

# Equipp<sup>er</sup>

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.

## January, 2019

### "EVERYTHING IS NEW "

And at the end of eight days ... He was circumcised ... (Luke 2:21).  
New Year's Day was always an exciting new beginning. If the old year had brought us pain and misery, we could rejoice that it was over, gone, behind us. And in the dawning of a new day, there was the hope the New Year would be so much better.

This day was also a new beginning for the Baby Jesus. Jesus is eight days old, and it is now time to circumcise Him, according to the Law of the Lord. This ceremony made Jesus a member of God's people Israel. It also bound Him under the Law, obligating Him to keep that Law perfectly. As our Substitute, Jesus perfectly obeyed God's Law, so His perfection, holiness and righteousness might be ours, covering our failings, our flaws, and our sins.

But His circumcision carries with it the reminder that Jesus will not simply cover our sin, He will remove it from us -- forever. On this eighth day of His young life, Jesus first sheds His blood for us, but it will certainly not be the last time He does this. On a dark day some 30 years into the future, Jesus will shed His blood and die on the cross to satisfy God's wrath against our sins.

The symbolism of His circumcision and our Baptism both remind us of God's work, cutting off our sinful nature or drowning it. In Baptism God makes us new creatures, so we can stand before Him spotless and pure through Jesus Christ.

What a way to start a New Year!

THE PRAYER: Lord Jesus, in Your circumcision Your blood was first shed as our Substitute. Cut the sin from our hearts, that we may enter this New Year in Your holiness and purity. Amen.

Taken from "Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries".

Devotions are available in print or as audio daily.



Volume 62 Issue 5

Grace Lutheran Church  
School, & ECC  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin

(Click on name to send an e-mail)

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[January Calendar](#)

Articles may be submitted  
to: [pastor@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org)

Deadline for  
February Equipper:  
January 17th

## Rise and Sonshine Bible Study

**\*\*Schedule Change for January\*\***

Meeting only on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>  
7am @ school

**\*\*Schedule Change for February\*\***

Meeting Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
7am @ school

New study starting in February.

Watch bulletin in January for announcement of new study.



## THANK YOU!

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Cookies By the Pound sale  
was another wonderful success.

**\$2,572.20** was raised this year!

Thank you to everyone who helped!!  
Blessings and Happy New Year!

Jennifer Olen



P.S.- Next year's sale is set for December 7<sup>th</sup>!

# Ladies Guild



At the December meeting 72 boxes of cookies were packed for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Thank you to everyone who baked or decorated cookies!  
Every year the folks from the Rescue Mission look forward to receiving the cookies.

## **NO January MEETING!**

See you February 12<sup>th</sup>!

### **Coming up in January...**

#### **Blessings for Baby Shower Ingathering- Jan. 17th-Feb. 3rd**

We will be collecting items for the children at A Place of Refuge.

Items needed:

Infant sleepers-newborn, 3 months and 6 months

Gas gift cards

Diapers- newborn and size 1

Onsies-white- 6 months and up

Infant socks

Baby shampoo, powder, lotion

Baby thermometers

Drop items into the designated box in the lower level of church.

## ***WILLOWCREST NURSING HOME MINISTRY***

### ***Volunteers needed!***

Grace Lutheran Church provides a Sunday morning devotional service for the residents of Willowcrest Nursing Home (at Forest Hill Ave. & Chicago Rd.) This ministry has been ongoing for over 40 years. It is a wonderful way to offer the Word of the Lord to those who are not able to go to a church service.

The devotional service runs from 9:30 am – 10:00 am every Sunday, and consists of opening & closing prayers, hymns, a Scripture reading and a short devotion.

Volunteers are currently needed to lead the service or assist by helping the residents locate pages in the large-print hymnals we use. Volunteers are not asked to work directly with or transport the residents since that is handled by Willowcrest staff. We do welcome the residents with a smile and offer a personal greeting to each resident at the close of the service. Our volunteers will tell you that this is a rewarding ministry for us as much as for the attendees!

