



# Grace Newsletter

## Advent Schedule—

During the Advent season you are invited to join us in our church basement for a Soup Supper beginning at 5:30 PM followed by a Hymn Sing at 6:15 PM upstairs in the Sanctuary. Each of the 3 Wednesday Advent Worship Services begin at 6:30 PM

December 4  
"COME, LORD JESUS,  
to Him Who Has Come to Defeat the Devil"

December 11  
"COME, LORD JESUS,  
to Him Who Comes to Lead Us in Daily Life"

December 18  
"COME, LORD JESUS,  
to Him Who Will Come Again to Bring Final Victory"

Christmas Eve Carol & Candlelight  
Family Worship Service  
7:00 PM  
"A Thief in the Night" - Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day Service  
with Holy Communion  
10:00 AM  
"Looking Ahead" - Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

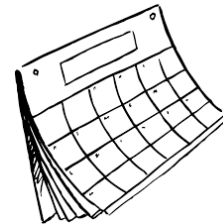
## Advent Devotional Booklets—

Printed booklets of "Call His Name Jesus" by Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in the entryway on the counter. They can also be found online at [lhm.org/advent](http://lhm.org/advent).



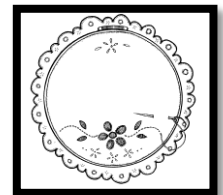
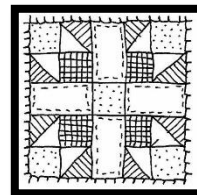
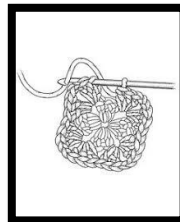
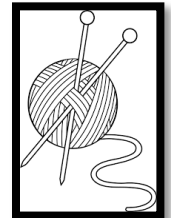
## 2020 Calendars—

Flahiff Funeral Chapel has donated several 2020 calendars. They are located in the entry way on the counter.



## ATTENTION Crafters & Quilters—

Do you have a craft, crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, embroidery project that you just can't seem to get done? Bring it to the church fellowship hall on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. and work on it. This will give you an uninterrupted one or two hours per week to focus on your project. "Great time to get to know your fellow crafters and quilters." Our quilters meet at this time as well and welcome anyone who knows how to quilt or would like to learn. There is plenty of room and good conversation.



## In This Issue

From the Pastor .....	page 2
Upcoming Events .....	page 3
Preschool .....	page 4
Youth Activities .....	page 5
Calendar of Events .....	Page 6
Prayers .....	page 7



## A BIRTHDAY PARTY?

*“Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch, this is Santa’s big scene. In the air there’s a feeling of Christmas.”*

*“The children were all nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.”*

*Christ is a time for love and good cheer among family and friends*

Ever notice how so much of the way Christ is celebrated has little to nothing to do with Christ? News media tells us the essence of Christmas is giving coats or food to the needy. Movies and TV specials pour on the syrup, sending the message that Christmas is some festival of human love and good cheer or a time when miracles happen and life is rosy and happy.

While being charitable and loving those around you are very good things, they aren’t the essence of Christmas.

The essence of Christmas is that God became a man, took on human flesh, in order complete a mission He had foretold in the Garden of Eden. He entered our sinful world to save sinful humanity through the One who would crush the head of the serpent but, in so doing, be struck by that serpent and die.

That’s the real reason for the “holyday” that is celebrated every December 25th. Christmas is remembering and celebrating the birthday of the King of kings and Lord of lords, “God in man made manifest.”

When we celebrate birthdays we typically do certain things. And God is no different.

### Invitations

When we celebrate a birthday we often have a party. Invitations are sent out to family and friends with the hope that they will demonstrate that it’s an important event to them by showing up.

God did the same thing. When His Son was born He sent an invitation to the shepherds. But He didn’t trust this most important of invites to the postal service. This event deserved nothing but the most trusted messengers – a delegation of angels.

They came declaring, *“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,*

*who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”* Luke 2:10-12

We might not be invited the same way today but the invitation comes to us in His Word. There He invites all people to come and worship the newborn King.

### Gifts

The magi (or as they are often called, the Wisemen) received an invitation as well. They saw the sign of his coming in a star which guided them to Jesus and His parents. And they did something that often happens at birthdays – they gave the birthday boy gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Christmas is a time of a lot of gift giving. Trees will be crowded with beautifully wrapped packages and people will eagerly look to see if their name is on them.

