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# Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

December 2019

## Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

There are four opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve:

 The 4:30 p.m. worship service is designed particularly as a children's service. The Christmas story will be told with a nativity of live animals and a visit from Santa as he comes to worship the Christ child.

 The 7:00 p.m. candlelight worship service is organ-led, with Holy Communion, carols, and adult choir; piano prelude music.

 The 9:00 p.m. candlelight worship service is piano-led, with Holy Communion, brass, and choral/instrumental carols and prelude music.

 The 11:00 p.m. candlelight worship service is organ-led with Holy Communion, carols, adult choir; piano prelude music.

## Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship is at 10 00 a.m. which is organ-led with Holy Communion and carols.



## Grace Christmas Dinner Wednesday, December 18



A Christmas dinner for members and friends of Grace will be held on **Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Miller Center**. We will enjoy a ham & roast pork with all the trimmings prepared by our Super Wednesday cooks.

Please join your fellow Grace members as we share this time of fellowship. After the meal, we'll sing Christmas carols, including Grace's special version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," led by our own Frank Bortz who has been our song leader for over 40 years, and accompanied by Pastor Schul on the bass and June Miller on the piano. The dinner and caroling will take the place of regular Super Wednesday evening activities.

A donation of \$5/person or \$12/family is suggested.

**Please bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share.**





### The Miracle of the Incarnation

Over the past few decades, I've observed two trends in ministry circles when it comes to Christmas. One camp endeavors to rigidly restrict all Christmas-related things to the twelve-day season that officially begins on December 25. It's an understandable impulse because Christmas

threatens to overwhelm Thanksgiving and Advent and obscure the unique blessings those seasons hold for us. The other camp sees Christmas as something to be grudgingly endured because it has been hopelessly lost to the crass commercialism of the secular world and thus is beyond redemption as a Christian holiday. I can certainly understand that frustration, too.

I've undergone a very different evolution. The older I get the more I fall in love with Christmas. At the first hint of cold weather, I'm ready to bust out my Christmas music and start decorating trees. I don't think it's because I've surrendered to the forces of commercialism, and it doesn't mean I disrespect Thanksgiving and Advent. Rather, it has everything to do with the miracle of the incarnation. It's a miracle very worthy of our reflection, especially in this day and age. And it's a miracle that has become increasingly precious to me.

You see, the incarnation represents a monumental and even baffling choice by God. Why would the most powerful being in the cosmos willingly take on the form of that being's own creation (humanity), especially after seeing first-hand how humanity has so consistently turned its collective back on God? And if you can wrap your mind around the general notion of God becoming human, why then wouldn't Jesus do so as a wealthy prince or mighty warrior instead of a helpless, vulnerable baby born in obscurity to a young woman and a common carpenter?

The answer to the first question is love. Jesus became man because of intense love for us – a love so deep that he wanted to be with us, experience everything we experience, and pour himself out so that we might be forgiven, blessed, and saved. But why begin that work as a helpless baby? The answer to that question is also love. Jesus wanted to teach us that there is something divine, worthy, and lovable in each and every one of us. By becoming such a vulnerable human, Jesus hoped we would learn that our calling is to love even the most vulnerable, marginable, and forgotten people in our society. Why? Because everyone has inherent dignity. Everyone is loved by God. And so everyone is worthy of our love.

Over 2,000 years later, this notion is as jarring and counter-cultural as ever. That's why we need to reflect upon the miracle of the incarnation of Jesus as often as possible. That's why I simply can't get enough Christmas.

**Coming up...**



- Our full Advent and Christmas worship schedule is in this issue of Grace Notes. A note about Advent worship on December 4 and 11: both services will involve the "O Antiphons," a deep and ancient prayer that most of us have only experienced through the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Don't miss it!
- Advent Fest on December 1 will take us this year to the Nordic nations. Dress warmly!

### Finally

We will be receiving another class of new members on December 1. Is Jesus calling you to a deeper relationship with Grace Lutheran? Speak to me or Pastor Hetrick if you'd like to join! Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul

### Brass Carols on the Porch, Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10

If you are at Grace at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 22, you will hear a brass sextet playing seasonal carols on our front porch between the 9 and 10:30 services. Traditional favorites will warm your hearts and lead you toward the joy of Christmas. If you worship at 9 or 10:30, please make an effort to bare the cold and support our talented youth as they share the coming Good News in song!



SPECIAL MUSIC

## Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
<b>December 1</b> 1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
<b>December 8</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>December 15</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	Luke 1:46-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
<b>December 22</b> 4th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>December 29</b> 1st Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23

### Mini-series on Composers of Church Music

Freylinghausen Flings Wide the Door to Greet Our Lord



Born in Germany in 1670, Johann Freylinghausen was the son of a merchant who became attracted to the preaching of Francke and Breithaupt, following them to Halle.

Although he initially worked in administration of an orphanage, eventually he followed their footsteps a second time by becoming a pastor. Ultimately, Freylinghausen became best known for his excellent hymn writing, which preserved elements of earlier hymns and clearly communicated the theology of Pietism. Freylinghausen's 44 hymns appear in his hymnbook, which was published

as part of the Halle school in northern Germany. Many are still in use in English-language hymnals today. Our hymnal has two: "Fling Wide the Door" (ELW 259) and "Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word" (ELW 663).

This year we will sing "Fling Wide the Door" on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The hymn greets Advent with great excitement as we prepare to meet our Savior. Hope and expectation are reflected in the tune, which confidently sends the tune heavenward unexpectedly as it marches forward to welcome the Rock of our belief, the Son of bliss, King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Not long ago, this hymn was widely known across the globe. It stands in sharp contrast to many Advent hymns of darkness and longing, choosing instead to embrace with cheerful conviction the coming of Christ. By singing it, we share in the confident joy of all that is not yet seen, but sure to come.

### Mid-Week Advent Service

As we wait and prepare for the birth of Jesus, Grace offers a CrossGen(erational) mid-week service. On Wednesday, **December 4 and December 11 at 6:30 p.m.**, all Kids Clubs and Bible Studies will take a break from those activities as we worship together. This 45-minute service has something for all members and will include special music provided by our adult choir and Crossfire youth choir as well as vocal and instrumental soloists. Mark your calendar to join this celebration of the season of Advent and Christmas by lighting the Advent wreath, singing songs, and praying prayers centered upon the "O" Antiphons (information is on page 2). Meanwhile, take a look at "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" where each verse names characteristics of the Christ Child whose birth we will celebrate as we await His return. In the Narthex there will be devotionals and calendars for all ages.

## A Devotional from Luther:

This column encourages you to contemplate some of the devotional writings of Martin Luther. These musings come from an old book that was passed down to me years ago, entitled *Devotions and Prayers of Martin Luther*. It was compiled and translated by Andrew Kosten and published in 1956. Each devotional consists of a brief scripture verse, followed by an explanation and prayer written by Luther. I update and modernize the language but otherwise “let Luther be Luther.” I hope these thoughts give you peace and joy. - Pastor Schul



*“I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me.” (Psalm 143:6-7a)*

The wicked extend their hands but not to God. They are preoccupied with evil. But the out-stretched hand of faith is a spiritual act by which we ask God to consecrate all our work... Thus the pious soul, in thirsting after God, accepts the truth the proud reject – all good works

without God are null and void. Therefore the thoughts, words and deeds of the wicked are steeped in their own accomplishment; they are satisfied with their own lives.

