



**Dec. 21,
2016**

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Grace Notes Email Newsletter

Dear Grace Family,

Wishing everyone at Grace a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Your Grace Lutheran Church Staff



Christmas Worship Information

December is Advent and Christmas, the seasons when Christians remember and give thanks for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have many special worship services this Christmas to help us honor Christ and hear the Good News of his birth.

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 there are three services.

The Children's Candlelight worship is at 3:00 p.m. This service is especially designed for families with young children.

The Celebration Christmas Eve worship is at 4:30 p.m. The Praise Team leads us in many Christmas songs. We will celebrate Holy Communion.

The Traditional Christmas Eve worship is at 6:30 p.m. The Jubilation Choir will sing & the Handbell Choir will play the bells and we will celebrate Holy Communion,

All of the services will include the beautiful candle lighting during the singing of "Silent Night".

TIME CHANGE: Christmas Day worship is at 10:00 a.m. This is a service full of music and celebration. We will also receive Holy Communion. Remember that children are invited to come to worship in their pajamas!

There is one service on Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. This worship will also be filled with the beautiful music of the holidays.

Come and worship our Lord Jesus this holiday season!

Please make sure that wherever you are celebrating Christmas that you worship the one who is at the heart of all we believe.

Funeral for Harold Woltring

This week Harold Woltring went home to Jesus for Christmas. Harold joined Grace a few years ago and spent most of that time at LaSata. We will celebrate his life, faith, and the promises of Jesus on Thursday at Grace. Visitation will be from 4-6 and the service will be at 6 with a meal following.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Our 2017 Grace Play

We all are faced with many choices in our lives. How we go about making these choices shapes who we are. This is especially true when it comes to our faith. Our 2017 Grace play is all about choices. It focuses on the story of Adam and Eve and the bad choices they made, as well as the life and ministry of Jesus and how he taught us to make godly and healthy choices. We performed this play back in 2003 and are bringing it back for a new generation of Grace members. Our first meeting to organize for the play will be held the afternoon of Sunday, January 8. The date of

the play will be Sunday, March 19. Talk to Pastor Paul if you are interested in joining our cast or crew. The play has big parts and small parts and is open to all ages.

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End of the Year Giving

To receive credit for your 2016 giving you must have your offering into the office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30.

Thank you

Please Remember In Your Prayers

Please keep Jim Biefeld in your prayers. His mother died this week. Also remember Zach Durlam who lost his grandmother. The Durlams are heading to Iowa for the funeral and will be back for our Christmas services this weekend. Hold these two families up in prayer during their time of loss.



JYG Lock In January 6, 2017

You're invited to our January Lock-In at Grace. We'll play games, have some good food, hang out together and also talk about being servants of Jesus.

Parents can drop off at 7:30 p.m. and pick up at 8:00 a.m.

Please bring \$5.00 for pizza, a sleeping bag, pillow, and comfy clothes.

Please sign up in the JYG room or on the board outside of the Worship Center.

Friends are Welcome!!!

New Thursday Evening Bible Study in January

"The Prophetic Voice"

I'm going to start a new eight week Bible study on the lives and messages of the Old Testament prophets Hosea, Amos and Micah. These powerful witnesses of the Lord challenged the sinful people of Judah and Israel to turn away from sin and to live obediently in the Lord's ways. Even though they lived 2,700 years ago their words still resonate with a powerful truth today. During our eight week class we will look at important sections from each of these books. The first class will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 5. You are welcome to join us as we delve into God's word.

Pastor Paul

Confirmation Break

There will be no confirmation classes tonight or on Wednesday, December 28. Classes resume on Wednesday, January 4. The seventh graders will begin their study of the Ten Commandments and the eighth graders will have classes on the Apostles' Creed.

Youth Education Hour Resumes Sunday, January 8

There will be no Education Hour on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. We will resume our regular Education Hour schedule on Sunday, January 8.

A special thank you to all of our Youth Education Staff! Merry Christmas!

Pat & Chantal Murack, Jessica Korrison, Kelsey Mantel, Kerry Feutz, Adan Burgos, Chris Eippert, Mike & Nicki Donahue, Steve & Valerie Buchman, Darlyne Holle, Barb Eckert, James & Sarah Newell, Kelly Klug, Gail Woyach, Donna Stauske, Kate Peterman, Karen Bulgerin, Christa Beloin, Tom & Jean Fugate, Ellie King, Katelyn Grissom, Mary Defenbaugh, Lisa Bernd, Melissa Schmidt, Melinda Beloin.

Youth Education Christmas Program Ornaments

Thank you to all of the children and families who participated in our Youth Education Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18. It was so wonderful to see our youth of all ages singing, playing and speaking their praises to our Lord! If you are a student who did not receive a stained glass Christmas ornament after second service, please pick one up from the table in the gathering area. A gracious member of the Christian Education Committee made one for each of our students. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Lydia Circle

Starting in January, Lydia Circle will be meeting at church rather than in homes. We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We adjourn for the summer months and resume our study again in September. Following our study we have a short meeting and end with dessert and conversation.

We will be starting a new 5 session study that's on the New Testament book of 1 Peter. Pastor Heidi leads our study. She mentioned that this study will fit in with the lectionary this year. The cost of the book is \$8. Please let Pastor Heidi or Jan Ernst know if you would like a book by January 12. Below is a little more information on the study.

God's Own People: Studies in 1 Peter by Tom Teichmann

The epistle or letter of 1 Peter reminds those who would follow Jesus that they are born anew into a wonderful inheritance as God's own people: trusted, called, made holy, and proclaiming. This doesn't guarantee that their faith won't be tested or that they won't experience suffering, but 1 Peter assures its readers that their relationship with God is guaranteed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the end, we won't be put to shame. And in the meantime, we cast our burdens on Christ who loves us beyond measure!

Session One: A Tested People

Session Two: A Trusting People

Session Three: A Called People

Session Four: A Holy People

Session Five: A Proclaiming People

Lydia Circle would like to extend an invitation to all women of Grace to come and join us. Hope to see you January 24,2017 at 7p.m.

December Perfect Attendance

Congrats to the following students for perfect SundaySchool attendance in December: Anna Borkenhagen, Grandt Schwartz, Bobby Ball, Reeve Albiero, Bennett Borkengagen, Chase Burgos, Julia Ebbert, Sienna Emanuele, Amelia Jacobson, River Kolbach, Madeline Marriott, Mason Schmidt, Charlie Schuler Ashley Swim, Natalie Donovan, Emma Eippert, Mila Dotson, Harlow Albiero, Cole Burgos, Helen Utecht, Aliza Emanuele, Holly Kamenick, Kaleigh Schmidt, Ava Arndt, Rachel Donovan, Matthew Eippert, Taryn Flaig, Lucas Peterman, Tessa Woyach, Ava Dotson, Gabby Gartman, Cameron Holle, Avery Newell, Brady Schmidt, Hannah Feutz, Abby Peterman, Josh Stauske, Otto Utecht, Macy Woyach, Pyper Flaig, Emily Freymuth, Del Schuler, Megan Witt, Sarah Meinecke.

Grace High Schoolers - Interested in the Boundary Waters?



In seven months our high school youth group heads off to the beautiful wilderness of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota for a week-long adventure. The trip is open to all students in grades 9-12. Parents, if you have a teen or two interested in being a part of this trip please let us know. In early January we need to decide if we will go with two groups (16 people total) or three groups (24 people total). You don't need to pay the registration fee at this time, but the more accurate count we have of who is thinking of going the more it will help us plan our trip. Talk to Pastor Paul if you are interested.

Adult Literacy Center Needs Some Help

Rachel Ragen, the director of the Adult Literacy Center, is in need of some help from our Grace community members for two of her ALC students.

Her first request is to help find a medical position for a friend of one of the ALC students.

He is a trained anesthesiologist/physician in Ukraine. He has come to the U.S., passed the U.S. Medical Exam License, and applied at 80 places but thus far, he

has had no callbacks. He needs help to get his "foot in the door" to find some entry-level position to return to practicing medicine. He would like to be an internist, but he could also do anesthesia. Do you think there is anyone within the congregation who could potentially help this gentleman?

Her second request is for a student who is from Taiwan. She recently purchased a piano keyboard but only knows how to read music in Chinese. She is hoping that there might be someone in the congregation who could help Jacqueline learn to read music in English.

If you are able to help or know of someone who is able to help, please contact Rachel at adultliteracycenter@gmail.com or [262.546.0020](tel:262.546.0020).

Thank you!

TNT UWM Basketball Game

On Saturday, January 14 at 2pm we will be going to the UWM vs. Wright State Men's Basketball Game. It's a great deal- 4 tickets, 4 t-shirts, 4 hot dogs, 4 sodas for \$50!

Please email Brian & let him know if you're interested in the basketball game Brianborkenhagen@netscape.net.

Staff Schedules

With the new staff now set in place, it's a good time to let everyone know our normal schedules. Of course things can change, so it's always a good idea to make an appointment or call ahead, but these are generally when we are in the office with the exception of visits or other outside work duties.

The office is open Monday thru Friday from 9-12 and 1-4.

Pastor Paul: Tuesday-Friday

Pastor Heidi: Tuesday-Thursday

Lisa Bernd: Monday-Wednesday

Ed Borkenhagen: Tuesday-Friday

Erica Dimmett: Tuesday, Wednesday from 3-Confirmation, Friday morning

Katie Eippert: Tuesday & Thursday (8-5)

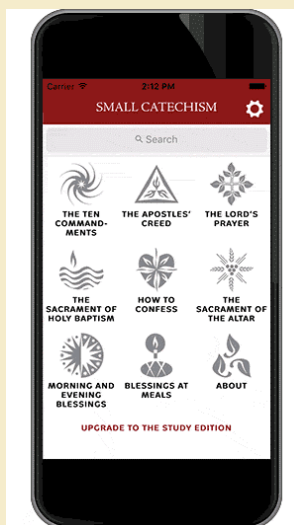
A pastor is always available in emergencies. Our cell phone numbers are always on the church voicemail recording- 377-4770. Please don't hesitate to call us if you need us. That is what we're here for.

Meet the New Bishop

On Tuesday, January 31 Bishop Paul Erickson is going to be at Grace in Thiensville for meetings with clergy and congregation members. If you'd like to meet him and have discussions, you can come for dinner at 5:30 and/or a discussion session that starts at 6:30. Let one of the pastors know if you're planning to attend.

Luther's Small Catechism: There's an App for That!

It may have been a while since you were in confirmation, or maybe you are now and need to brush up on your meanings of the 10 commandments! There's now a FREE App for that! Augsburg Fortress, a Lutheran publishing house, has created an app for your phone, so you can read the Small Catechism anytime. Martin Luther wrote it for families to use at home to teach and practice faith. It has explanations for the Ten Commandments, Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer, Sacrament of Holy Baptism, How to Confess, The Sacrament of the Altar (communion). It also has morning and evening blessings, as well as a Table Blessing! In honor of the Reformation and next year's 500th Anniversary, take a little time to refresh your Lutheran basics!



To get the app, just go to your App Store and search "Luther's Small Catechism".



Mt. Meru Coffee is now available for purchase in the Gathering Space

Several varieties of coffee are now available for immediate purchase. Please complete the order form, include cash or check made payable to the Mt. Meru Coffee Project and deposit in the box provided. If you do not find the type of coffee you need, please complete an order form as the coffee will be restocked monthly. Regular, decaf, or flavored coffee sells for \$10.00/12 oz. bag. Drip and perk grinds as well as whole bean and single-serve cups are available.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE COFFEE!

It is important that we remember the Mt. Meru Coffee Project is not just about the coffee, but also about our relationship with the farm families of the Meru Diocese. Every time we purchase a package of Mt. Meru Coffee we help to bring economic and social justice to the people of the Meru Diocese in Tanzania.

WHAT IS THE MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT?

The Coffee Project is one element of the ministry partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA and the Diocese of Meru ELCT. Growing out of this partnership which was formed in 1996, the Coffee Project was initiated in 2000 and imported its first coffee in 2002. The Project creates a direct justice-based link between the coffee farmers of Northern Tanzania and the coffee consumers of the USA, building on fair trade practices.

For more information, check the website: <http://www.mtmerucoffee.org> or contact Coffee Ambassadors Jeanne and Bob Dries at 375-0997.

Check out AmazonSmile to Support Grace While Shopping!

If you're buying gifts through Amazon's website, please consider doing it through AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you

shop at <http://smile.amazon.com>, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support- please consider supporting Grace Lutheran!

Don't forget...One Can Plan

Our ongoing mission is collecting nonperishable goods for Ozaukee Family Sharing and All People's Church in Milwaukee. Please bring one nonperishable food item when you come to worship and place it in the yellow barrel. The yellow barrel is located in the corner of the Gathering Area under the Outreach Opportunity Bulletin Board.

The Good News is on the Website

There is a lot going on at Grace this month. You can read all about it in this month's Good News. Follow the link:

http://www.gracegrifton.com/uploads/2/6/4/1/26411638/goodnews_currentmonth.pdf

Responsibility List

Responsibilities for Saturday, December 24

At the 4:30 p.m. service: Katie Koppa is the reader, Ellie Feutz is the acolyte, Jason Traxel's team is ushering, A VOLUNTEER is needed to be the greeter, Hannah Bulgerin is in the multimedia room, DeeAnn Fugate & Sherry Bublitz are the communion assistants & Laura Reisinger & Katie are the common cup assistants & Lisa Bernd has communion set up.

At the 6:30 p.m. service: Peg Lade is the the reader, Josh Brown is the acolyte, Jerry Plyer's team is ushering, Joby Whitemarsh & Barb Wrolstad are the greeters, John Bernd is in the multimedia room, Courtney Bernd & Lisa Bernd communion assistants & Jane Johnson & Joby Whitemarsh are the common cup assistants & Lisa Bernd has communion cleanup.

Responsibilities for Sunday, December 25

At the 10:00 a.m. service: Christy Loeffler readers, Scott Schloerke's team is ushering, Anita Bednarczyk is the greeter, Jane Johnson is the communion assistant & Pastor Paul has communion set up.

Responsibilities for Sunday, January 1, 2016

At the 10:00 a.m. service: Paul Singer is the assisting minister, Scott Steffen is the reader, Julia DeFlorentiis is the acolyte, Wendy Freeland's team is ushering, Rick & Nora Koenig is the greeter, Pat Murack is the communion assistant & Linda Borkenhagen has communion set up/cleanup.