



# Good News of Grace



## December 2018

Grace Lutheran Church  
303 Green Bay Road  
Thiensville, WI 53092

***“Reaching out to all people as Disciples of Christ, we serve God, proclaim our faith and care for all creation.”***

[www.grace53092.org](http://www.grace53092.org)  
262-242-1174

### December Highlights

**December 2 - Advent Season Begins**

**Christmas Worship schedule**

**December 16 - Christmas Program**  
(See page 4 for details)

**December 24—Christmas Eve**

Join us for a festive and lively family-friendly Eucharist service at **4pm** complete with candlelight.

Join us at **6pm** for a festival worship service also with communion and candlelight.

**December 25—Christmas Day**

Join us for a lively Eucharist service at **10am**.



### **A Note from Pastor Bill**

This is it! My last newsletter article of 2018. Are you excited? I am sure the anticipation is coursing through your veins right now. Questions are filling your head. What will he write about? What advice or spiritual reality will he communicate to us? How will I feel after I read his words? It's all so amazing and exciting. We just don't know...that is...unless we read on!

The feeling of anticipation is the paramount of the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation, but it is also a time of anticipation. The coming of the Messiah is approaching. Soon we will FINALLY get to sing Silent Night while

### Worship and Education

#### Worship Schedule:

**Sunday - 9am**

**Tuesday Devotional - 12:10pm**



#### Education

**Faith Formation - Sundays 10:15am**

**Bible Study - Thursday 12pm**

holding the candles. Soon we will hear the story of a couple making their way to Bethlehem. Soon we will hear of glad tidings of great joy, which will be for all people.

This anticipation for what is to come fuels this season. It motivates us to get up, go shopping, cook, clean, etc. It gives us that extra bit of energy we need to make this season bright and joyous not only for ourselves, but also for those around us. This anticipation of the coming of our Messiah is the drive that advances the journey.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Grace Lutheran Staff**

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**Administrative Assistant: Sandy Luetzgen**

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri: 9am-2pm

**Music Coordinator: Brian Dearing**

**Nursery Attendant: Shonda Schaff**

**Custodian: Fred Lynk**

# News and Notes

(Continued from page 1)

But, not long after December 25th, after the tree comes down, the gifts have been put away, and the leftovers eaten, the anticipation of this season will dissipate. We will be lost in the long dreary days of winter and we will soon forget the excitement of this time. That is a shame!

You see Advent and its anticipatory characteristics are not just a once a year occurrence. We are ALWAYS in a season of Advent. While we prepare for four weeks to hear the story of our Messiah, we now live in a season of Advent anticipation and preparation for his return. But, we often forget that. We pack the blue paraments away and we move on to Epiphany, Lent, and Easter.

So, how do we keep the anticipation of Advent after the season is over? How do we fuel our Spirits to make sure they always sense that joy and anticipation of the coming of the Messiah? That can be a difficult question to answer, since it will be different for each of us.

A friend of mine always hung a Christmas ornament in her home all year round to remind her of the anticipation of Advent. Others had devotionals and others tools of study and reflection to help them. I want you to find that which keeps the anticipation of Advent alive for you.

This gift that God gives us is too valuable for us to lose. So, how will you do it for yourself? How will you keep the anticipation of Advent alive on December 26th and beyond!



## Grace on the Town Axe Throwing Event

On December 9 at 2pm we have a few lanes reserved for the new and exciting sport of axe throwing. We will be throwing at AXE MKE in downtown Milwaukee. We will leave the Church parking lot at 1:15pm, our reservations are for 2pm, and we need to arrive at 1:45pm. The cost for this event is \$20 for the hour and a half. (Lessons are included.) You will be responsible for your own refreshments. The sport of Axe Throwing is fun! Please feel free to give it a try. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome desk. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Bill. Please note that you must be 16 years old to participate.