How often has it been shown that the disconsolate, finding nothing in themselves, are God’s loveliest offering, particularly when they implore God for grace. God hears none more fervently than the one who cries and thirsts for God’s mercy... The psalmist would teach us to wait patiently for God’s grace, not deterred, though God seem far away and tardy to help us.

*Let us pray:* I come to you and beg you, dear God, to forgive me; not because I am able to earn satisfaction with my own merits but because you have promised and sealed it, so that it is as certain as though my forgiveness were spoken by you. Amen.

~ Martin Luther



## Sunday, December 1, 2019

Have you found a faith home at Grace? Is Jesus drawing you into a deeper relationship as part of the Grace family? If so, we encourage you to consider becoming a member. We will be receiving new members at our 10:30 service

on **Sunday, December 1**. The process for joining is simple: just contact Pastor Schul or Pastor Hetrick to set up an appointment to share more about your faith journey and to learn about all that Grace has to offer. Contact the church office at 238-2478 or email either [pastorschul@glcpa.org](mailto:pastorschul@glcpa.org) or [pastorhetrick@glcpa.org](mailto:pastorhetrick@glcpa.org).

## December 15: Nine Lessons and Carols During 10:30 Worship

On Sunday, December 15, 22 choristers from Crossfire, our choir for teens and tweens, will present Nine Lessons and Carols as part of 10:30 worship and in place of the sermon (a sermon will be preached at all other services that day). This year the carols will include several from the Nordic countries, including some from our hymnal that we rarely have a chance to sing. Nine prophetic readings from Scripture and nine Advent and Christmas carols tell the story of waiting for the Messiah.

Nine Lessons and Carols is a tradition that began in Cornwall, England, in 1880. Today, King’s College Cambridge presents the best-known Lessons and Carols service each year, as it has done since 1918. Although it began in the Anglican Church, it has been used widely in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and other denominations, with a variety of prophetic texts. The service has been broadcast around the world since 1928 annually with the exception of 1930. Check WPSU radio broadcast schedules for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

At Grace, Nine Lessons and Carols includes a rich variety of traditional carols that will help you prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ. Please come to support our youth as they tell the story through word and song.



## Super Wednesday Adult Education in December



Nov. 27	No Class (day before Thanksgiving)
Dec. 4 (11 a.m. only)	Book of Tobit: Session 1 (Midweek Advent Worship @ 6:30 p.m.)
Dec. 11 (11 a.m. only)	Book of Tobit: Session 2 (Midweek Advent Worship @ 6:30 p.m.)
Dec. 18 (11 a.m. only)	Book of Tobit: Session 3 (Christmas Dinner in evening)
Dec. 25	Christmas Day – no class

### Grace Goes to the Holy Lands

Pastor Schul is organizing a Grace trip to the Holy Lands next summer. The group will depart the United States on **June 19, 2020 and return on June 29**. Our pilgrimage to the lands where Jesus lived and ministered will include places in the north of Israel, including Nazareth, Cana, Mount Carmel, Caesarea Philippi, Tabgha, and the Mount of Beatitudes, and will be capped off with a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. In the south we will explore unforgettable places like the Dead Sea region, Bethlehem (including Jesus's birth site), Jesus's baptismal site in the Jordan River, the Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where Jesus took his final mortal breaths and then conquered death itself through his glorious resurrection.

We will also devote time to establishing relationships with the local Palestinian Lutheran community. This will involve visiting Lutheran churches in the West Bank, meeting world-renowned theologians like Rev. Miti Raheb, touring Augusta Victoria Hospital to witness the critically important work that the Lutheran World Federation is doing there, and meeting with Bishop Azar to hear about the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Holy Land and Jordan (ELCJHL).

**Deadline to register is December 19, 2019!** A deposit of \$300.00 per person is required to make a reservation. An additional payment of \$750.00 per person is due by December 19, 2019. The final payment is due no less than 90 days prior to the departure date of the tour (March 19, 2020). See link:

[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/2092/5523/files/June\\_19\\_-\\_28\\_Pr\\_Schul.pdf?991](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/2092/5523/files/June_19_-_28_Pr_Schul.pdf?991)



### Santa Lucia: A Beacon of Christ's Light

Lucia of Syracuse (283-304) – known today as Santa Lucia (Saint Lucy) – was a Christian martyr who, as a young woman of marrying age, committed her life to Christ. Lucy planned to use her dowry to provide food for poor Christians who were in hiding due to Christian persecution during the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian. Images typically show her wearing a long white robe with a red sash and sporting a wreath of candles on her head. This freed her hands to carry baskets of bread, which she distributed to Christians. Ultimately a disgruntled suitor turned her in to local authorities and she was martyred for her faith.



...continues on page 6

**ClipArt of Saint Lucy, source :**  
 : <a title="St Lucia Day Decorations Clipart" href="https://123clipartpng.com/images/clipart-368366.html">St Lucia Day Decorations Clipart</a>  
<https://123clipartpng.com/images/clipart-368366.html>

Lucy's story is recorded in the 5th century Acts of the Martyrs, and archeological evidence of her existence dates from Greek inscriptions in the 6th century catacombs of Saint John in Syracuse, Sicily. Despite Sicilian origins, Saint Lucy's feast day (December 13) became known around the world largely due to the Swedes. Thus, the traditions carried to North America.

Tradition states that many centuries ago, amid a terrible famine in Sweden, a brightly lit ship suddenly appeared on Lucy's feast day. Onlookers thought they saw a young woman at the helm, dressed in white with a glow around her head. The ship brought food to starving locals, and from that time onward, they looked to Lucy as their patron and protector. Lucy continues to be celebrated throughout Scandinavia, where she spreads the light of Christ beginning on December 13.

**This year during our AdventFest celebrations on Sunday, December 1, Ireland, Ella, and Alicia McDyre will bring the story to life as part of our Nordic programming. Local tenor Dan Smith will sing the famous Neapolitan Santa Lucia song that is sung around the world, and afterward we will have the opportunity to join him. We will walk away with a timeless reminder to care for the poor and share Christ's light.**

**Nordic AdventFest  
at Grace on December 1**  
**Harkins Hall**  
**Celebrate the Season –  
as in Denmark, Finland,  
Iceland, Norway and  
Sweden!**

## Reigniting Your Prayer Life

*This article is adapted from Pastor Schul's sermon at our semi-annual service for our homebound members that was held at Grace on October 17, 2019.*

**We teach our children...** Do you remember the very first prayers you learned as a child? It might have been a bedtime prayer, like this one: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." Maybe your parents also taught you a mealtime prayer, like this one: "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. May this food by you be blessed." And if you were in a household with a slightly irreverent sense of humor, maybe you heard this prayer at mealtime: "Rub a dub dub. Thanks for the grub!" Most parents – even parents who aren't all that religious or committed to church attendance – know it's important to teach their children to pray. Why is that? I think it's because parents know that prayer is a great way of teaching our children three important things: (1) God is God and we aren't; (2) it's important to be thankful; and (3) even in the midst of the scariest times of our lives, we aren't alone.