We invite anyone who is interested to visit one of our services to see the ministry in action. Contact Bev Buretta at 414-764-2923 to arrange a visit or to get more information.

## **NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**

**January 27—February 2**

With 1,127 early childhood centers, 778 elementary schools and 87 high schools nationwide, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is sharing the life-changing message of Jesus with more than 187,000 students on a regular basis.

That's something to celebrate, and during "National Lutheran Schools Week" — Jan. 27 through Feb. 2 — that's exactly what LCMS schools will do, under this year's Psalm 46-based theme: "Real. Present. God."

### ***Presidential Proclamation***

#### ***1029 National Lutheran Schools Week***

"Teachers in Lutheran schools are God's emissaries and it is through their faithful and diligent nurture that children can come to know Jesus as their Savior, God as their Father and the Holy Spirit as the one who works faith in their lives!" notes Dr. Rebecca S. Schmidt, director of LCMS School Ministry. "During National Lutheran Schools Week, schools across the nation celebrate as students are prepared for a life with God, through faith in Jesus Christ. Joyfully, we celebrate!"

Whereas, God promises in Psalm 46 to be truly present in our lives through His great and precious promises; and Whereas, Jesus' incarnation, perfect life, death, resurrection, ascension and second coming fulfill this promise; and Whereas, Lutheran schools provide opportunities for teachers and students to teach and hear this Good News of God's love; and Whereas, Lutheran schools teach the children entrusted to them about all the wonders of God's creation; and Whereas, The students in Lutheran schools are unique and wonderful creatures of God, who grow up in the grace and knowledge of His Son and His whole creation; and Whereas, Teachers in Lutheran schools serve with the love of Christ in any and every subject matter they teach; and Whereas, The "Real. Present. God." is the strength of Lutheran schools; and Whereas, Lutheran schools make a difference in people's lives every day with the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection for sinners; and Whereas, National Lutheran Schools Week is an occasion for joyful recognition and celebration; therefore, be it Resolved, That Jan. 27–Feb. 2, 2019, be officially proclaimed as National Lutheran Schools Week in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison  
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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## South Wisconsin District

### Office of Mission and Human Care Mission Prayers

Please remember those involved in mission work who we support throughout our District.

#### Week of January 6 –

This Epiphany, please remember in your prayers the multi-cultural missions serving the various ethnic communities in The South Wisconsin District. Ask that all would deliver the rich abundance of the Gospel to the people of all nations, so that they would know the Christ Child, the Savior of the world.

#### Week of January 13 –

In your prayers this week seek the Lord's blessing for Rev. Bud Palmer (Emmanuel West Allis), Mr. Ted Pulfer (Deacon, Our Savior Madison) and the deaconesses who serve in our Deaf ministry. Pray they continue to expand and grow their ministry leadership and that our heavenly Father would grant many more people the joy of knowing the Good News proclaimed through American Sign Language.

#### Week of January 20 –

Thank the Lord for the gift of Human Life praying that it would be honored in all that we do, from womb to tomb. God alone is the Creator and sustainer of all life and He alone has the right to give it or to take it away. Pray for the wisdom to support parents in their vocation as well as the courage to speak the Biblical truth of life to the elected and appointed civil authorities. Also pray for the work of a Place of Refuge in supporting a commitment to life for women in crisis pregnancy.

#### Week of January 27 –

During this National Lutheran Schools Week pray for all the teachers, administrators, students and families in our Lutheran schools; remembering the work that is done to nurture and increase knowledge, faith education, and the support of families. Pray that the Holy Spirit would increase their wisdom and opportunity to serve others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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# *Thank you To all who placed Poinsettias for Christmas!*