## Endowment News

By Paul Gieschen

Our Endowment fund continues to support the missions of Grace in many positive ways. This year, through October, we have provided funding for the following: mortgage debt reduction, a scholarship for Becca Laabs for her post-graduate ministerial studies, Grace quilters, Grace Congregational Life (for visitor welcome packets), Grace parsonage window project, El Salvador Scholarship fund, Big Brothers / Big Sisters, Outreach for Hope, Milwaukee Rescue Mission, El Salvador Flood Relief, and PICO (Rwanda Health Clinic). We will provide complete details in our annual report. If you know of a service organization that does great work, you can submit a grant request form on their behalf. Forms are available on Grace's website, or you may contact the church office for help. And please remember to include Grace in your estate planning.

### Memorial Account Activity for October

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Income:</b>       | <b>\$97</b>                   |
| <b>Expenditures:</b> | <b>\$11,225 (Organ, Sign)</b> |
| <b>Balance:</b>      | <b>\$16,505</b>               |
| Designated:          | \$12,136                      |
| Available:           | \$4,369                       |

# News and Notes

## Over 55 Reminder

By John Stockbridge

On Monday, December 10 the Over 55 group is sponsoring a trip to Holy Cross Lutheran Church to learn about and examine the extensive collection of nativity sets from around the world that have been donated by one family. We will gather in the Grace fellowship hall at 11am to share a sandwich lunch catered by the Prime Minister restaurant.



We will car pool over to the sister ELCA church in Menomonee Falls. We will probably be back at Grace around 2:30pm. The cost for this trip is \$15 per person. Sign up at the communication desk.

## Ethnic Dining Reminder

By Karen Petersen

We will be going to Devon's Seafood restaurant on December 8. This event is now booked, but watch the bulletins for future ethnic dining events.



## Dinner With Friends

By Karen Petersen

The next dinner will be on January 12. Watch bulletins and Grace Notes for more details on this dinner. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Karen Petersen at 242-9728.

## Guest House Sandwiches

We assemble sandwiches for the guests at the Guest House *twice* each month, on the first and third Wednesdays, at 8:30am. Join us for this opportunity to serve and to enjoy fellowship with one another on Wednesday, **December 5 and 19.**



## Social Concerns Christmas Reminders

### **Annual Cookie/Bake Sale**

**Date:** Saturday, December 8

**Time:** 9am-Noon

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

Sign up at the communication desk. We also need helpers to set up the Fellowship Hall the night before the sale (Friday, December 7 at 6pm), as well as helpers on the day of the sale.



### **Social Concerns Gifts**

The deadline for Christmas wish list gifts for Lasata, Guest House, and All Peoples is December 10.

**All items must be new! Please do not wrap gifts for Guest House or Lasata.**

### **Master Singers of Milwaukee**

MSM presents their second concert of the 2018/2019 season titled *Hodie!* with Grace member Ross Greinke as follows:

Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 5:00 pm  
St. Joseph Chapel  
1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI

Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 4:00 pm  
St. Joseph Chapel  
1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI



### **Lakeshore Symphonic Band**

The band will be celebrating their annual Holy Hill Christmas Concert on December 9 at 6:00pm. Come enjoy the celebratory and reflective sacred and secular melodies and sounds of the holiday season, including the annual sing-along with the band. Dan Driewer, who is a member here at Grace, plays trombone. If you have any questions, please contact Dan or Janie Robbins.

**Grace Lutheran Church  
303 Green Bay Road  
Thiensville, WI 53092**

**December 2018  
GOOD NEWS OF GRACE**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Worship with Holy Communion:**

**Sundays: 9:00am  
Tuesdays: 12:10pm**

**Education:**

**Faith Formation - Sundays 10:15am  
Bible Study - Thursdays: 12pm**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**December Birthdays**

| <b>Name</b>              | <b>Date</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Dieter Bruhnke           | 2           |
| Dee Christofferson-Robar | 5           |
| Bill Luebke              | 6           |
| Erich Nemcek             | 7           |
| Kari Gilhams             | 9           |
| Haley Carney             | 10          |
| Gerald Bettridge         | 12          |
| Tom Leidel               | 12          |
| Margaret Jacobsen        | 14          |
| Steve Smiley             | 16          |
| John Junker              | 17          |
| Aaron Zenke              | 18          |
| Rebecca Laabs            | 19          |
| Karen Larsen             | 20          |
| Dorene Achterberg        | 21          |
| Suzy Wagner              | 21          |
| Laurie Plotkin           | 23          |
| Diane Troyk              | 23          |
| Tony Ferguson            | 25          |
| Devyn Medinger           | 29          |
| Sophie Biggin            | 30          |
| Jennifer Hamm            | 31          |



*If you have a birthday this month and your name is not listed, we apologize. Please call the church office so that we update our records.  
Thank you!*

**All Peoples' Church Food Pantry  
Item Update**

All Peoples' is still in need of non-perishable food items. Please drop them in the bin in the narthex.