**...but we forget.** Those are good and important lessons to teach our children, wouldn't you agree? But as we grow up, it seems there comes a point when our prayers become fewer and fewer. We don't mean for it to happen, but it does. It's gradual at first. We get busy. Other things take priority. Before you know it, we find our prayer life has dried up. Oh sure, there may be serious crises in our life that overwhelm us, and they motivate us to pray for help, but even that doesn't seem to last for very long. As soon as the crisis passes, so does our commitment to prayer. If God granted me one wish for the Church and all the people who dwell within it – one single, solitary thing I would change – it would be this: we adults need to develop rich, meaningful prayer lives. It's true of people who attend church every Sunday. It's true of the Christians who show up only on Christmas and Easter. It's even true of most pastors. My friends, we do not have the kind of prayer lives that God wishes us to have.

**The consequences...** And as a result, those three lessons we try to teach our children are being forgotten by the adults. First, we are forgetting that God is God and we aren't. As a consequence, we're trying to be our own savior and lord. We think we can solve our own problems and make our own miracles. But the only thing we're making is a mess. Second, we've forgotten the importance of being thankful, and so we go through life with a sense of entitlement, as if the world owes us everything. And finally, because we adults don't pray regularly, God seems absent in our lives. We feel lonely. That loneliness leads to despair, hopelessness, and a lot of bad choices.

**The opportunity...** And so I want to encourage everyone to take renewed interest in prayer. After all, throughout the Gospels Jesus commands His people to pray. But don't focus on prayer just as an obligation. Instead, think about prayer as a beautiful opportunity, in the same way we think of communicating with a spouse, child, grandchild, or friend not as an

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obligation but as a blessing. After all, Jesus didn't pour himself out on the cross only so that we could spend time with him in heaven. He did it so that his love might draw us closer in this life too.

So, why is it so difficult for us to pray? More than anything else, we don't make sufficient time for prayer. Most of us pray only when it suits us or when we have time. But the moment we get in a rush, what's the first thing we drop? It's usually prayer. It's an afterthought, something we fit into the cracks of our busy lives and schedules. But is there a better way?

**Reclaiming an ancient way...** In fact there is. It's an ancient way, but one that's still alive within God's Church. Imagine a life in which you don't fit prayer into the nooks and crannies of your day but, instead, construct your entire daily schedule around prayer. I've experienced this in monasteries, and it's absolutely refreshing. By building the entire day around prayer, your priorities change. You become more mindful of Jesus and closer to Jesus. Even your identity changes. Prayer suddenly isn't just what you do; it becomes who you are.

This summer I spent a week at a monastery in Kentucky. Prayer was scheduled for seven set times every day. No matter what we visitors or the monks were doing, everything paused when the bells summoned us to prayer. Why? Because prayer was more important than anything else we could be doing. Moreover, we knew that time spent in prayer would bring peace and inspiration that would make our work time more effective. Now admittedly, seven daily prayer times is extreme for most of us. But if you can pray more consistently, I promise your prayer life will be richer. Start simple. Pick one time a day and when that time comes, stop whatever you're doing and pray. Once you master that, set some additional prayer times. Pray when you wake up and when you go to bed. Pray at meals. And then pick one other time to pray – either midmorning or midafternoon. Drop whatever you're doing and pray because God loves to hear from you, just like any parent loves hearing from a beloved child. How do I pray? Once you've set a time to pray, how do you pray? The number of prayer styles and formats can be overwhelming. But don't fall into the trap of thinking that your prayer is ineffective if it doesn't follow a set pattern or contain the "right words." Prayer is just a conversation between you and God. Be honest. Keep it simple. Bring God your joys, laments, questions, and confessions. Sometimes words will be the best way to share your thoughts and feelings. Other times, silence will be best. Silence can also help you hear God's responses. So don't worry about the form. Just pray.

**Effects of Prayer.** What happens when we pray? Prayer builds community. When we pray for other people, we naturally draw closer to them. Prayer also draws us closer to God. But I don't think the purpose of prayer is to change God's mind. Why would you even want to do that? Don't you think God knows better than us? Instead, prayer conforms and transforms our will and our desires to those of God so that, in the end, our prayer requests become the very things God already wants for us.

Even Jesus followed that pattern. Do you remember when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane? He knew what his future held. Crucifixion. Suffering. Death. He asked God to take that cup away from him. But he humbly concluded by praying, "yet not what I want but what you want." We pray something very similar when, in the Lord's Prayer, we pray "thy will be done." It's a wonderful way of saying, "God, I've told you what I think, but I trust you to make the final call. You know best."

So in the end, what might a richer prayer life accomplish? Well, I think we address those very things our parents wanted us to learn when they taught us to pray. First, we're liberated from the need to be our own savior and can rest in the assurance that God is in charge. Freed of the obligation of saving ourselves, we can instead serve our neighbor. Second, we cultivate a thankful heart, which reveals the many ways God is daily blessing us. Finally, we discover that God is far more present than we ever realized. That knowledge will fill you with hope.

It's true that we aren't children anymore. But we can pray with child-like obedience and trust. God loves you and wants to hear from you. God wants to bless you. So let's fall in love with prayer. Because prayer is a great way to fall in love with God.

~Pastor Schul





It seems almost unfathomable that this time last year we were very much living into the sense of “already, but not yet.” Michael and I were meeting and greeting, and collectively we were discerning God’s path and calling for us and for God’s kingdom here at Grace. So much called for preparation in what God was bringing into being. It feels like this has been a year of opening the gift of being

here and becoming immersed in the many beautiful and vital ministries, along with those that are emerging. The prophet Isaiah calls to us, “Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord,” perhaps both a reflective word and a word that lights the future. In this season of many kinds of preparations, of expectations and hopes for joy, my prayer is that you will find moments to pause, to be in awe, to celebrate gifts that have no price but are priceless, not the least of which is the gift of our community of faith centered in the Christ. For those who are struggling, I hope we can walk together in our Blue Christmas service and point one another to the light.

I also pray that you will come to be present in the space of our midweek Advent worship where we will explore the “O Antiphons,” words that were sung that describe Christ as “God with Us.” The hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is based upon these words and our song that God will stir up power and come. The “O” Antiphons are a series of seven Advent prayers developed by Benedictine monks in the Middle Ages, based upon Isaiah’s prophecies about Jesus. Each one begins with a beseeching “O,” followed by addressing Christ using a particular title (Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, etc.). We use these prayers ourselves when we sing the verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The order of the prayers is significant: they form an acrostic. The first letter of each, when written out in reverse in their original language of Latin, forms a sentence. Those words are Sapienta (wisdom), Adonai (Lord), Radix Jesse (root of Jesse), Clavis (key), Oriens (dawn), Rex (king) and Emmanuel (God with Us).

These form the sentence, “Ero Cras.” That sentence translated is Jesus’ response and promise to us--“Tomorrow, I will come.” When we sing all of the verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” we are bidding Christ, who is all of these things foretold by Scripture, to come and be “God with Us.” As a part of our Cross Generational worship on Wednesdays, there will be in-home devotions to take and use for the days when the O Antiphons are to be prayed, starting December 17 through December 24 as the anticipation builds.

