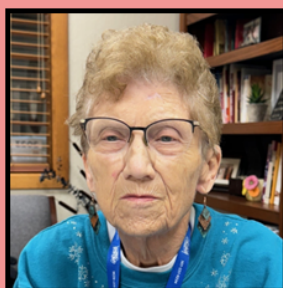


Welcome to Our Newest Tenant



Sharon Muhl
Apt. 217A

Musings from Activities ...

~ Abbey LeRoy

"Amazing grace philosophy: how you climb up the mountain is just as important as how you get down the mountain. Life is one big test followed by one big lesson. In the end, it all comes down to one word: grace." Grace is one of those words that you pretend you know but in reality, you kind of know what it is. It's multi-faceted. It's humble, accepting, refined, honorable, and dignified. In Christianity, grace is God's undeserved favor—not earned but freely given, a bridge between us and God.

One of my favorite songs, "Amazing Grace," beautifully captures this idea: "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see." It's a beautiful song with an even more beautiful message. Grace is hope. Grace is mercy. Grace is finding joy in every situation. Grace keeps you going when times get tough. No matter our struggles grace can lift us from despair.

As we enter the holiday season, grace naturally leads us to giving—not just to others, but to ourselves as well. Acts of generosity, whether big or small, uplift us and remind us of the joy in connection. Studies show that giving releases feel-good hormones like serotonin and dopamine, making us feel more content and less stressed. But grace also calls us to slow down and savor life's simple moments. Sometimes, we're so busy that we forget to appreciate the little things, like the smell of morning coffee wafting through your apartment, the satisfaction of finding where that one puzzle piece goes, and the relief of putting your feet up after a long day.

Grace can also show up in harder times, like during an argument or when you're called to forgive when you really don't want to. For example, James works 10 hours for 4 days and then has Friday off. So when I get home Friday and all of his chores (the ones he's been procrastinating all week) aren't finished, I need grace to understand how tired he is and how much he needed a rest day. Without grace, I would pout, nag or give him the silent treatment. It's in these moments, when grace doesn't come easily, that it matters most. Grace allows us to forgive, to let go, and to choose understanding over frustration. In these small but significant acts, we grow stronger and more at peace. So as you give to others this season, remember to also give yourself the grace to be imperfect, and to find joy and meaning in each experience—whether easy or challenging. May we all carry grace with us, not just during the holiday season, but every day, finding strength and peace in its presence.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Check the whiteboard for Christmas caroler schedule changes due to inclement weather.

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

- Aristotle



Hill Street Place
**Christmas
Dinner**

Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 2024

12:00 PM

Please RSVP to the office by
Thursday, December 12th.

**This is Hill Street Place's
gift to our tenants.**

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Christmas Coloring	2
Page Turners	3, 30
BINGO	3, 10, 17
Light Up the Night Trolley Ride	3
Holy Redeemer Youth Choir	4
MLC Library Outreach	5
Decorating w/ Newman Club	5
500 Card Party	6
Games with Stanley Busy Beavers 4-H Club	8
Lunch Outing: SMSU Dining	9
Boulder Estates Choir	9
Hope Harbor Cookie Deco	10
Resurrection Choir	10
Christmas Cheer	11
Samuel Lutheran Piano Stud	12, 17
Men's Group: Cory Brockman	12
Christmas Joke Club	13
True Light 2nd Grade Fun	13
Brain Games	13, 20
Card Makers	13, 20, 27
BINGO Night 50¢ to play	14, 28
Christ Lutheran Choir	15
Bus to Museum Tree Walk	16
True Light School Carolers	16
Christmas Dinner	18
Helen Pedersen Piano Stud	18
Monthly Birthday Party	19
POKENO 50¢ to play	19
Beth Hansen Music Students	22
Virtual Voyage: Xmas Lights	23
Xmas Traditions Reminisce	23
Christmas Eve BINGO	24
Christmas - Office Closed	25
Roll-a-Xmas Tree Dice Game	26
Movie: The Nutcracker & the Four Realms	27
Wii Bowling	30
Fold & Deliver	31
New Years Eve BINGO	31

Upcoming Events . . .

Page Turners Book Club will be reading *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Pick up a copy in the Activities Office. Join us for a discussion in the Pool Table Room on Mon., Dec. 30th.

Christmas Dress up Days -

- Fri., Dec. 6th Let's see your Christmas Sweaters.
- Wed., Dec. 11th Come in Candy Cane Colors.
- Tues., Dec. 24th Wear Red and Green.

Helping Hands at Hill Street Place - During the month of October we recorded a total of **33.35** volunteer hours. Thank you all who recorded their hours.

Card Makers - Calling all Card Makers! Join us for weekly card-making sessions as we catch up on holiday cards Fri., Dec. 13th & Dec. 27th at 9:30 AM and Fri., Dec. 20th at 1 PM. Help us sort, cut, or assemble cards. No artistic skills needed!

Intergenerational Fun - Come listen to the Holy Redeemer Second Grade Readers at 8:30 Tues. mornings Mrs. Rettey's class on Dec. 3rd and Mrs. Klaith's class is here on Dec. 10th.

- On Dec. 5th HRS 3rd grade will be leading 10:30 AM Rosary.

Last Month at a Glance . . .



Weather Watchers ~ Activity Connection

The first Saturday of December is Skywarn Recognition Day, a day of appreciation for over 350,000 volunteer storm spotters. These spotters provide timely and accurate reports of wind, hail, flash floods, lightning, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Skywarn volunteers are often the first to signal warnings of severe weather as it approaches.