**Grace 2018 Christmas Program**

This year's program is titled "Upheaval in the Empire." The Program will be December 16 at 9am. Be sure to bring your friends!



- Rehearsals for the program are as follows:
- Sunday December 2 after service, 10:15am to 11am
  - Saturday December 8, 10am to 11:00am
  - Sunday December 9 after service, 10:15am to 11:30am
  - Wednesday December 12, 6:30pm to 7:30pm
  - Saturday December 15, 9am to 11am

# DECEMBER LEADERS

|    | GREETERS                      | HOSTS              |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------------|
|    | 9:00 am                       |                    |
| 2  | Sandy Smith                   | Betty Thompson     |
| 9  | Jim & Anna Martin             | Geri Schesel       |
| 16 | Christmas Program Kids        | Christmas Pgm Kids |
| 23 | TBD                           | Alice Sedgwick     |
| 24 | 4pm Steve Mussatti<br>6pm TBD | TBD<br>TBD         |
| 25 | 10am TBD                      | TBD                |
| 30 | Stacy Rauen                   | JoAnn Holdmann     |

| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS |                                       |   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|                      | Bread                                 | Wine  |
| 2                    | Jordan Beck                           | 1. Sandy Smith<br>2. Nancy Perez  |
| 9                    | Rip McManus                           | 1. Rosa McManus<br>2. Karen Larsen1   |
| 16                   | Christmas Program                     | 1. Christmas Program<br>2. Christmas Program  |
| 23                   | Tom Gauthier                          | 1. Pam Johnson<br>2. Dean Arneson   |
| 24                   | 4pm:<br>Cindy Karthaus<br>6pm:<br>TBD | 1. Elsbeth Bruhnke<br>2. Geri Schesel<br>1. Holly Grassin-Kremmel<br>2. Pam Johnson |
| 25                   | TBD                                   | 1. TBD<br>2. TBD  |
| 30                   | Dan Driewer                           | 1. JoAnn Holdmann<br>2. Anna Martin   |

| ACOLYTES |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
|          | 9 am              |
| 2        | Sadie Ferguson    |
| 9        | Bryce Umhoefer    |
| 16       | Christmas Program |
| 23       | Paeton Umhoefer   |
| 24       | TBD               |
| 25       | TBD               |
| 30       | Luke Kamarainen   |

Pews: Mary Karthaus

| READERS |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
|         | 9am                             |
| 2       | Andrew Knuth                    |
| 9       | John Richmond                   |
| 16      | Christmas Program Kids          |
| 23      | Dean Arneson                    |
| 24      | 4pm: Holly Grassin-Kremmel 6pm: |
| 25      | 10am: Mary Karthaus             |
| 30      | Ross Greinke                    |

| COFFEE FELLOWSHIP (sign up with a buddy!) |     |
|---|-----|
| 2   | TBD |
| 9   | TBD |
| 16  | TBD |
| 23  | TBD |
| 30  | TBD |

### (COMMUNION SET-UP (See Diane Umhoefer to sign up))

| 9am    |  |
|--------|--|
| Dec 2  | Lisa & Andrew Knuth                    |
| Dec 9  | Theresa Umhoefer                       |
| Dec 16 | JoAnn Holdmann                         |
| Dec 23 | Beth Buczynski                         |
| Dec 24 | 4pm: Elsbeth Bruhnke 6pm: Ross Greinke |
| Dec 25 | 10am: Karen Larsen                     |
| Dec 30 | Holly Grassin-Kremmel                  |

