



Grace Newsletter

December 2024

Advent Devotional Booklets—

Printed booklets of “Come, Let Us Adore Him” by Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in the entryway on the table. Feel free to take one for yourself or to give to a friend. They can also be found online at lhm.org/advent.



Newsletter Deadline—

Please send your announcements for January's newsletter by December 20th.

Next Voter's Meeting—

Please plan on attending our next meeting on Sunday, January 12th after worship service. Voters will meet to discuss and approve a budget for 2025. The Annual Report for 2024 will be distributed at this meeting; therefore, to all board chairs, yearly summaries are due by January, 6th.

Would you like a night out or do you need to get some Christmas shopping done? Just drop your children off here at the church on Friday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m. and get your shopping done early. There is no charge and your children will be cared for by adult church volunteers. The kids will enjoy a dinner, a game or two, a craft and playing with other children. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 10th by calling the church office (208) 459-4191.



Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Poinsettia's—

Anyone wishing to provide poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary is welcome to do so. The church always looks so festive for the celebration of Christ's birth! Please put your name on the side so you can take yours home after Christmas. If you would like to sign up to bring in flowers for the altar area you are welcome to do that as well. The sign-up sheet is on the bulleting board next to Lynnette's office. Remember to use the dry erase marker.

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“The Tradition Behind the Advent Wreath”

Do you have any traditions leading up to Christmas? When I was a child, my family had many traditions leading up to Christmas. One tradition we did, but has lost popularity at many homes, but is still popular in many churches, is the Advent wreath. In this article, I want to take a little time to teach you the history behind the Advent wreath tradition and its meaning so you know why we do it here at Grace Lutheran Church, Preschool, and Childcare Center and if you want to add it to your own home traditions.

According to many articles I read, the Advent wreath has a debated past, like many other church traditions. Some historians believe it was a custom adapted from pre-Christian Germanic tribes. They believed these pagans would light candles on a wreath to invoke the sun god to return the warmth and light of spring. These individuals believe Christians Christianized the practice by pointing this practice to Jesus, the light of the world, and an evergreen wreath to remind believers that Jesus gives them everlasting life. It relates to John 3:16-19, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.” Other individuals point to the Middle Ages, where German Lutherans in the 16th century used lighted wreaths to prepare for Christmas. Another set of individuals points to the German theologian and educator Johann Hinrich Wichern. He is credited with the idea of increasing the number of candles. He used it as a tool to teach the number of days until Christmas. He did it by having 24 red candles, four white candles, and one center Christ candle. Regardless of the wreath’s origin or combination of origins, it still can still be an object lesson to teach us things about our Advent Savior, Jesus. For the remainder of this article, we will learn the meaning of its elements.

We begin with the wreath. A traditional one is round and made out of evergreen branches. The shape and color represent the continuous life. Evergreen signifies victory over persecution and suffering. Some have added things like pinecones to speak to the hope

and seed of life. Others have added holly and its red berries to look its participants ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice, death, and resurrection. As for the candles, there are many different adaptations and explanations. Here is one of the better summaries I found behind the practices: Some call the first candle the Prophecy Candle, *the Hope Candle, or the Expectation Candle. It reminded believers that God had promised throughout the Old Testament that he would send a Messiah, the Shepherd King, to save his people. The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle, or sometimes the Peace Candle. (Others call it the Preparation candle.) The third candle is sometimes called the shepherds’ candle or the joy candle. It was often a pink color. The fourth candle is called the angel candle or the love candle. Naturally, for all of these themes, appropriate Scripture references could be used to help hearers and worshippers consider the various Advent themes of preparation, repentance, fulfillment of promises, the joy of Christ’s coming.* Not all Advent Wreaths do, but if there is a fifth candle, it is a white center candle. It is lit on Christmas, the day we celebrate His birth. As for color candles, there are normally either three purple or three blue. The purple represents royalty and repentance. Meanwhile, the blue carries with it the idea of hope and coming. There is typically one rose or pink, which is lit during the third week to represent the joy of the shepherd hearing the good news of Jesus. This is just a simple overview. If you would like more information, please contact me.

