



Grace Newsletter

January 2019

2019 Congregational Education—

During the 2019 year, Grace will be focusing on suicide education including prevention, gatekeeping skills and more. For our own awareness, please understand the statistics:

- ~Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for Idahoans age 15-34 and for males up to age 44.
- ~ Idaho is consistently among the states with the highest suicide rates. In 2016 Idaho had the 8th highest suicide rate, 57% higher than the national average.

<https://www.spanidaho.org/idaho-suicide-facts>

Please watch for workshops that will be offered over the next year.



Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Love INC Christmas Family and gift cards to InsideOut. Your generosity is amazing. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

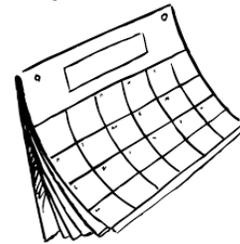
Year-end Board Reports—

All Boards and Organizations, please have your year-end reports submitted to Hope no later than Friday, January 4.



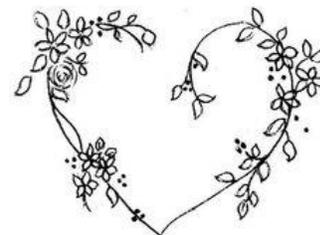
2019 Calendars—

Flahiff Funeral Chapel has donated several 2019 calendars. They are located in the entry way on the counter. Only a few left!



Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study—

Women's Bible Study will begin Tuesday, January 8 at 7 PM. The group is meeting at Sarah Kroll's house. Please call the church if you need directions. All women are invited to join this study. They will be reading "Where Love Abides: Abiding in the True Vine to Bear Lasting Fruit." A bible study based on John 15:1-17 by Donna Pyle.



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EPIPHANY – THE SEASON OF LIGHT

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Matthew 6:33 John 1:4-5

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. I’m guessing you’ve already or even spoken words to this effect: “WOW! Where did 2018 go? All the things I had planned to do last year just didn’t seem to ever get done. But this year it’s going to be different!!”

And, if you’re like me, New Year’s resolutions like that all too quickly fall by the wayside. This seems to be a very common problem for all of us. Promises, even those we make to ourselves, are not always kept.

With the beginning of a new year the church also begins a new church season. Our new year actually began last year with the beginning of Advent. But January 6th marks the beginning of the Epiphany season. Epiphany means “*to show forth, to make clear, to manifest.*” What we celebrate during Epiphany is God’s promise, His resolution, to a make clear His salvation, not only for the people of Israel but to the whole world.

And unlike us, God never goes back on or breaks His promises. His promise of salvation was kept in the birth of the Christ-child which we recently celebrated on Christmas Day. Jesus, whom the angel told Joseph, was named so because He would save His people from their sins, lived, died, and then rose again for you and me on Easter morning.

As with many church seasons, Epiphany is filled with symbols that remind us of the acts of grace which God has performed for us.

- The five pointed star symbolizes the star the Magi followed and which led them to Bethlehem where they worshipped and gave gifts to the newborn king.
- The colors of our paraments also speak to us: white (on Epiphany Sunday) tells us that this is a season of light, glory, and victory and green indicates that this is a season of growth. Just as our Lord grew in “stature and wisdom”, so also we grow in our faith and in realization of who Jesus really is and what He has done.
- This is also declared by many of the Scripture readings assigned for the Sundays in Epiphany which focus on the miracles Jesus performed. These reveal Him as the One whom the prophets foretold.

But perhaps the most meaningful symbol which is prominent during this season is the candle. A candle sends forth light to dispel darkness. Darkness cannot swallow up light, it always give way to it. Jesus, the

Light of the world, also came to push back the darkness. At first He was a tiny, flickering light, the child in the manger. But later He was revealed and manifested as the One who had come to destroy the power of unbelief, sin, and sickness which held our world in the deep darkness of hopelessness.

There are two things about candle light that can help us to remember who Christ is and what He has done.

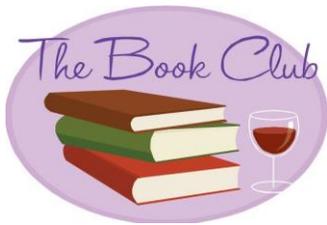
- First, a candle’s light is *given light*. Just as light is given, God has given, as a free gift, the light of His Son. Who we are and what we do are reflections of that light. And during this season we are called to ask ourselves how we might reflect His love to others more and more.
- Second, a candle *gives itself* to show light. A candle burns at the expense of itself. This is the way Jesus lived, as well. Jesus lived sacrificially. As He said, “*The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.*” Matthew 20:28 Jesus gave of Himself throughout His life, ultimately giving His very life for the sins of the world. It isn’t going too far to say that He loved us so much that He burned Himself out for you and me. But, of course, the great news is that at Easter He was given new life, rekindled if you will. And the darkness of death was not simply pushed back by the light but swallowed up forever.