### USHERS

|        |                                     |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Dec 2  | Bill Luebke & Alice Sedgwick        |
| Dec 9  | Bill Luebke & Alice Sedgwick        |
| Dec 16 | Christmas Program Kids              |
| Dec 23 | Dieter Bruhnke & Joyce Winghart     |
| Dec 24 | 4pm Dieter Bruhnke & TBD<br>6pm TBD |
| Dec 25 | TBD                                 |
| Dec 30 | Dieter Bruhnke & Joyce Winghart     |

### COUNTERS

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Dec 2/3   | Steve Mussatti* and Beth Buczynski     |
| Dec 9/10  | John Walch and Shirley Warber          |
| Dec 16/17 | Carol Raymond* and Alice Neitzel       |
| Dec 23/24 | Marcia Seehusen* and Diane Umhoefer    |
| Dec 30/31 | Ralph Buchweitz* and Christa Buchweitz |

### Help us Serve!

Please help us out in the office by letting us know if you would like to be a worship volunteer. Try something new! We'll get you trained and ready to go!

# December 2018

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**303 GREEN BAY ROAD, THIENSVILLE**  
**262-242-1174**

| Sun  | Mon | Tue  | Wed   | Thu                                 | Fri  | Sat  |   |
|--|-----|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
|  |     |  |   |                                     |  | 1<br>9:00am SBG Practice<br>9:00am Men's Bible Study |   |
| ADVENT 1<br>7:45am Women's Choir Reh.<br>8:30am SBG Warm Up<br><b>9:00am Worship/ Com.</b><br>10:15am Christmas Pgm Reh.   | 2   | 3  | 4<br>10:00am Pr's Colectivo hrs.<br><b>12:10pm Worship/Com</b><br>6:30pm Scouts   | 5<br>8:30am Guest House Sandwiches  | 6<br>9:00am Quilting<br>12:00pm Bible Study<br>5:00pm LEGO Banquet - Scouts<br>6:30pm Bell Rehearsal | 7<br>6:00pm Cookie Sale Set Up                       | 8<br>9:00am Cookie Sale<br>10:00am Christmas Pgm Reh.<br>6:00pm Ethnic Dining Devon's Seafood |
| ADVENT 2<br>7:45am Chancel Choir Reh.<br>8:30am Men/Women/Bells Warm Up<br><b>9:00am Worship/ Com.</b><br><i>Blood Pressure Screening Before/After Worship</i><br>10:15am Finance Team Mtg.<br>10:15am Christmas Pgm Reh.<br>2:00pm Axe Throwing Event | 9   | 10<br>11:00am Over 55 Luncheon/Holy Hill Visit                 | 11<br>10:00am Pr's Colectivo hrs.<br><b>12:10pm Worship/Com</b><br>6:30pm Scouts<br>7:00pm Council Meeting              | 12<br>6:30pm Christmas Pgm Reharsal | 13<br>12:00pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm Bell Rehearsal<br>7:30am Scouts                                  | 14   | 15<br>9:00am SBG Practice<br>9:00am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00am Christmas Pgm Reh.            |
| ADVENT 3, CHRISTMAS PGM<br>7:45am Chancel Choir Reh.<br><b>9:00am Worship/ Com.</b><br>6:00pm Confirmation Class   | 16  | 17   | 18<br>10:00am Pr's Colectivo hrs.<br><b>12:10pm Worship/Com</b><br>6:30pm Scouts  | 19<br>8:30am Guest House Sandwiches | 20<br>9:00am Quilting<br>12:00pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm Bell Rehearsal                                | 21   | 22<br>3:00pm Farina Dinner Luther Room  |
| ADVENT 4<br>7:45am Men's Chorus Reh.<br>8:30am Chancel Choir Warm Up<br><b>9:00am Worship/ Com.</b>  | 23  | 24<br><b>4:00pm Worship/ Com</b><br><b>6:00pm Worship/ Com</b> | 25<br><b>10:00am Worship/Com</b><br> | 26                                  | 27   | 28   | 29<br>9:00am SBG Practice   |
| 7:45am Women's Choir Reh.<br>8:30am SBG Warm Up<br><b>9:00am Worship/ Com.</b>   | 30  | 31   |   |                                     |  |  |   |