Whether you follow this tradition or not, come and join us this Advent Season on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM and midweek on Wednesdays for a meal at 5:30 PM and service at 6:30 PM as we wait for the Lord Jesus's coming. Come, Lord Jesus! Have a blessed Advent!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Jason Gullidge





Our next gathering of Grace Book Club is on Sunday, December 29 at 6:30 m. We will be discussing "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich. Our meeting place will be at Colleen Fuller's home.

A summary: Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman. Thomas Wazhashk is the night watchman at the jewel bearing plant, the first factory located near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota. He is also a Chippewa Council member who is trying to understand the consequences of a new "emancipation" bill on its way to the floor of the United States Congress. It is 1953 and he and the other council members know the bill isn't about freedom; Congress is fed up with Indians. The bill is a "termination" that threatens the rights of Native Americans to their land and their very identity. How can the government abandon treaties made in good faith with Native Americans "for as long as the grasses shall grow, and the rivers run"?

Our 2025 reading list is available. Look for it in your mailboxes and via email. If you haven't received by the end of the month, let Hope know.

All women are welcome to join us for a heartfelt discussion and a glass of wine! If you have any questions, call Hope at (208) 405-6080.

Family Focus Event—

Our next Family Focus event is Saturday, December 7th from 11am - 2pm. Carla Shields will be teaching us how to make our very own Busted Canvas for Christmas! If you would like all materials supplied for you the cost is \$20. For just the canvas and glue it is \$5 and you bring your own supplies. See Carla for a list of what you would need to bring if you want to get your own supplies. Dinner will be a Baked Potato Bar! See Lynnette or Carla for more information!

Busted Canvas - Example.

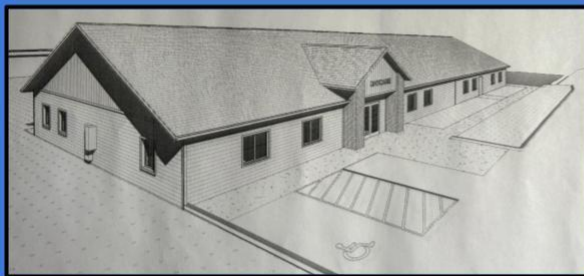


THE AUCTION COMMITTEE for the April fundraiser is seeking personal items from the members of our congregation to be donated and auctioned off at the 1st annual Grace Lutheran Church, Preschool, & Childcare Center fundraiser on Saturday, April 5th, 2025. These items to be auctioned might be: a cabin in the woods, a wine pairing meal for 8, water color lessons, party baskets, personalized art, etc. Additionally, if you have something nice that is unused or unwanted around your home, we would be glad to consider it for the auction. If you have any ideas for this type of auction item or you know someone who would be willing to donate, please notify Greg King or Janet Brooks.

Mark Your Calendars!

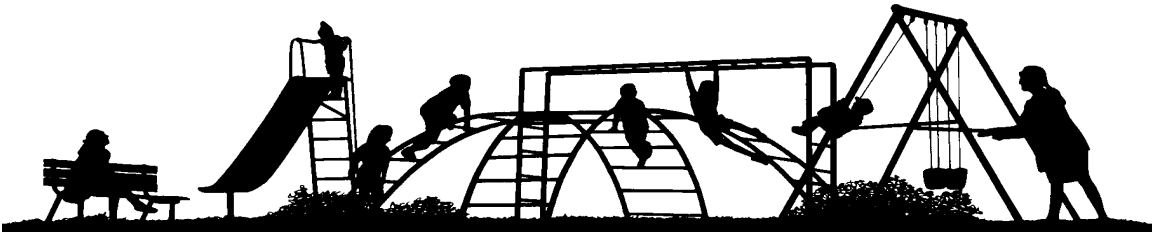
Saturday, April 5th

Contact the church office or Lynnette for donations!



Dinner Auction Located at Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran
Childcare Center
Dinner Auction
Fundraiser



Preschool News!