But nothing can surpass the greatest gift of Christmas. God Himself gives us all that we have out of His divine love and mercy even though we don’t deserve it. As John declared: *“God so loved the world that He GAVE His one and only Son....”* John 3:16

### Songs

A birthday party would not be complete without the song “Happy birthday to you...” (often sung off key). But nothing can compare to the song of the angels as they sang that night, *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”* Luke 2:14

On Christmas day, all around the world, God’s people will sing songs of joy, songs which retell the reason for our joy. “Angels we have heard on high” proclaiming “Christ the Savior is born.” O come all ye faithful” and see “This Great and Might Wonder”. We must “Go tell it on the mountain.”

These songs of joy and praise warm our hearts and bring back memories of Christmases past as they declare our present joy that Christ is born to set us free.

What we do and have done at Christmas – the traditions, the parties, the presents – these are all good things. But we must always remember whose birthday we celebrate.

A most blessed Christmas to you. And Happy Birthday, Jesus!!

*Pastor Brooks*



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **December 29** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing **“Before We Were Yours”** by Lisa Wingate. Our meeting place is TBD.

**Summary:** Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family’s Mississippi River shanty boat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children’s Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility’s cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty. Based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate’s riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

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—**

December promises to be a busy month for Grace’s LWML/Concordia Circle. The annual Christmas Party will be December 2 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Jade Garden, 1514 Caldwell Blvd., Nampa. You may purchase off the menu or pay around \$12 for their buffet. All ladies of Grace are invited. There will be an ingathering of ladies’ and children’s briefs & socks (all sizes) to benefit the Valley Crisis Center as well as an optional gift exchange among those attending the party. Please limit your exchange gift to under \$20. Come and enjoy an evening of fun, food, and fellowship with your sisters-in-Christ!

A Christmas gift for our shut-ins will be assembled in the fellowship hall Saturday morning, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Plans are to have lunch in town afterwards, returning to church at 2 p.m. to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree. This is an annual event and all women of the congregation are invited to participate.

The Advent soup suppers will once again be provided by the LWML Wednesday evenings in December. Proceeds from these heart-warming

suppers will go to benefit the Circle’s mission projects.

A big “Thank You” to all who participated in the November food drive. Faith Lutheran was very appreciative. The food will help those in need. You have been a blessing to the hungry!

### **2019-2021 Mission Grant #4 LAMP Ministry Inc. - \$100,000**

LAMP Ministry Inc. has ministered for nearly 50 years in northern Canada where many villages are reachable only by aircraft or seasonal roads. Currently, nearly one million Indigenous people live in these isolated areas with about half of them under the age of 14. The most alarming statistic is that over 15 percent of children and youth will actually take their own lives out of despair and hopelessness. When LAMP goes into these communities with VBS, Bible studies, and personal witnessing, these communities will have access to Christian education for faith in Christ. In order to fulfill their mission of sharing the gospel in the next few years, LAMP will need to expand their staff of full-time missionary pilots to four or five. LAMP will need to recruit and train 100 to 200 more volunteer missionaries committed to serve at least five years. This grant will provide the funds to help LAMP reach their goal.

### **Holy Communion this month—**

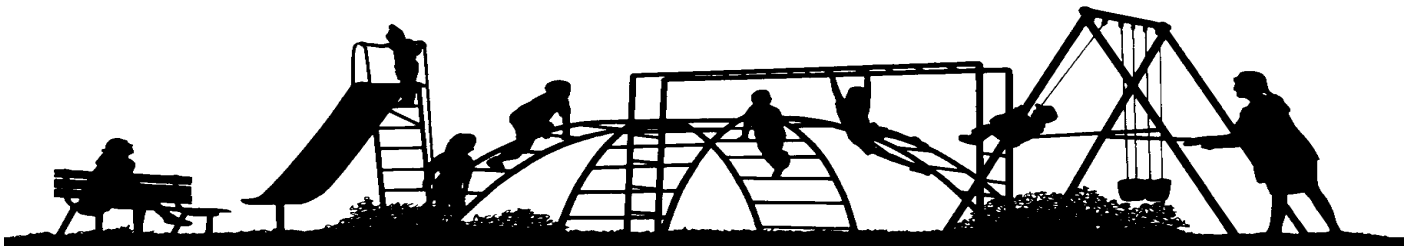
Please note that Holy Communion will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday this month due to the Children’s Christmas Program on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Practice Jesus**

If we practiced Jesus every way,  
It'd be like Christmas every day;  
If we, like Him, were meek and mild  
And loved each woman, man and child,  
If we'd read our Bible, it'd remind us,  
So that every single day would find us  
More and more in sweet accord  
With our sweet Jesus--Master, Lord.