Henri Nouwen’s Advent prayer has been on my mind. “Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, ‘Come Lord Jesus!’”

We are always in some way a people who are living in the “already but not yet” in this life, bidding Jesus to come. May we recall that the birth of Christ manifests the light and hope of God with us, Emmanuel. May

this both ground us and fill us with expectation for what is unfolding in the here and now, and for what God promises in the fullness of time. I rejoice that we will celebrate together the Nativity of our Lord and have that “I can’t wait” feeling, already envisioning the joy we will proclaim together. Then, may the song linger in the air as we journey together into a new year with our Lord and one another. Michael and I wish you all a blessed Advent, a joyous Christmas and New Year.

~ Pastor Hetrick

## **Service of Hope: BLUE CHRISTMAS on Thursday,**

**December 19, 6:30 p.m.**

For many, holidays like Christmas are times of joy and family togetherness. But for those who have experienced loss through death, divorce, depression and other life challenges, these times often bring deep pain and sadness. If this describes your feelings, we invite you to our **Service of Hope: Blue Christmas worship, on Thursday, December 19 at**



**6:30 p.m. here at Grace.**

Before worship, there will be a grief support session on “Surviving the Holidays” with Brenda Oyler Kim, MSW, LCSW and co-facilitator, Jackie Naginey Hook, MA in the Fireside room beginning at 5:00 p.m. A small meal will be provided. Having support helps you on your healing journey. to realize you are not alone and to learn how others make it through the Holidays.

After worship, at an informal gathering, Pastors and Stephen Ministers will be available to talk. **All are Welcome!**

## **Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins**

### **Sunday, December 15**

Meet in Harkins Hall -  
Light Lunch Provided  
at 11:45 a.m.

Please join your fellow Grace members as we share the joy of Christmas by caroling at the homes of homebound members of our congregation. We will go caroling on **Sunday, December 15, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service**. A light lunch in Harkins Hall will be provided before the caroling begins. Then, at 12:30, a bus will take us as a group to Grace's homebound members. No advance sign-up is necessary--just join us!



## **Scholastic Holiday Book Fair**

### **December 5 through December 12 in Room 107**

The book fair hours will be the following:

- **Thursday, December 5**; 9-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.; and during Advent Family Fun Night, 5:30-7 p.m.
- **Friday, December 6**, 9-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 8**, during coffee hour, 10-10:30 a.m.
- **Monday, December 9**, 9-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 10**, 9-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.; and after the GLPK Christmas Concert, 6:30-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 11**, 9-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.; and during Super Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 12**, 9-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.

Shop online beginning December 5th at <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/gracelutheranShop> for Christmas or birthday presents for your children or grandchildren and help support our school. For everything purchased, our school earns points to purchase books, teaching resources and more for our library and classrooms.



## **Holiday Gift Shopping**

'Tis the season to bring others joy and we have a great way for you to help Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten's fundraising program. We sell **Weis**, **Giant**, **RedLine Speed Shine**, and **Sheetz** gift cards from the school office.

To purchase any of these gift cards, please stop in the school office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

## **Finals Week Care Packages for Penn State Students**



Help lift the spirits of students as they take on finals!

Lutheran Campus Ministry and Grace Lutheran are partnering again this year to gather snacks and other treats for Finals Week Care Packages!

Please bring single-serving packages of granola bars, chips, popcorn, gum, candy, cocoa, cookies, or other small treats for students. Volunteers will package items into bags that will then be given to students on the Sunday before finals begin (December 15), along with a note of encouragement and Christmas greetings.

If you would like to help, bring your donations to the church office by the evening of Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

THANK YOU!





## IHS Wishing Well Campaign

The 2019 Wishing Well Campaign to support the programs of **Interfaith Human Services** will begin on **November 29** and will run through

**December 23.** Sign up and bring your partner, friends, the kids, or the grandkids to ring the bell to help provide families and individuals with the resources and guidance to work toward financial management. Sign-up sheets are on the Social Ministry board.

IHS programs include **The Centre County Fuel Bank, Free Furniture and Appliance Recycling, Basic Needs Financial Assistance, and the Financial Care Program.** For more information, contact Sue Forster at [sforster@cvim.net](mailto:sforster@cvim.net)

### Social Ministry Says Thank You

- Kudos and thanks to Leslie and Paul Wagner for the passion they have displayed in heading our **CROP Walk ministry** for several years! We will miss your leadership.
- Sue Ferro initiated our **Helping Hands ministry** and led it for several years. She worked tirelessly and did a wonderful job! Our kudos and thanks to you. Alyson Hoegg is the new leader for this outreach.
- **Bucket Collection News:** Thanks, Grace, for your generosity! We combined our resources to collect over \$900 to purchase Weis gift cards to help our Guatemalan neighbors enjoy food security as they legally seek asylum.



Janet Lybarger, Social Ministry Team Coordinator

### The Jared Box Project

Thank you to all who packed Jared Boxes. We collected 177 boxes so far and will have more coming in this week! We should have enough to fill the requests of several local hospitals.

Most of the boxes have already been delivered to local hospitals. We spread the smiles around by delivering Jared Boxes to Altoona Hospital, Clearfield Hospital, Jersey Shore Hospital, Lock Haven, Mount Nittany Medical Center, and Lewistown Hospital!

We will be back again next year to help fulfill Jared's mission for sick children. Watch the clearance aisles for Jared box-size fun!



### The Food Bank

The Food Bank of the State College Area, Inc. is always in need of donations. The church collects donations in the church narthex on the first Sunday of each month at each worship service. Cash/check donations, grocery store gift cards, especially gift cards to Wegmans to purchase fresh potatoes & ham, and brown paper grocery bags are always accepted.

- Laundry detergent
- Jelly
- Soup (chunky, Progresso, etc.)
- Tomato products (stewed, paste, sauce, etc.)
- Coffee
- Tea
- Hot cocoa
- Gift cards to Wegmans to purchase fresh potatoes & ham
- Canned yams (less than 40 oz.)
- French fried onions
- Canned carrots
- Canned beets
- Canned pineapple
- Canned pears
- Sugar (2-5 pound packages)
- Cooking oil
- Salt, pepper, and spices
- Canned pasta sauce and Sloppy Joe sauce (Chef Boyardee, Manwich, etc.)
- Canned chicken

#### PLEASE NOTE:

The Food Bank is not in need of the following: *Baby food, baby formula, macaroni and cheese, green beans or protein beans.*

Expired or opened food items cannot be accepted. Please check the expiration dates on items before donating them.

The food donation guidelines provide assistance in determining what can be accepted: <https://scfoodbank.org/donate/current-needs-list>



## Holiday collection for Centre Safe Collection through December

### Much-needed items

- gas and gift cards (\$10-\$50 value)
- pj's and slippers for adults
- diapers, any size
- baby bottles, bibs, onesies
- baby monitors
- coffee cannisters
- granola bars and wrapped snacks
- juice (boxes or gallons)

- DVD players and PG or PG 13-rated DVDs
- clock radios
- floor or desk lamps
- pots and pans
- towels - both bath and hand
- journals with pretty pens / markers / colored pencils

If you have any questions about this collection, please feel free to call Jennifer Pencek at 867-2174, e-mail me at [j06374@yahoo.com](mailto:j06374@yahoo.com), or just stop by the church nursery (Jennifer will be there each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening). For a list of other items, visit: <http://ccwrc.org/get-involved/needed-items/>

### QNA - Questions, not Answers

We will meet Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you previously participated in QNA, we hope you will join us again. If you haven't, newcomers are always welcome.