Anyone can be a Skywarn weather spotter. Local National Weather Service offices provide training in storm structures and development, weather safety, and how to report severe weather information. These spotters are a gift to their communities, giving them time to prepare for whatever Mother Nature brings.

Bingo is celebrated throughout December in church halls and community centers because December is Bingo Month. The game dates all the way back to 1530, when Italians played a game called Lo Gioco del Lotto d'Italia. Some even say that this game was used to fight government corruption. Instead of winning a pot of money, those holding winning numbers were elected as local leaders.

The French first introduced a playing card full of numbers. Then in the 1800s, the Germans used the game as a tool to teach children math and spelling. It first appeared in America in 1929 at a carnival near Atlanta, Georgia, where it was called "Beano." When an excited winner shouted out the word bingo by mistake, an entrepreneur named Edwin S. Lowe overheard the faux pas, renamed the game, and employed a Columbia University mathematician named Carl Leffler to create 6,000 randomly numbered bingo cards. Leffler purportedly went insane from the task. A Catholic priest asked Lowe to show him the game as a way of raising money for the church. Bingo has been a church hall mainstay ever since.

S	F	O	I	Z	A	M	R	U	V	S	Z	C	H
E	E	H	R	I	M	H	I	T	C	I	R	H	A
M	S	A	N	V	G	R	M	A	R	O	S	R	Y
A	T	I	M	N	W	Z	A	G	S	I	A	I	L
N	I	H	E	O	S	R	I	K	H	R	S	S	L
A	V	A	N	N	S	V	E	W	N	T	R	T	H
S	E	S	W	Y	U	A	G	A	A	N	S	M	A
R	Z	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	G	I	A	A	N
V	A	T	I	R	N	A	A	Z	J	A	N	S	U
Y	J	E	N	E	S	R	W	A	M	T	T	A	K
K	O	G	A	M	O	R	E	A	L	O	A	A	K
Z	L	T	R	E	J	I	R	V	A	E	Y	E	A
L	L	J	A	M	W	I	N	T	E	R	I	I	H
S	Y	V	N	H	G	O	A	M	S	Y	I	A	W

December Word Search

- Jolly
- Caroling
- Kwanzaa
- Hanukkah
- Merry
- Christmas
- Santa
- Winter

Dice Day

Dice may be the ultimate random number generators, but there is nothing random about the date of National Dice Day, which always falls on December 4. Some of the oldest known dice are more than 5,000 years old; they were part of a backgammon set from the historic Burnt City in Iran.

Why are dice sometimes called "bones"? In olden times, the talus, or ankle bones, of hooved animals, such as sheep and goats, were used as dice. Since then, the name bones stuck. The dots on dice are called pips, and the six sides of a die also have names: ace, deuce, trey, cater, cinque, and sice. Speaking of die, where did this term for a single-number cube come from? It comes from the Latin word datum, which means "something given or played." On December 4, you can do both: give dice as a Dice Day gift and then "let 'em roll" in your favorite game.



Snowball Meringue Kisses

Yields: 30 servings

Beat stiff:

- 3 egg whites
- 1/8 teaspoon salt



- 1 cup sugar—add gradually while beating

Add:

- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Nuts and/or coconut as desired.

Drop from spoon on brown paper and bake at 250 F for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Remove from paper at once.

Recipe from Marlene Hoffman

Timeless Treasures

~ Activity Connection

Old-fashioned toys have a timeless charm that still brings joy during the holiday season. These classic playthings remind us that fun doesn't need to be high-tech to be memorable. Take the Slinky, for example. Invented in the 1940s by a mechanical engineer, this simple metal spring became an instant hit. Kids marveled as it "walked" down stairs. Over 300 million Slinkys have been sold since.

Then there's the yo-yo, which dates back to ancient Greece. The modern version we know today gained popularity in the 1920s. Yo-yos were a must-have for kids learning tricks like "Walk the Dog" and "Around the World." They remain a nostalgic favorite and are often found in Christmas stockings.

Another beloved toy is the Etch A Sketch, introduced in 1960. This magical drawing board uses knobs to create pictures with aluminum powder. It sold over 600,000 units during its first Christmas season. The Etch A Sketch became a staple under the Christmas tree, offering endless creativity without the need for batteries.

No list of classic toys would be complete without the beloved jack-in-the-box. Originating in the 16th century, this whimsical toy has delighted children for centuries. The thrill of turning the crank and waiting for the cheerful pop of a clown or other character never gets old—a perfect reminder that sometimes the most delightful toys are the ones that make us smile with anticipation.

And who could forget Lincoln Logs? These wooden building sets were created in 1916 by John Lloyd Wright, the son of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This open-ended toy allowed children to build miniature log cabins and other structures. The sets are still cherished for their simplicity and the way they spark the imagination.

These toys remind us that sometimes the simplest playthings bring the most joy. Consider adding a few of these timeless classics to your holiday traditions. Perhaps you even have some stored away in an attic. They're sure to bring smiles, just as they have for generations.

2024 HSP Holiday Bazaar

~ Abbey LeRoy

The 2024 Hill Street Place Holiday Bazaar was a ton of fun! If you are interested in taking a short survey about the event, please stop in the Activities office.

Shoutout to the 26 vendors, the awesome volunteers, and dedicated staff whose efforts—whether setting up the kitchen, helping with booths or spreading the word—made this fun event run smoothly. Every helping hand made a difference. It was truly heartwarming to see the Hill Street Place community come together to support this event, creating memories and spreading joy. Thank you all for making this year's Holiday Bazaar an unforgettable celebration of talent, togetherness, and holiday spirit!