Then every day that we're alive  
Would be like December 25.

*By Joanna Fuchs*



## Preschool News!

### Important Dates Coming Up:

Dec. 15 - Christmas Program      Dec. 23 – Jan. 6 - Christmas Break      Jan. 7 - School Resumes

### What is Visual Discrimination?

Visual discrimination is the ability to tell the difference between objects or symbols by sight including color, shape, size, and orientation. This skill is developmental; children will become more successful with visual discrimination activities as they begin to mature.

### Why is Visual Discrimination Important?

Young children in preschool and kindergarten need to have good visual discrimination skills to start identifying letters and numbers. Visual discrimination skills will help children to notice the similarities and differences in letters like b and d or x and y. Visual discrimination skills are also important when classifying.

Source: <https://www.pre-kpages.com/thanksgiving-visual-discrimination-activity/>

#### ***4 Year Old Class – Ms. Patti and Ms. Amanda***

November was all about being thankful! We talked to each child about what they were thankful for and put their words on a pumpkin. We worked on our fine motor skills making our own Indian corn with pony beads and pipe cleaners. We had so much fun at our own mini Thanksgiving feast with our special guests. We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break. Our learning focus was on the letters Q-H-T, the numbers 7-8-9, the square shape, and the colors blue and brown.

We have started learning our Christmas songs that we will perform during the Sunday children's service on December 15th . All family and friends are invited to join us and watch our kiddos sing their hearts out.

October Bible Focus: David and Goliath (The battle belongs to the lord. – 1st Samuel 17:47)

Daniel and the Lion's Den (Do not fear for I am with you. – Isaiah 41:10),

Joshua (God is with you wherever you go. – Joshua 1:9)

#### ***3 Year Old Class – Mrs. Celeste and Mrs. Katie***

November came and went as fast as the leaves falling from the trees. This month's focus was fall and Thanksgiving which fit perfectly with our bible verse, Give Thanks to the Lord. Psalm 136:1. We made Indian corn which had a poem of colors, found leaves outside all different sizes and colors and other fun things recognizing the seasons changes and our color of the month brown. The kids also learned the story of the first Thanksgiving to wrap up the remainder of our month with our mini feast. We celebrated with both classrooms and a special guest filling our tummies with delicious food and making placemats quoting what we are thankful for. Thank you to everyone that came and contributed to the feast!

“Give thanks in all you do.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

# Christmas CAROLING

Sunday, Dec. 22  
after church

Lunch will be served

All members of the congregation are invited

Children's Christmas Program  
December 15

During the service  
Kids needed for the different parts including:

Scientists, Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds & much more!



## All Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Best Appetizer Contest

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Party is from 6:30-8 PM  
At Church

Bring a friend!  
Win a prize!  
Have fun!  
For all youth  
6th-12th grade



All adults 60 and older  
are invited to an  
Intergenerational Dinner  
served by the youth

Sunday, December 8 at 6 PM  
Turkey, stuffing and everything else!  
Sign up in the entry way at church

## Middle School WINTER RETREAT

Snowjam at Camp Perkins  
January 10-12 Cost \$110

the **GTNE**  
NOW Gathering  
7.8.20 thru 7.12.20



High School District Youth Gathering  
Next Summer

July 8-12 in the Treasure Valley

Cost: \$350 which includes:

housing at NYU, all food, speakers, evening events & a night at Roaring Springs

\$50 deposit due by December 1

More information to come  
Pick up your sticker from Amy



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

DECEMBER 1


December 2019


<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>1</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study  Greeters: Tara Daniel	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm LWML Christmas Party at Jade Gardens see page 3	<b>3</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 9:30 am Chapel  5:45 pm Exercise	<b>4 Giving Tuesday</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>5</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i>  1:00 pm Board of Stewardship/Finance 1:00 pm Quilters / Crafters 5:45 pm Exercise	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
<b>8</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Intergenerational Dinner  Greeters: Jerry & Sharon Deal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i>  2:00 pm Merry Widows 5:45 pm Exercise	<b>11</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>12</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i>  1:00 pm Quilters / Crafters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:30 pm Theology on Tap	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
<b>15 Christmas Program</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Christmas Program 12:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party  Greeters: Jim & Mary Freeland	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> <b>Newsletter            Deadline</b> 9:30 am Chapel 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Elder's	<b>18</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>19</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i>  1:00 pm Quilters / Crafters 5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Winter Begins</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
<b>22</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm Lunch & Christmas Caroling  Greeters: Mike & Louise Ehlers	<b>23</b> <b>Bulletin            Deadline</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  7:00 pm Carol & Candlelight Service  Greeters: Ron & Donna Ehlers	<b>25 Christmas Day</b>  10:00 am Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion  Greeters: Amber Rau	<b>26</b> <b>Preschool is on            Christmas Break            from 12/24/19 thru            1/6/20 – School            resumes 1/7/20</b> 5:45 pm Exercise	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J
<b>29</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship  6:30 pm Grace Book Club  Greeters: Mike & Lynette Fisher	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>    5:45 pm Exercise		<b>Romans 15:13</b>  <b>May the God of hope fill you with all            joy and peace as you trust in him, so            that you may overflow with hope by            the power of the Holy Spirit.</b>		

# PRAYER PAGE

## Church Family Prayers—

Since February of this year we have named and prayed for each of our members this year and we have reached the end of the alphabet. We will be starting up our family prayers again in February of 2020. In the

meantime please feel free to contact the office or Pastor Brooks if you have a prayer request.



~~~~~

**Prayer** ~ God of grace, be with all who are sick or suffer from any kind of affliction of body, soul, or mind. In the midst of their sufferings, comfort them with the certain promise of Your love and Your promise to bring us healing according to Your good and perfect will. Be a comfort and strength to the friends and families of all whose loved ones have died recently. Assure them of the heavenly inheritance awaiting all who trust in Jesus for salvation and help them to look to You daily in their time of sorrow.

## Prayers of Praise:

- Erma Ledington who had no broken bones or head trauma after falling last month; just 5 staples placed in her head; staples are out and she is doing well.
- Tom Adams ~ he had a TIA (stroke) Nov. 1 and tests showed near complete blockage in both carotids; surgery was successful and he is now doing well.

~~~~~

## Prayer for Mission Grant #4 - LAMP Ministry

We praise and thank You, O Lord, for sending Your Son Jesus to be our Savior. We ask You to bless LAMP Ministry as they work to share the Gospel. Bless their efforts to expand their staff of full-time missionaries so that they can provide Christian education and Gospel witness through VBS and Bible studies. Please use our mite offerings to help spread Your Word to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

## Keep in our Prayers—

We pray God's healing, care and comfort for those dealing with:

*Cancer – Abel Saloum, Cindy Dolton & her brother, Courtney, Penny Storms Jeffries, Jim Christensen, John Lindbloom, Jack Hamblin, Mark Hammer, Gary Olufson, Ron Salow, Mitch Cunningham, Bill Tibbetts, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Doris Powell, Dave Koontz*

*Heart – Kayla Dekker, Brook Van Leuven, Katherine Clark, Gary Carmain, Al Osmus*

*Stroke – John Haverman, Jean (Margaret Kilzer's mother)*

*Mental health – Jim Moore, David Ledington, Amy (Bert's friend)*

*Knee – Jack Weymouth*

*Parkinson's – Bryan Schuster*

*Liver – Bryant Neal, Dave Henderson*

*Lung – Sherrie Prien*

*Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore, Scott Weiskircher, Jake Nash, Sunshine Bryden, Martha Weymouth, Dora Evans*

*Deaths of – Sandi (Bunnie Welshons sister)*

*We also remember and pray for our Shut-In's – Gwen Barney, Margaret Edmiston, Flo Hopkins, Norm Kendall, Charles & Paula Row, Sarge Sargent, Betty Schultz, David Schuster, Rosetta Schuster, Martha Weymouth, & Leonard Wolff*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6