We are planning to discuss ***what it means to be a Christian. How do we do it?*** As a guide, we'll consider St. Benedict's 12 Steps of Humility as discussed by Joan Chittister.

Please come with your questions, be prepared to leave without answers.

### Women of Grace

#### Schedule

- **Naomi Circle** will meet **December 3** at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the American Ale House & Grill. Contact Person: Carolyn Fishburn ([cxf1@ppsu.edu](mailto:cxf1@ppsu.edu))
- **Knit Wits (Knitting and Crocheting group)** will meet Dec. 12
- **Comfort Makers (Sewing Group)** will meet Dec. 17
- **Sisters of Grace and Garden of Readin'** will NOT meet in December
- **Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club)** will NOT meet in December



### LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY at Penn State

#### Friday, January 17- Saturday, January 18

**Journey Inward Retreat:** A time to explore who you are and how God is calling you. Hilton Garden Inn, State College

For more information contact: Deacon Alicia Anderson, [ara2@psu.edu](mailto:ara2@psu.edu)



### Weekly Events

- **Sunday Morning Worship** with Grace Lutheran Church 8 a.m., 9 a.m., or 10:30 a.m.
- **Lunch** after worship at Grace Lutheran Church 11:40-12:20 p.m.
- **Sunday Evening Worship** at Grace Lutheran Church 6:00–6:50 p.m.
- **Sunday Dinner** after worship at 7–8 p.m. (including activity, discussion, or guest topic each week); Green Team dish washing 8:00–8:30 p.m.
- **Tuesdays or Wednesdays** Pop Up Office Hours - HUB or another campus location 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- **Thursday Evening Worship** at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, corner of Allen Street and Curtin Road on campus, 6:00–6:45 p.m.; **Thursday Dinner** after Worship at 6:45–8:00 p.m.

### December Highlights:

#### Sunday, December 1

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. – **Advent Fest** with all of Grace Lutheran Church to celebrate Advent together

#### Friday, December 6

**Free Pizza Friday** outside The Forum by Palmer Art Museum. Join Muslim Students at Penn State feeding hungry students and spreading joy with pizza!

#### Monday, December 9

8:30 p.m. - **Longest Night Service** at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center – All Faith Chapel

#### Sunday, December 15

7-8:30 p.m. (after 6 p.m. worship) **Christmas Hoopla!** Come take a study break and celebrate Christmas before exams begin!

#### Monday, December 16

9-11:30 a.m. – **Finals Week Breakfast** at The Corner Room. What better way to start exams! Gather with Alicia and other students before or after your first final!



## Finances for 2019

	Actual Income vs Expense July-Oct 2019	Budgeted Income vs Expense July-Oct 2019	+ or (-)	%	
Income	\$55,065.46	\$62,000.00	(\$6,934.54)	-11.18%	less than budgeted income
Expenses	\$71,939.56	\$82,339.09	\$10,399.53	12.63%	overage due to timing of invoices
Net Income	(\$16,874.10)	(\$20,339.09)			

Giving in October continues to be behind budget, but this follows historical patterns for this time of year. We are still in line with expenses, mainly because the increase in the cost of health and retirement benefits for employees was only 2% (less than anticipated), and this will continue into 2020. Property and insurance expenses are also lower than budgeted. Typically, lower income in October and November is followed by generous giving in December. To automate your monthly giving, contact Laurel Sanders, business manager, at [lsanders@glcpa.org](mailto:lsanders@glcpa.org).

## Building Campaign

Actual Building Receipts this month (donations)	Monthly Mortgage obligation	Year-to-date Receipts for the building (donations)	Year-to-date Mortgage obligation
\$ 9,402.39	\$ 15,742.70	\$ 40,998.41	\$ 62,9710

In addition to monthly giving toward mortgage debt reduction, we received \$400,000 from an estate gift and an additional \$38,000 as the first response to our call to pay off the mortgage. Our remaining mortgage payable is now only \$865,000. It's exciting to see the light at the end of the tunnel!

## Council Highlights

At Grace's November Council meeting, the Council consulted with Cathy Smarkusky, Grace's Preschool and Kindergarten Director, concerning curriculum and class proposals for the 2020-21 school year and heard reports about the work of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Relief.

## DID YOU KNOW...

✿ ... now that we have our heat on and we could use a little more humidity in our homes, it's a good time to think about drying a portion of our laundry on racks indoors? Set a goal: half of every load on drying racks or half the loads you do — or go higher! The money saved on dryer fuel could help another Centre County family stay warm this winter.

✿ ... that in December Pastor Schul will be leading a study of the Book of Tobit? It is from the Apocrypha, a series of books that are historically situated between the time of the Old and New Testaments. Luther said the book of Tobit "is useful and good for us Christians to read." Now is your chance!

# Faith Formation Ministries



## AdventFest

Join our Grace family for our **Third Annual International AdventFest** in Harkins Hall on December 1<sup>st</sup>, following the 10:30 worship service. We will begin to mark the season of waiting and anticipating with a Nordic style Smorgasbord and wish each other Gud Jule! (Good Christmas!). The countries we will be exploring are Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

Our themed meal includes Norwegian meatballs, lefse, gjetost, and many ethnic side dishes and desserts. There will be live music from a brass instrumental group, seasonal carols performed by our Crossfire (teen choir) and Sing 'n Ring (children's choir), and instrumentalists. We conclude our event with an Advent-themed skit entitled "Lucia: A Story of Light" which is about

Saint Lucia who was martyred in the early 300s.

Contact Cindy Fritz and Peter Horn [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org) or Laurel Sanders at [lsanders@glcpa.org](mailto:lsanders@glcpa.org) if you can contribute a casserole, side dish or dessert. While the theme is Nordic, all food donations will be accepted. Look for details on the cover of the November Grace Notes.

### AdventFest Workshop at Sunday School

Join us in Miller Center during the Sunday School hour to participate in a Danish craft. We will be making woven Danish Julehjerter (Christmas Hearts). All ages and families are welcome. This is in place of all children and youth Sunday School classes, so please come to Miller Center at 9:00 am.

### Advent Mid-Week Worship

Similar to Lent, we will be having a family/child friendly evening worship in Advent during our Super Wednesday activities. The dates of the two worship services are **December 4 and December 11 at 6:30 p.m.**, just after the Super Wednesday meal. Both Bible study and kids club will be suspended during these two Wednesdays in hope everyone will join in the worship service. We will have youth and children singing from the Crossfire Choir and the Sing and Ring Choir. Please join us for this time of worship!