4-Year-Old Class

"Give thanks in all you do." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

November was the month of being thankful! We spent the month talking about things we are thankful for like God, Jesus, family, friends and our pets. The kids cut out leaves and told us what they were thankful for to decorate our thankful tree in the classroom. We worked on our fine motor skills making our own festive corn with pony beads and pipe cleaners. We made special placemats for our Thanksgiving feast and had fun drawing our own Turkey directed drawing masterpieces. We learned about Animals in the Winter and how some hibernate, some migrate and some adapt like us! We also made our own little hibernating bear as well as got to play with supplies like bark, pine needles, small branches, mosses, lichen and pine cones to create our own little habitats. Our mini-Thanksgiving feast with our special guests was so much fun. Our learning focuses last month were the letters Q-H-T, the numbers 7-8-9, the square shape, and the colors blue and brown.

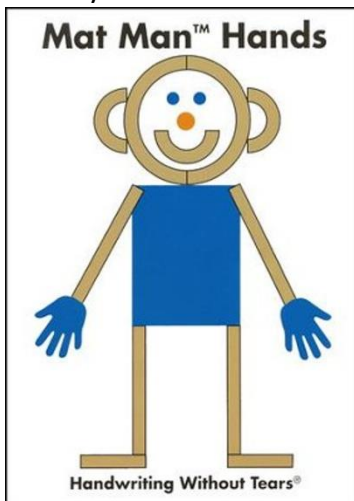
November Bible Verses: "You shall have no other God before me." - Exodus 20:3 & "God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9. Our Bible Stories: The Ten Commandments, David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den, & Jonah and the Big Fish. We pretended to be David and use a sling shot to hit our Goliath box. We also made pretend sling shots to take home. We made lion masks for Daniel and the lion's den and made our own big fish to put Jonah in and out of.

We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break.

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

3-Year-Old Class

The month of November was full of activities. We worked on letters Qq, Hh, and Tt. The students could independently create Mat Man. Mat Man consists of pieces of wood to create their bodies.



We also created Leaf man.

We worked with bear manipulatives for counting, patterning and sorting.

The children worked hard on their placemats and crafts for the Thanksgiving feast.

We acted out Jonah and the Whale, David and Goliath, and Daniel and the lion.

We discussed animal hibernation, focusing on bears. We read Animals in Hibernation, One Hungry Bear, and We are Going on a Bear Hunt.

They have been having fun practicing their Christmas songs.

We had a great time at the Thanksgiving Feast. We enjoyed talking to families. The food was delicious. The children's crafts were fully enjoyed by all and we hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving!

Ms. Andrea & Ms. Martha

Upcoming Event: [Preschool Christmas Program – December 12th, 6:30 PM](#)

Upcoming Break: [Winter Break – December 23rd – January 6th for 4's & January 7th for 3's](#)



Next meeting is Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship room. All women are welcome to join. Patti & Carla are hosting and Barb is providing the devotion. Contact Carla Shields if you have any questions.

Greeting cards available by the box (\$5 for 12) or individually (\$0.50). Christmas cards are also available for purchase in the fellowship hall/downstairs. Box of 12 \$5 and box of 24 \$10. Barbara James is available to help you with your card purchases or you may contact the church office.



This year there will be a potluck Christmas dinner party on December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Bring a side dish to go with ham, or a dessert. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, please limit your purchase to \$20.



“There are so many things I wish I could share with my children, but whenever we are together, it seems we are always racing off to a soccer game or dance recital. We never really get to talk.” This was the sentiment that Rachel was expressing to her sister as the two were enjoying an unseasonably warm November day on the screened porch. Rachel’s husband passed away suddenly about two years ago and since then, these two sisters have spent more time together.

“I know what you mean,” said Karen. “But that changed for me a few years ago when Bill and I put our estate plan together. We worked with an LWML Gift Planning Counselor, and she kept insisting that we create a statement of faith to share with our family and friends. She called it a Family Blessing. The counselor also urged us to meet formally with our kids to share the details of our estate plan with them. It was then that Bill and I both read our Family Blessings to the kids out loud. By the end we were all shedding some tears and hugging. It was the first time in a long time that we had deep conversations about our confidence in Jesus, rather than just talking about attending Sunday service. It was great.”

