DUAL NETWORK OF BELIEVERS AND CHURCHES IS CRUCIAL "FOR KINGDOM CITIZENS AND EXPLORE WHY CREATING A

SUCH A TIME AS THIS."

Registration Fee: \$50/person \$75/family

IIS BOOK, "LIFE IN CHRIST ROOTED, WOVEN, AND

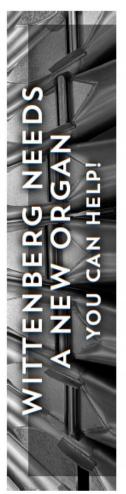
Icms.nd.busman@gmail.com GRAFTED INTO GOD'S

For updates, more information, and to help us reach this goal, please visit:

WWW.WITTENBERGCHAPEL.COM/ORGAN



Registration forms are available from the office



and needs to be replaced. Working with Allen Organ Co., our goal is to replace our current pipe organ with a digital Wittenberg's current organ is falling further into disrepair organ, which will significantly reduce our current overall maintenance costs.

We aim to raise \$100,000 by the Fall of 2024 for our new organ, hoping to dedicate it at our 60th anniversary celebration!

You can partner with us by donating an organ key!

will be matched dollar for dollar by the All gifts donated by January 31, 2024 North Dakota District, up to \$50,000.

70 White keys: \$100-\$500 ea.

50 Black keys: \$501-\$1000 ea. 25 Pedal keys: \$1001+ ea.

'Wittenberg Organ Gifts designated may be sent to: ND District LCMS Box 9029 Fargo ND 58106-9029

ND District LCMS Message in a Pew North Dakota Income Tax Credit December 2023

Did you know the State of ND offers a Bismarck and Grace Lutheran School, LCMS schools: Martin Luther School, making monetary donations to nonprofit private schools in ND like our state income tax credit to donors



Fargo? A state income tax credit for 50% of your donation, up forms need to be filed. Please consider donating to our schools to the lesser of \$2,500 or half of your ND income tax liability is available for individuals or businesses. Appropriate tax

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Luther at https://mlsclassical.org/support Donations can be made online to Martin and take advantage of this tax credit.

learn more about the credit, visit https:// Martin Luther can be mailed directly to the schools. To and to Grace at https://glsfargo.org, or tinyurl.com/ndtaxcredit. SCHOOL

Congregations' Status

St. Peter-Belfield: vacancy (Rev. Anthony Ahrendt).

Redeemer-Grassy Butte: vacancy (Rev. Mike Wolters)

Crosspointe-Fargo: has issued a call to Rev. Douglas Slavens, Memorial-Sioux Falls (Rev. Chris Waldvogel).

Peace-Garrison; St. Matthew-Max: vacancy (Rev. Nathan Schieber).

Grace-Fargo: vacancy (Rev. Bernie Worral)

Immanuel-Fargo: vacancy.

Grace-Carrington: applying for a seminary candidate (Rev. Tom Eckstein).

Zion-Binford; Grace-

seminary candidate (Rev. Bob Cooperstown: applying for a

Bethlehem/St. John-Upham; Zion-Kramer; Faith-Towner: vacancy (Rev. Carlyle Roth and Rev. Rick Jones). Zion-Bismarck: applying for a seminary candidate as associate pastor.

Pastors & DCE's

to St. Matthew-Spring Lake, MI. Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Andrew-Niagara returned a call Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St.

Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Andrew-Niagara returned a call Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St. to St. Paul/Immanuel-Blue Earth, MN.