## December Calendar

### Sunday, December 1

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. - Sunday School in Miller Center for Advent Workshop
- Noon -2:00 p.m. - AdventFest in Harkins Hall

### Wednesday, December 4

6:15-7:15 p.m. - MidWeek Advent Worship in the Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 8

Noon – 2:00 p.m.- Confirmation and High School Youth combined Service Project in Harkins Hall

### Wednesday, December 11

MidWeek Advent Worship  
6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 15

- 10:00-11:00 a.m. - Munchkin Brunchkin in the Miller Center
- CrossGen Christmas Caroling

### Wednesday, December 18

Super Wednesday Christmas Dinner (No extra activities)

### Sunday, December 22

No Sunday School Class

### Tuesday, December 24

4:30 p.m.- Children's Christmas Eve service with Santa Claus at December 29: No Sunday School Class

### Monday, December 30

#### Bonus Day

10:00 a.m.- noon – Munchkin Brunchkin in the Miller Center

## **January Preview**

### **Sunday, January 5**

No Sunday School Class

### **Sunday, January 12**

- 9:00-10:00 a.m.- Sunday School classes resume
- Noon - 2 p.m.- Confirmation class in the Miller Center
- Sermon notes #2 due

### **Sunday, January 19**

10-11 a.m. – Munchkin Brunchkin in the Miller Center

### **Sunday, January 26**

- Youth-led worship
- 6-8 p.m. – High School Youth Group in the Miller Center

## **Sunday School Break**

We will have NO Sunday School on Sundays, December 23 and 30 as well as Sunday, January 5 due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays and school district calendars. Safe travels as you visit family and friends.

## **Youth Sunday**

Our Annual Youth Sunday will be on January 26<sup>th</sup> at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. If your child or youth are interested in participating, please contact Cindy Fritz and Peter Horn [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org). We are in need of lectors, speakers, ushers, and greeters. Perhaps be a parent/youth or grandparent/youth team!

## **High School Seniors**

It's the time to begin sending in senior pictures for the 2019 class. If you can, please share them digitally with Cindy or Peter at [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org). Photographs will be published in Grace Notes and the bulletin this spring.

## **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

We offer a special Christmas Eve service specifically designed for the young and the young at heart. At 4:30 p.m. on December 24th, worship and learn about the birth of Jesus and what Santa Claus thinks about that. This service features live animals and traditional Christmas carols.

## **ELCA Good Gifts**

Looking for a gift for the person who "has it all" to benefit those that have less? Look at the ELCA Good Gifts Ornaments. You can take the ornament home (or give as a gift) as a reminder of your gift.

This year we are offering ELCA Good Gifts as an alternative giving to poinsettias, especially if you have missed the deadline! Your contributions are eligible tax deductions. Fill our Good Gifts insert located in your bulletin or at the Welcome Center. ELCA Good Gifts is a program of our churchwide body in which we can support specific ministries of our church. Some of those are Global Church Sponsorship, World Hunger, Disability Ministries, and Lutheran Disaster Response, just to name a few. If you have any questions, there are ELCA Good Gifts catalogs at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. The booklets contain information about ELCA Good Gifts and the ministries it supports.

## **Holy Communion Milestone**

On All Saints Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 9:00 a.m. service, we welcomed 18 children to the Lord's Table to celebrate communion not only with their families and their church family, but also with all the Saints who have come before them.



## **Milestone Ministry: The First Anniversary of Baptism**

Milestones are designated times we celebrate the good things happening in a person's faith life. **On Sunday, January 12**, in conjunction of The Baptism of Our Lord, we are blessing and remembering all who were baptized in 2019. This milestone reinforces the commitment parents made on behalf of their children. Check your email for an invitation to attend our 10:30 worship service; we have a small gift to honor this special anniversary.

## **Confirmation Class and High School Youth Service Opportunity**

Confirmation class is December 8, noon to 2:00 p.m. in Harkins Hall. This month we will address homelessness and compassion. We are going to combine with our Confirmation Class and High School Youth Group to prepare a meal for the Out of the Cold Program. We will be reflecting on homelessness in our area and the world. Out of the Cold provides an overnight sleeping area, in local churches, for homeless people throughout the winter months.

Sermon Notes Reminder for Confirmation: The yellow or green papers labeled "Worship Notes" are located in the Narthex and the Upper Commons next to the confirmation bulletin board. Sermon Notes #2 (out of 4) is due on January 12.

## **Munchkin Brunchkin**

Have you participated in Grace's Mustard Seed Ministry? This ministry targets our families with children ages 0-4 years of age. Typically, on the 3rd Sunday of each month, families gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Miller Center. There is playtime, coffee, brunch foods, an age appropriate Bible lesson, and adult conversation. What a great way to socialize with other adults at Grace and begin the foundations of faith for your little one(s). Older siblings are also included in this experience as well!

Our next Sunday date is December 15 at 10 a.m. in the Miller Center. We have added a **BONUS date: Monday, December 30** at 10 a.m.-noon in the Miller Center. Getting out of the house over the school break might be a nice change?!

## **High School Youth Group hosts the Allegheny Synod Youth Event Restart!**

Twenty-nine of our Grace middle school and high school youth joined with 84 other youth from around our synod to host the synod youth event at Grace. The event was the weekend of November 22-24. We enjoyed enriching music and captivating Bible studies, and we created and nurtured friendships across our congregations of the Allegheny Synod. A highlight was the Stompers Project put on by our friends at the Jana Marie Foundation, sponsored by our Mental Health Grant from the ELCA Churchwide.



Grace Lutheran middle school and high school youth gather at the Days Inn



Preparing to feed 165 youth and adults in Harkins Hall during the Allegheny Synod Youth Event

## The Stompers Project®

*As part of the Mental Health Grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Jana Marie Foundation facilitated a Stompers Project® session at the Youth Summit on Saturday, November 23.*

The Stompers Project® by Jana Marie Foundation is a unique community project designed to break down barriers and stomp out the stigma that often surrounds mental health. Through a specially designed curriculum focusing on art and creative expression, The Stompers Project® by Jana Marie Foundation educates about mental wellness, provides a safe space for community members to find their voice, and ends in the creation of a 6'4 sculpture of a person, called a “Stomper,” made from recycled shoes.

For the Youth Summit Stomper, over 115 students and 40 adult leaders discussed the theme of Making it Mine through hands on activities. First, students participated in the marshmallow challenge, where they were instructed to craft a tower out of 25 spaghetti noodles, a yard of tape, a yard of string, and a marshmallow that had to be at the top of the structure. They then debriefed the activity focusing on what they had control over and what they didn't. This moved into learning about the circles of control and how they can help lessen stress and anxiety.

The participants then discussed what it means to create a balanced lifestyle. Through a series of discussions, they took an in-depth look at four specific areas; school, community, relationships, and faith and spirituality by using the four most powerful questions:

- What are you interested in?
- What are you doing to experience more about it?
- How is it working?
- What's your plan?

Last, thinking about the theme of Making it Mine, participants decorated a piece of deconstructed sneakers with words, symbols, and/or vibrant colors to share part of their story. These pieces will then be built into the sculpture to share the overall story of the weekend.

This sculpture inspired self-expression and reflection. One participant said, “I really liked learning about the circles of control and creating a balanced life. I learned I have the power to bring faith into all aspects of my life and can really make it mine.”

Through the thought and conversation they inspire, the Stompers are a call to action and a source of hope. This will be the 18<sup>th</sup> Stomper created to date and is scheduled to be unveiled at Grace Lutheran Church in early December.