Rachel responded, “You know, since Fred died, I have been needing to review my estate plan. Maybe I’ll give the counselor a call and see if she can help me do the same thing.”

Your estate plan is not just about money and laws. It is about relationships and sharing Jesus. To get started on your journey and kindle those conversations with the people you love most, contact Lois Anderson at loisandersonlwml@gmail.com

PRAYERS

Prayer requests—

Please submit your requests for prayer by phone (208) 459-4191 or by email to graceonkimball@gmail.com. Also, please note that not all members are on our prayer request distribution/contact list.

[If you would like to be notified of prayer requests that come into our office, from and for our members please ask to be put on the “prayer chain” email distribution](#)

[list](#). This list is different from our “general” distribution list.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

If you do not keep your Portals of Prayer books, please consider returning the books to the church. They will be distributed in the future as part of prison ministry. There is a box in the entryway to place them in



Keep in our Prayers—

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

Cancer – Sharon Andrews, Patrick Knee, Don Southard, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavely, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson, Penny Storms Jeffries, Gary Olufson, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Doris Powell, Dave Koontz, Patti Wood

Liver – Bryant Neal

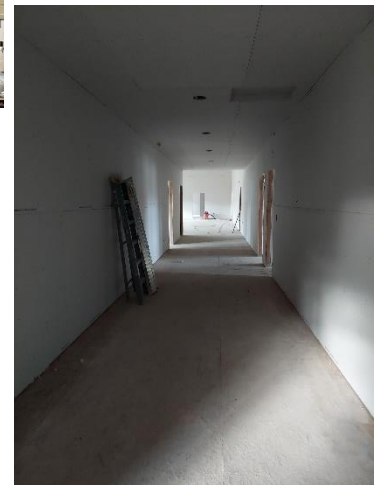
Heart–Brook Van Leuven, Janice Beaudry, Gregg Nanninga (on heart transplant list)

Mental health – David Ledington

We also remember and pray for our homebound members – Janice Beaudry, Jerry Bengtson, Jack Carter, Mel Clausen, Jana Coffman, Margaret Edmiston, Rayaline Hartsock, Flo Hopkins, Erma Ledington, Gail Meyer, Irene Pedro, and Charles & Paula Row.

Grace Lutheran Childcare Center—

October 2 – Construction Continuing, running a lot of cable, getting doors on, plumbing in the works; roof done, sheetrock up!



December 2024

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 9:15 am Christian Education No Sunday School 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion	2 Preschool 4s 6:00 pm Lutheran Women in Mission Christmas Party	3 Preschool 3s & 4s 9:00 am Women's Bible	4 Preschool 4s Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Service 7:30 pm Board of Outreach	5 Preschool 3s & 4s 9:15 am Preschool Partners 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 9:50 am Pre-K Buddies 1:00 pm Board of Stewardship & Finance 1:00 pm Crafters	6 1:00 pm Senior Singles Christmas Party	7 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home. 11:00 am Family Focus Busted Canvas
8 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Groups	9 Preschool 4s	10 Preschool 3s & 4s 9:00 am Women's Bible 11:30 am Preschool Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Board of Elders	11 Preschool 4s Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Service	12 Preschool 3s & 4s 1:00 pm Crafters 5:30 pm Board of Outreach 6:30 pm Preschool	13 5:30 pm Parents Night Out	14 9:00 am Christmas Program Practice 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home.
15 SS Christmas Program 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Groups	16 Preschool 4s	17 Preschool 3s & 4s 9:00 am Women's Bible	18 Preschool 4s Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Service	19 Preschool 3s & 4s 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 1:00 pm Crafters/Quilters 6:00 pm The Crew Christmas Party	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home.
22 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion	23	24 Christmas Eve <div style="text-align: center; background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px;"> No Preschool – Winter Break Dec. 23rd – Jan 5th </div> 7:00 pm Carol & Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am Service with Holy Communion	26	27	28 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home.
29 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship & Baptism 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	30	31 New Years Eve 				