Logan, Trinity-Sugar Grove, OH. Hannover, Zion-New Salem is Rev. Zelwyn Heide, St. Peterconsidering a call to Trinity-

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS Financial Information November 2023

INCOME

INCOME:	
Congregational Mission Giving	\$60,625.34
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$21,218.87)
Net Congregational Mission Giving	\$39,406.47
Other Unrestricted Gifts	809.82
1-1-1 Mission Giving	608.10
Current gifts/fees for missions	3,894.34
Available Income	\$44,718.73

EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities: \$13,436.59
stry, Yo
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses 40,699.31
(Includes General Operations, District President,
Business Manager, Board of Directors)
International/Local Missions
Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,000) 2,500.00
Chile Mission— Special Events 0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000) 1,250.00
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention.
They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)

\$62,885.90 \$18,167.17 \$2,374.87 NET OPERATING LOSS FOR NOVEMBER Current Expenses

\$3,241.15 Funds Given used for Current Expenses Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS

November giving was average. Expenses include a large annual payment and the third quarter payments to the convention resolution missions.

fiscal quarter. YTD designated gifts for these missions as of Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our convention resolution missions are sent at the end of each November 31, 2023:

\$2,607.18 \$1,841.00 \$4,319.72 Christ's Care for Children - Kenya Shepherd's Hill Retreat Chile Partnership

Please contact Tami Ulland at Icms.nd.busman@gmail.com or call 701-360-1469 if you have more questions.

You can now use your credit/debit card to donate directly to the District, Click on the Give button on nodaklcms.org to pick where you would like your donation directed.

Lamentations 3:22-23

We are often asked what "New Year's resolutions" we are making. While this may be helpful for some people, we Christians realize that each new day brings "new mercies" from the Lord, and each act of repentance and forgiveness brings a fresh start! May today and every day be lived in the assurance of such great mercy and fresh starts – all because of Jesus!

Please continue to share information about our LCMS *Main Street Living* media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning, you can view archived programs anytime at www.mainstreetliving.com – then click on the link identified as *Fargo / Bismarck*. Worship services from the five other MSL broadcast areas, as well as the weekly *This Is the Life* programs, are also available for viewing on the website.

Thank you for your needed financial support! Checks may be sent to *Main Street Living NORTH*, 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website. God's blessing in Christ!

-Ken Koehler / MSL North Volunteer Coordinator

MSL North Programs for January 2024:
Jan. 7th: Rev. Arie Bertsch, President of the ND District, LCMS, presents the message: Anchored in Christ based on Mark 1:4-11. This Is the Life program:

The Other Wiseman.

Jan. 14th: Rev. Richard Jones, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: Selective Hearing Loss based on I Samuel 3:1-10. This Is the Life program: The Priceless Book..

Jan. 21st: Rev. Jim Lamb, Lutheran Family Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa, presents the message: *The Trinitarian Value of Human Life* based on Isaiah 43:1. Visit www.MainStreetLiving.com for more information. *This Is the Life* program: *Live Option*.

Jan. 28th: Rev. Timothy Stout, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sawyer, ND, St. Martin Lutheran Church, Anamoose, ND, and St. John Lutheran Church, Kongsberg, ND, presents the message: *Depart, Thou Unclean Spirit* based on Mark 1:21-28. *This Is the Life* program: *In Search of Dignity*.

MAIN STREET LIVING is a locally- produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally **This Is The Life**, along with occasional church-season specials). Programs are broadcast starting at 9 am CT on KVRR Channel 15.1; and at 10 am CT on WDAY Xtra Channel 6.3. Please check your cable and satellite providers for the corresponding channel on your system. MSLN programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com then click on **Fargo**.

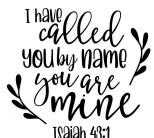
Church Office Hours
9 am - 3 pm
Monday - Friday
Office
DEADLINES

Bulletin: Noon on Wednesday Newsletter: Noon on the 20th

Church Expense Summary: 12/26/23				
Deposits	\$ 504,822.14			
Expenses Paid	\$ 467,657.46			
Net	\$ 37,164.68			
Mission Pledge	\$ 31,742.53			
Missions Paid	\$ 25,000.00			
Missions Owed	\$ 6,742.53			

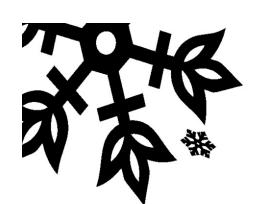
Moving? New phone number?
Please call the church office
(701.232.1516) or email us
(glcfargo@gmail.com) with
your new information so our
can stay up-to-date! Thanks!





Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Fargo ND 58102 Permit No. 997

Return Service Requested



Come and find rest in God's word of forgiveness and grace.

Tuesday Evening mq 7 — qidstow

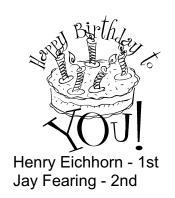
Sundays: Worship — 9:30 am Education Hour — 10:50 am







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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Flower Ehair: Moria Aivuku	Happy New Year! Church Office Closed!	7 pm Divine Service 3 / Communion	3 6:30 pm 6th Gr Confirmation @ GLC 7 pm 8th Grade Confirmation @ Immanuel	4 7 am Men's Bible Study @ Randy's Too, WF 7:00 pm Circle (A. Nitschke)	5	6 9 am Circle (S. Shearer) 1–3 pm Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing @ the FargoDome
9:30 am Divine Service 3 / Communion 10:50 – noon Education Hour	8 9 am Mission Workers 5:30 pm Board of Ed Supper Meeting 7 pm Women's Bible Class 7 pm Elder Mtg	9 Mite Tuesday 7 pm Vespers	6:30 pm 6th Gr Confirmation @ GLC 7 pm 8th Grade Confirmation @ Immanuel	11 7 am Men's Bible Study @ Randy's Too, WF	Starving Children Meal Packing @ the FargoDome	13 3–5 pm Baby Shower for Dorothy (& Josh) Baumann etreat @ SH@CR
14 Mite Sunday 9:30 am Divine Service 3 10:50 – noon Education Hour 2 pm Call Meeting	15 9 am Mission Workers 7 pm Women's Bible Class	16 7 pm Vespers	6:30 pm 6th Gr Confirmation @ GLC 7 pm 8th Grade Confirmation @ Immanuel	18 7 am Men's Bible Study @ Randy's Too, WF 6:30 pm Executive Board Meeting	19 Voter Reports Due	20 LWML 9 am Business Meeting 10 am Willing Hands Workday
9:30 am Divine Service 3 / Communion 10:50 – noon Education Hour	9 am Mission Workers 7 pm Women's Bible Class	23 7 pm Vespers	6:30 pm 6th Gr Confirmation @ GLC 7 pm 8th Grade Confirmation @ Immanuel	25 7 am Men's Bible Study @ Randy's Too, WF	26	27
28 9:30 am Divine Service 3 Quarterly Voter Meeting	29 9 am Mission Workers 7 pm Women's Bible Class	30 7 pm Vespers	31 6:30 pm 6th Gr Confirmation @ GLC 7 pm 8th Grade Confirmation @ Immanuel	December S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T W T W T W T W T W T W T W T W T	F S S M S M S M S M S M S M S M S M S M	T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29



Brian Czichotzki - 3rd Dave Carlson - 6th Shar Hanson - 6th Jarek Kath - 6th Julie Halverson - 8th Jim Nitschke - 8th Cody Hamdan - 9th Nicole Kiewel - 9th Rick Winter - 13th Scott Engen - 14th
Janielle Smith - 14th
Richard Jacobsen - 16th
Anne Lougheed - 16th
Kaylee Ramsett - 16th
Michelle Zeiszler - 17th
Carly Benusa - 18th
Douglas Stack - 18th
Audrey Nitschke - 19th

Sheila Kath - 21st Nevaeh Potter - 21st Linda Sommerfeld - 25th Addison Kienenberger-26th Sandra Kiser - 26th Michael Kyle - 26th Ella Crumble-Cavett - 29th Gwen Isaak - 29th Kaylee Sharbono - 29th



Joe & Connie Calvert - 1st Bruce & Arlene Brubaker - 11th Jim & Audrey Nitschke - 15th David & Karen Beck - 31st



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January Quarterly Voters' Meeting January 28, 2024 Voters' Meeting following Worship