To learn more about the Stompers Project® please visit [www.stompersproject.org](http://www.stompersproject.org). To learn more about Jana Marie Foundation, please visit [www.janamariefoundation.org](http://www.janamariefoundation.org).



Painting the recycled sneaker parts used to create the “Stomper”





Stomper project discussion on mindfulness



Painting the recycled sneaker parts and results below



Follow up discussion on ways to be mindful and caring toward ourselves and others





## DATES TO REMEMBER!

**Monday, December 2**  
NO School

**Thursday, December 5**

Scholastic Book Fair begins,  
Room 107  
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Advent  
Family Fun Night in Harkins Hall  
and the Miller Center

**Sunday, December 8**

Scholastic Book Fair open during  
coffee hour, room 107

**Tuesday, December 10**

6:00 p.m. School Christmas  
Concert in the Sanctuary,  
reception in Harkins Hall  
following concert (snow date  
Thursday, Dec. 12th)

**Thursday, December 12**

Last day of Scholastic Book Fair

**Sunday, December 15**

Last day for Toys for Tots  
donations

**Wednesday, December 18**

8 a.m. Staff Appreciation  
Breakfast provided by GLPK  
parents, Room 107

**Thurs. & Fri., December 19 & 20**  
10:30 a.m. Chapel

**Thursday, December 19**  
Kindergarten health screenings

**December 23 – January 1**  
School Closed for the Holidays

**Thursday, January 2**  
School Resumes

- E-mail: [glpk@glcpa.org](mailto:glpk@glcpa.org)
- Phone: 814-238-8110
- Web: [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org)

**CHRISTIAN FOCUS BOX FOR DECEMBER**  
**"WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY"!**  
**I AM BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE." - LUKE 2:10**

**SCIENCE EXPLORATION - EXPLORING WATER: OPEN EXPLORATION  
ENRICHMENT CLASS'S DECEMBER THEME - A TIME OF GIVING**

### Toys for Tots

Grace Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten will serve as a collection site for the Toys for Tots program again this year. This impressive program provides toys for needy children in our area. If you would like to donate a toy, please **place your unwrapped gift in its original packaging** in one of the collection boxes located at the entrances to the school and in the Narthex **through December 15th**. If you would like to make a cash donation, or would like to volunteer, go to [https://www.nitanyleathernecks.com/comm\\_t4t.php](https://www.nitanyleathernecks.com/comm_t4t.php) for details.



### THANK YOU!

#### **Butter Braids and Christmas Wreath Fundraisers**

Thank you for supporting the school through our annual Christmas Wreath Sale and the very popular Butter Braids Pastries fundraiser. We **sold 211 wreaths and earned \$1018.50 through the sale of Butter Braids**. The money raised will go toward tuition assistance and unbudgeted expenses.

### **Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten's Annual Christmas Concert**

Please join us for the school's annual Christmas show,  
**"RING, RING, RING THE BELLS"**  
on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary  
with cookies and milk to follow  
in Harkins Hall



*(If there are school closings due to weather,  
the program will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.).*

## **GLPK's Annual Veterans Day Parade**

We celebrated Veterans Day on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful with sun and warm temperatures. Veterans, reserved military personnel, and a Commander from the PSU ROTC joined us to celebrate Veterans Day at our assembly and parade. The four-year-olds, Jr. Kindergarteners, and Kindergarteners paraded around the block while the three-year-olds cheered them on. Following the parade, our guests spoke to the Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes.

### **A look back at Veterans Day**



# December Worship Volunteers



## LECTORS - Ann Burke (364-5096/ [ambrmb1@verizon.net](mailto:ambrmb1@verizon.net))

8 a.m.	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 1 - Dennis Snider	December 1 - Charles and Susan Martin	December 1 - Brian Christian
December 8 - June Walter	December 8 - Sarah Rodgers	December 8 - Terry Roof
December 15 - Dotty Delafield	December 15 - Anne Rohrbach	December 15 - <i>Lessons and Carols</i>
December 22 - Open	December 22 - Lisa Wiedemer	December 22 - Open
December 29 - Open	December 29 - Open	December 29 - Open

## GREETERS - Sue Forster (876-2029/[sforster@cvim.net](mailto:sforster@cvim.net))

8 a.m.	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 1 - June Krumrine	December 1 - Gerry Slear, Susan Bardo	December 1 - Gerry Slear, Ed Prince
December 8 - Martha Musser	December 8 - Louise Tarman, Mike Conron Marilyn Peterson	December 8 - Jey and Emeline Chandra Marilyn Peterson
December 15 - Martha Musser	December 15 - Chuck, Lori, Anna and Thomas	December 15 - Bob and Alice Griffin
December 22 - Nancy Reinert	December 22 - Mark and Karen Mrsa, Susan Bardo	December 22 - John and Brenda Palmgren Leslie Wagner
December 29 - Marha Musser	December 29 - Louise Tarman, Mike Conron	December 29 - Open

## WELCOME CENTER HOSTS - Sue Forster (876-2029/[sforster@cvim.net](mailto:sforster@cvim.net))

9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 1 - Open	December 1 - Sue Forster
December 8 - Joann McCormick	December 8 - Sharyn Everhart
December 15 - Linda Domin	December 15 - Barbara Fiscus
December 22 - Ann Rohrbach	December 22 - Sue Forster
December 29 - Open	December 29 - Sharon Rivell

## ACOLYTES - Stephanie Fozard (238-7935/[steph@fozards.com](mailto:steph@fozards.com))

8 a.m.	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 1 - Open	December 1 - Caitlin and Fiona Knowles	December 1 - Carter Fozard, Regan Houseknecht
December 8 - Ryan and Nathan Pencek	December 8 - Jacob Fritz, Nicholas Kewitt	December 8 - Netta Horn, Renee Buda
December 15 - Open	December 15 - Cater Fozard, Spencer Hardyk	December 15 - Sophia and Mirabella Bills
December 22 - Open	December 22 - Ben Seaton, Regan Houseknecht	December 22 - Lincoln Hockenberry, Emilio Schul
December 29 - Open	December 29 - Open	December 29 - Caitlin and Fiona Knowles

**Christmas Eve:** 7 PM: Ben Seaton, Nicholas Kewitt, Caitlin and Fiona Knowles  
9 PM: Alexis and Matthew Weyandt, Spencer Hardyk

11 PM: Open

**Christmas Day:** Netta Horn

## USHERS

**We are in need of Ushers for three  
Christmas Eve worship services  
at 7 PM, 9 PM and 11 PM**  
Please contact Sally Keiser-Bankert at  
(571-3672 or [sallykb@verizon.net](mailto:sallykb@verizon.net))  
if you would like to help.