This is the good news which we reveal, to which we give witness, not only during the season but through every season of our lives. Jesus did what we could not and so we cling to Him and His cross of grace.

As you greet the beginning of this new year I encourage you to make a resolution that, with God’s help, you will never break. Resolve to carry Jesus, the Light of the world before you, revealing Him to those around you both in word and deed. Jesus Christ is THE light, and the darkness has not, and never will, overcome it.

I pray that your Christmas is filled with the joy and hope which the birth of Christ brings to all the world and, as always, I look forward to seeing you all in church.

Pastor Brooks



The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **January 27** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "Wise Blood" by Flannery O'Connor. Our meeting place is TBD.

A short summary: *Wise Blood*, Flannery O'Connor's astonishing and haunting first novel, is a classic of twentieth-century literature. It is the story of Hazel Motes, a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his inborn, desperate fate. He falls under the spell of a "blind" street preacher named Asa Hawks and his degenerate fifteen-year-old daughter, Sabbath Lily. In an ironic, malicious gesture of his own non-faith, and to prove himself a greater cynic than Hawks, Motes founds the Church Without Christ, but is still thwarted in his efforts to lose God. He meets Enoch Emery, a young man with "wise blood," who leads him to a mummified holy child and whose crazy maneuvers are a manifestation of Motes's existential struggles. This tale of redemption, retribution, false prophets, blindness, blindings, and wisdom gives us one of the most riveting characters in American fiction.

Any and all women are invited to join us for a heartfelt talk and a glass of wine! If you have any questions, you can call Hope at 208-405-6080.



Concordia Circle/LWML—

Concordia Circle/LWML will meet Monday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Lorene Schuster is hosting and reading devotions. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Please contact Peggy Schroeder with any questions.

Council Meeting—

The council meeting for this month is on Thursday Jan. 10 at 7:30 PM.

Elder Meeting—

The Elder's meeting for this month is on Tuesday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Voter's Meeting—

Is on Sunday, Jan. 13 following a potluck lunch. Potluck information: If your last name begins with the letters A-F, bring a dessert; G-L, bring a meat dish; M-R, bring a hot side dish; S-Z, bring a salad.

After the potluck, the annual congregational meeting will be held finalizing the 2019 budget. Please plan on attending this very important meeting.



Women's Crafting Retreats

January 11-14 & February 8-11, 2019

Cost: \$135-\$145

Grab your scrapbooks, quilts, sewing machines, and creativity. Get ready to craft your weekend away!

Winter Family Flurry

February 15-18, 2019

Cost: Varies

Join us for tubing and snowshoeing, snowmen building contests, and more! There is limited space in the comfort of the Retreat Center, so register early!

Men's Winter Weekend

March 1-3, 2019

Cost: \$130/person

Enjoy meals and fellowship in the winter wilderness! Activities include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and tubing. Rent a snowmobile or bring your own.

Senior High Snowfest

March 8-10, 2019

Cost: \$105/person

Hang out by the fire, eat excellent food, and play in the snow while spending time in prayer and the Word with others from the region.

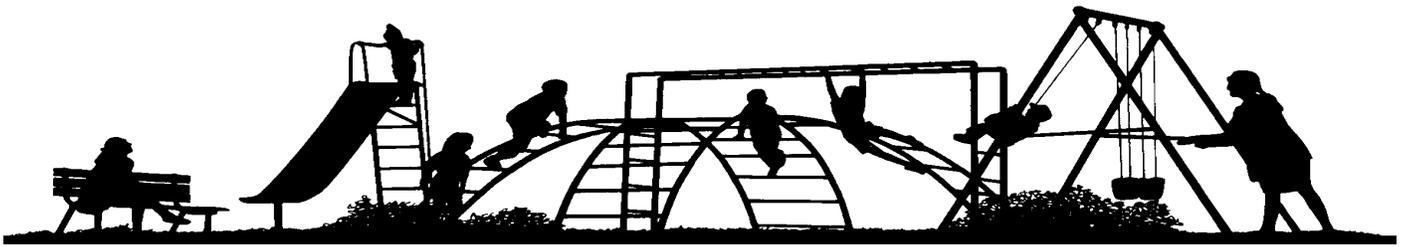
Contact Information

Register at: CampPerkins.org

Call: (208)788-0897

Email: info@campperkins





Grace Lutheran Preschool

Important Dates for 2019

Jan. 8	School Resumes
Jan. 21 - 27	Lutheran Schools Week
March 25 – 29	Spring Break
April 23 – 25	Parent Teacher Conference's
May 16	Last Day of Preschool
May 16	All Preschool Celebration

Note from Mrs. Christiansen

Thank you for the amazing opportunity to be the Pre-K teacher these past 4 ½ years. After many discussions with my cardiologist and family, along with prayer, it saddens me to resign due to health issues. I truly enjoy teaching and have been blessed to have formed great friendships with so many preschool families. It's hard saying goodbye, especially mid-year. It's natural for the students to leave us in May and move onto Kindergarten; however leaving 29 wonderful children is more difficult than I anticipated. Since making this decision many people have shared what their experience with our preschool has meant to them. These words have been incredibly humbling and make me proud to have been a part of their lives. God has blessed me on this journey and I am truly grateful for all my time teaching at Grace. Thank you for all your love, support and prayers. God's Blessings.