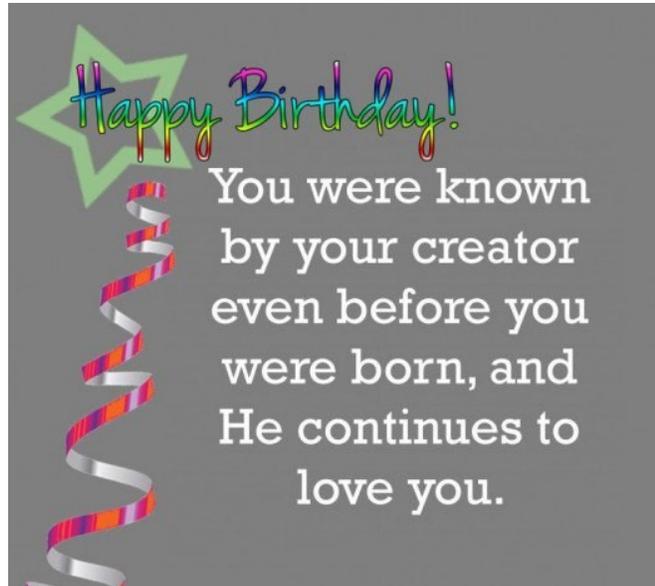
We had 28 Poinsettias placed this year. This included the large sized on the flower shelf as well as two medium sized in front of the altar as well as one on the table in the narthex. A complete listing of donors was included in the December Equipper.



**Lutheran For Life Celebration**  
**Sunday, January 20, 2019**

# January Birthdays

Name	Month/Day
McLain, Jeannette	1/1
Smith, Dean	1/1
Minkley, Erica	1/3
Umaske, Pamela	1/4
Gaudian, Kathleen	1/7
Mills, Mikayla	1/9
Long, Nathan	1/10
Morrisette, Matthew	1/11
Smith, Jordan	1/11
Gamroth, Evie	1/12
Moede, Kallie	1/12
Rekowski, Michael	1/12
Zunker, Willow	1/13
Hundt, Madilyn	1/16
Bahr, Austin	1/17
Macke, Austin	1/19
Olen, Jennifer	1/19
Smith, Nicholas	1/22
Tindall, Benjamin	1/22
Manoil, Patrick	1/23
Lussier, Joy	1/26
Willms, Jeanne	1/27
Kamprath, Lisa	1/28
Dachel, Tricia	1/31



## Radio Worship Services

***“The Lutheran Hour”*** can be heard every Sunday Morning at 6:00 AM on WGN 720 AM, Chicago or at 6:30 AM on WTMJ 620 AM or at 11:00 am WRRD 540 AM, Milwaukee.

***“The Lutheran Hour,”*** which began in 1930, is the world’s oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.

***“Woman To Woman”*** is a nationally syndicated weekly half-hour radio talk show that nurtures and provides encouragement for women throughout North America. It can be heard on Saturday at 7:00 PM on WGLB 1560 AM, Milwaukee or on Sunday at 11:30 AM at WRRD 540 AM, Milwaukee.

Stimulating conversation between host Phyllis Wallace and her interesting guests explores issues which impact women. ***“Woman To Woman”*** promotes the spiritual growth of its listeners while providing practical lifestyle information. It equips women to live and share the truth of God's Word in their many relationships: friends, spouses, parents and children.

### Lutheran TV — “On Main Street” (WTMJ, Channel 4 Sunday 4:30 AM)

On Main Street is a pre-recorded half-hour weekly television program which shares practical spiritual teaching on today's issues from a Christ-centered, Biblical perspective.

Each On Main Street episode explores a different life problem. Program host, Dr. Dale A. Meyer, is joined by a featured expert guest and select panel members for a candid discussion of the program's topic.

## INFORMATION LINKS

Click on any of these Hyperlinks.  
You'll be taken to the appropriate spot on our website!

[School Newsletters](#)

[Go On-Line to Request a Prayer](#)

[2019 Altar Flower Sign-up](#)

[Set up One Time or Recurring  
Online-Giving](#)

## Prayer Hot Line



In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Dummer.

10 AM-3 PM  
Carol Thurber — 762-9615

3 PM-9 PM  
Chet & Pauline Parker — 764-5574

**Internet Prayerline**  
Pauline Parker  
paulinemom@aol.com