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Joyce Arbutina  
(237-4512/[joycearb@comcast.net](mailto:joycearb@comcast.net))

December 1 - Joyce Arbutina and Lois Lynn  
December 8 - Grant and Tammy Davis  
December 15 - Marilyn Peterson and Deb Lux  
December 22 - The Hockenberry family  
December 29 - Open

## SOUND BOOTH

Karl Hosterman  
(355-4818/[karl@centrecommonline.com](mailto:karl@centrecommonline.com))

10:00 a.m.  
Sunday 1 - Lester Griel, Jr.  
Sunday 8 -  
Sunday 15 - Richard Brenneman  
Sunday 22 - Wayne Pauley  
Sunday 29 - Karl Hosterman



## December Worship Sponsors

The church office (238-2478) or Sheri Rider ([srider@glepa.org](mailto:srider@glepa.org))



Altar Flowers	Bulletin Covers	Radio Sponsors
December 1 - Bob and Lois Voigt December 8 - Sandy and Harold Cassady December 15 - Carol and Gorman Findley December 22 - Rachel and Lester Griel <i>December 24 - Greg and Kathy Weimer</i> <i>December 25 - Greg and Kathy Weimer</i> December 29 - The Kim Family	December 1 - Joyce Sipple December 8 - Ellen and Jim Campbell December 15 - Laurel Sanders December 22 - Mary Lou Swan <i>December 24 - Helen and Dick Brenneman</i> <i>December 25 - Greg and Kathy Weimer</i> December 29 - Billi Willits	December 1 - Joyce Sipple December 8 - Gloria Nieweg and Family December 15 - Geraldine Slear December 22 - Greg and Kathy Weimer <i>December 24 - Sally Keiser-Bankert &amp; Carl Bankert, Polly &amp; John McWilliams</i> <i>December 25 - Helen and Dick Brenneman</i> December 29 - Greg and Kathy Weimer

## November Pastoral Acts

New Births and Baptisms	Deaths - Funerals/Memorials	Weddings
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- Charlotte Noelle Widener, baptized Nov. 3
- Jordan Marie Williams, baptized Nov. 10
- Gladys Carlson - Funeral Nov. 25
- Jo Anne Miller died Oct. 31

## Prayer List for December

All deployed military and those traveling in war-torn countries	The family of Larry Kuhns upon his death	brother of Phyllis Favorite
Susan Antle	Paul Larson	Emily & Charlotte Spearly
Kip Barnett, friend of Ted & Jennifer Oyler	Phil Lucas	Paul Spearly, uncle of Sheri Rider
Debbie Bolthouse	Aaron Lyon, nephew of Sue & Pete Forster	Jack Sylves and family and grandparents
Don Burris	Mardi McDonough	Tom and Marj Eakin
The family of Gladys Carlson upon her death	Danielle McHenry	Marcile Tressler
Nancy Chapa	Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller	Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen and Dick
Scott Cocolin	The family of Jo Anne Miller upon her death	Brenneman
Catherine Cutter	Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins	Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite
Damaris Dougherty, daughter of Bob Hampton	Chris & Dottie Roberts	Fonda, mother of Phyllis Verderame
Mark Doyle, friend of Paul & Sandy Larson	Dennis Robertson, cousin of Karen Mrsa	Leslie Wagner
Patrick Dugan, grandson of Paul & Kathryn Mackes	Bruce Rogers and family upon the death of Bruce's mother	Brenda Walsh
Steve Ellis	Janet	Ken Walsh
Norma Flanagan, mother of Jim Flanagan	Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer	Marie & Ross Weimer, parents of Greg Weimer
Vicki Garvin	Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert	Ash Woskob
Herb Graves	Pastor Schul and family upon the death of his uncle, Randall Swanson	
Bob Harris, cousin of Leslie Wagner	Ken Shultz	
Tom Horn	William D. Snape Sr.,	
Dick Houtz		
Chris Kohlhepp, friend of Sally & Carl		
Donna Kondash, friend of Deana & Don Coine		

*Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

1 Michael Fullington	11 Bret Buterbaugh	20 Jessica Griel
1 Michael Fullington II	11 Samantha Smith	21 Andrea Forster
1 Jeya Chandra	11 Joseph Cathcart	21 Mia Steward
1 Elizabeth Fortmann	12 Jackson Hockenberry	21 Mary Lou Swan
1 Christian Waite	12 Nancy Doyle	22 Brian Humm
2 Walter J. Kay	12 Nancy Reinert	22 Melissa Hockenberry
2 Lydia Peters	12 Christiane Fleagle	22 Catherine Pletcher
2 Anna Bahnfleth	12 Deborah Balaban	22 Michael Blake
2 Terry Hoover	12 Ronald Smith	22 Alyson Hoegg
2 Patrick Williams	13 Anna Carol Buffington	23 Gladys Carlson
3 Timothy Everhart	13 Heather Baney	26 Jane Foor
3 Martha Musser	13 Rochelle Debnar	26 Teri Howes
3 Charlotte Bahnfleth	13 Amanda Simcoe	26 Alexis W eyandt
4 Briana Kim	13 Sarah Chapman	26 BarbaraKrumrine
4 Lily Traver	14 Nancy Tamminga	26 Sandra Hall
4 Brenda Palmgren	14 Sydney Lintal	26 Mardi McDonough
5 Mary Yarnell	14 Paul Cocolin	26 Lois Martin
6 George Weigand	14 Isabelle Williams	27 Dawn Anderson
6 Robert Byers	15 Jason Barber	27 Robert Zipf
6 Zachary Freeman	15 Sophia Reutzel	27 Melvin Rockey
6 Wayne Pauley	16 Geraldine Slear	27 Elizabeth Horn
6 Jeremiah Northridge	17 Edward T. Reutzel	27 Hailee Rusnak
7 Evan Rosengrant	17 George Conklin	28 Alissa Davies
7 Herbert Gravés	17 Alexis Arbutina	28 Paul Haris
7 Paula Droege	17 Haley Haller	28 Michael McShea
8 Jim McDyre	17 Theresa Facini	29 Sydney O'Donnell
8 Alexis Greer	18 Barbara Fiscus	30 Carol Shultz
8 Ainsley Greer	18 Sally Keiser-Bankert	30 Debra Lambert
8 Andrea Harrington	18 William Gray	30 James Pletcher
9 Rachel Wolkenhauer	18 Amy Shearer	30 Natalie Giacobe
9 Carter Hosband	18 Edwin Strong Jr.	30 Elizabeth Giacobe
10 Christa Sechler	18 Rebecca Horn	30 Andrew Rosenwie
10 Eleanor Johnson	18 Damon Heebner	31 Donald Widener
10 Jon Hartzler	18 Isaac Myler	31 James Graef
11 Eric Updegrove	19 Elizabeth Walsh	31 Neil Foster
11 Saylor Milhomme	19 Edna (Jo) Bortz	31 Nicholas Richardson
11 Erica Edgar	20 Kathryn Mackes	31 Rebecca Ann Caylor
11 Caroline Banerjee	20 David Guss Jr.	

# Grace Notes

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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State College, PA 16801  
(814) 238-2478

[www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org)

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## CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**  
Piano and flute accompaniment

**9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**  
Organ accompaniment  
Sunday School

**10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**  
Organ accompaniment  
Children's Message

**6 p.m. Prayer & Praise Worship with Holy Communion**  
Christian praise songs with Psalm 151 worship team  
Casual worship in the Sanctuary



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor

- Grace Lutheran Church  
[churchoffice@glcpa.org](mailto:churchoffice@glcpa.org)
- GLC Preschool and Kindergarten  
[gplk@glcpa.org](mailto:gplk@glcpa.org)  
814-238-8110
- Faith Formation Ministry  
[faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org)

Gather • Feed • Send

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ.