



GraceNotes
First Lutheran's
Bell Ministry

Our Bell Ministry began in 2003 with a vision. Monies were donated to the church for this ministry to purchase the first 3 octaves of bells. It took a couple of years when the vision caught fire and a core of potential ringers grew in numbers. The choir came to fruition the summer of 2009. The first 3 octaves of bells were ordered, next the 3 octaves of chimes, then 2 additional octaves of chimes, and then the 2 octaves of bells. GraceNotes grew into a full five-octave choir. Since our beginning, we have played for the Sunday morning services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, at Festival Worship Services, funerals, and weddings. We have also joined in a few Missoula Community events, and we faithfully attend the Big Sky Festival each year. The First Lutheran Classical School has also used the bells and chimes in their music program.

GraceNotes- Definition. In musical terms a grace note is a note of extremely short duration, written smaller than the ordinary musical notations. The grace note serves as an embellishment, or grace, and has no time value of its own, borrowing instead from the note that follows. This explanation fits what the bell choir goal is as it functions in connection with our worship services. We are called children of our Savior through grace. We have been given life through God's grace.

The time has come for our bells to be sent back to the Schulmerich Factory for refurbishment. This entails them being taken apart, worn parts replaced, and adjustments made to bring them once again into the quality instruments they are. This process will cost just under \$4,000.00. The bell fund does not have the funds to cover the full price. They have been able through a Thrivent grant to send in the down payment and begin the process. The bells will be sent to Pennsylvania after the Christmas Eve worship service. It is the plan that we will have our bells back for the Lenten and Easter seasons. Before they are returned, we will need to make our final payment. We are looking for your help to bring our bells home by financing this project. Gifts can be made to the church and designated SF Handbell ministry. Your gift will be tax deductible.

We thank you for the support and encouragement that you continue to give to our 'ringers' (or affectionately called the 'ding-a-lings') as they serve our congregation and more ringing praises to our Savior. For further information please speak with any ringer.

We look forward to — "They (the bells) will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They (the bells) will tell of the power of Your awesome works, and I will proclaim Your great deeds. They (the bells) will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing (ring) of Your righteousness." Psalm 145:5-7