- Mrs. Julie Christiansen

Pre-Kindergarten

4 Year Old Class

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Time goes by quickly when you're having fun, and our Pre-K class has a lot of fun. Hard to believe half the school year is completed. December was filled with the true meaning of Christmas. We started with the angel visiting Mary, and ended with the birth of our savior, Jesus. Our Bible verses were: Luke 1:3 "Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God", John 12:13 Blessed is the King, and Luke 2:11 A savior has been born. Our letters were D, P, and B. We made loads of Christmas crafts, special keepsakes and ornaments that will hopefully be cherished for years to come. We also worked on mazes, sequencing, patterns, gingerbread counting, baked & frosted cookies, painted a trinity snowman, rug games reviewing positional words, recognizing colors by it's spelling, and learned what animals hibernate. Some of our favorite crafts were coffee filter angels, paper plate wreaths, smallest to biggest greens strip Christmas trees, hand & footprint angels, Christmas glitter playdough, and beaded ornaments. We had an excellent turn-out for the Christmas program; 346 were in attendance - how wonderful! We ended the semester by watching The First Noel animated movie and having a party.

- Happy New Year, Mrs. Christiansen & Ms. Patti

### 3 Year Old Class

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Decemburrrrr... Learning the new month's name we tied in the fact that it is cold outside by extending the end of December with a burrrrr and rubbed our arms. Along with the colder weather came the anticipation of Christmas which brought our bible verse of the month into order, "Jesus has been born for You" Luke 2:11.

The kids learned about Mary and Joseph, the Angels, journey to Bethlehem, the Shepard's, Wisemen, and the birth of our savior Jesus. Most of our crafts made revolved around these teachings such as baby Jesus on the star tree ornament, the Wisemen, angels, and the nativity scene. The kids got to ride a donkey in class and pretended they were Mary trying to find an Inn to stay at once they arrived in Bethlehem, they loved that one! Other crafts related to Christmas such as the gingerbread men, stockings we hung over the fireplace, decorated a Christmas tree and made a picture of Santa Claus.

We traveled all over the world to places such as Italy to Israel. We also coordinated our snack time to each place we visited so we could have a taste of what people liked from other countries. In January we will be learning numbers 11, 12, 13. Shape will be a Diamond. Colors will be blue and white and our letters will be J, D, and P. Our bible study will focus on Jesus as a boy, his baptism, and his choosing his Disciples.

Parents please remember to have your child bring a hat, coat, and gloves to school to keep them warm outside at recess as the months will get colder and hopefully some snow for the kids to make snow angels in.

Thank you to everyone that attended the Christmas program. We are so proud of how well the kids sang and danced along to the songs they learned. It was a great success. Last but not least thank you parents for bringing the wrapped books for our Christmas book exchange. Each kid received a gift from a friend in class which made it very special. We ended our exchange with a star shaped cake and sang Happy Birthday to Jesus and thanked him for being born for us.

All our love,
Mrs. Amanda Gigray & Mrs. Katie Villegas



Proverbs 22:6

Start **children** off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.



FRIDAY, JAN. 25

6 PM

DINNER WILL BE SERVED

BRING A GAME TO SHARE

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. Luke 1:68

**National Youth
Gathering
Fundraiser**



**Order your
Superbowl SubSandwichs
beginning January 13
Order forms will be available at church**

High School

WINTER RETREAT

**SnoFest at Camp Perkins
March 8-10 Cost \$115
Sign up by February 14
Chaperones needed**

MSM

Sunday, January 20 6:30-8:00 PM

Middle School Ministry

**HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAYS
6:30-8 PM
YOUTH ROOM**

**Bible Study on January 13, 20 & 27
no Bible Study on January 6**

January 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!</p> <p>2 Corinthians 5:17</p>		<p>1 New Year's Day</p>  <p>5:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>2 Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>No Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>No H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: Becky & Alli Parry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm LWML / Concordia Circle</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Preschool 4's</i></p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p><i>Annual Budget Voter's Meeting w/ Potluck</i></p> <p>Orders open for Superbowl sub's 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: James & Julie Dowen</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>9:30/12:30 Chapel</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Preschool 4's</i></p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:30 pm Theology on Tap</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm MSM see p. 6</p> <p>Greeters: Nancy Hoffmann</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Elder's 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Preschool 4's</i></p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 pm Family Dinner & Game Night see p. 6</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Book Club</p> <p>Greeters: Mike & Louise Ehlers</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Preschool 4's</i></p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:30 pm Theology on Tap</p>		