

Equipper

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

December, 2019

Behold the Child

God's own Son is born a child . . . ;

God the Father is reconciled.

What peace is found in those words. As the Church draws nigh to the Nativity of Our Lord, many also draw nigh to the harsh reality of broken families and friendships. The sting of estrangement intensifies in this season as many delight in family gatherings—a delight that is glaringly absent for others.

We long for reconciliation—a marriage healed, the return of a prodigal child, the open arms of a formerly harsh parent. Advent is just the season for reconciliation. It is a penitential season, calling us to examine ourselves, acknowledge our sin with contrition, and trust that our sin is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Such self-examination reveals that the fault for our broken relationships is not one-sided. The sin visited upon me by another has driven a wedge between us, but so has my sin. Part of the distance between me and others is due to my sinful actions—my sinful refusal to forgive, my sinful pride that will not admit my fault, my sinful contentment with a cold shoulder.

Advent calls us to repent of our divisions. Advent calls us to rejoice in reconciliation. Though you can forgive another even when he refuses to acknowledge his fault, reconciliation is found when both parties are willing to admit their culpability, seek forgiveness, and amend their ways. That can seem so difficult. It is hard enough for one sinner to confess his sin and trust that the Lord purges it from his life. How much more challenging it is for two sinners to do so. Yet that is exactly what Christ works among and within us. He grants us confidence in His forgiveness so that we forgive one another, receive one another's forgiveness, and are thus reconciled.

Reconciliation with some remains ever elusive. We hunger for it; we pray for it. Yet the distance remains. When a parent apologizes to a child so that they embrace for the first time in decades, we rightly rejoice. When our longing is not realized, sorrow results.

The only consolation amid such sorrow is the certainty of your reconciliation to the Father. It is certain because it is not dependent upon sinners humbling themselves in repentance. It is certain because it is dependent upon the sinless Son of God humbling Himself to take on human flesh and be born of a virgin.

That is the glorious, biblical proclamation found in "The Quempas Carol." We are blessed to hear therein the refrain, "God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled." This is not wishful thinking driven by our longings. It is reality driven by Christ.

You are reconciled to the Father.



Grace Lutheran Church
School, & ECC
Oak Creek, Wisconsin

(Click on name to send an e-mail)

Pastor
Rev. Dean A. Dummer

Principal
Mr. Steve Gettelman

Early Childhood Center
Mrs. Rachel Miliacca

www.graceoakcreek.org

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Articles may be submitted
to: pastor@graceoakcreek.org

Deadline for
January Equipper:
December 17th

graceoakcreek.org

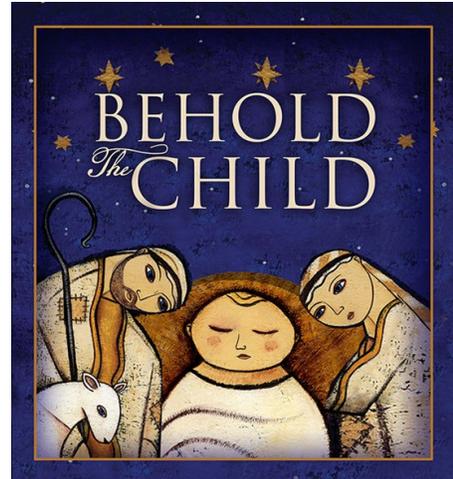
ADVENT

WE PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S ARRIVAL

Mid-Week Advent Services

December 5,12,19

6:30 pm



Children's Christmas Service

Friday, December 20, 2019

6:30 pm @ School

CHRISTMAS

WE CELEBRATE CHRIST'S ARRIVAL

Tuesday, December 24	4:00 & 5:30 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 25	9:30 am	Christmas Festival (with Communion)
Thursday, December 26	No Worship Service	
Sunday, December 29	8:00 & 10:30 am	1 st Sunday After Christmas
Tuesday, December 31	4:00 pm	New Year's Eve Service (with Communion)

Please note the time change for our New Year's Eve service. WE hope this will give some of our members the opportunity to begin their celebration with us in worship before heading off to other events!

19th Annual Cookies By the Pound Sale

Saturday December 7

9am-11:30am

It's ALMOST HERE!!!!

There is still time to bake some cookies for the sale!

And to sign up to help the day of the sale!
Sign-up sheet is in the narthex next to the flower chart.

See you at the Sale!

Jennifer Olen



Ladies Guild

Coming up in December...

Guild Meeting
December 10th
7pm At school

Cookie Packing for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

Every year Ladies Guild bakes cookies and packs them into individual boxes which are then donated to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. The evening is filled with laughter, Christmas music, and helping others enjoy the Christmas season.

If you would like to donate a dozen cookies, please have the cookies in the school kitchen by Tuesday the 10th.

Come JOIN THE FUN!

All ladies are welcome to join us for this fun evening as we spread the love of Christ this Christmas season!

Mitten Tree

Once again the year, Guild has put up the Mitten Tree in the basement near the church mailboxes. Guild will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns group.

Please help us to "decorate" the tree!

All sizes are needed!

At the November meeting we tied fleece hats to start the decorating of the Mitten Tree!

Socktober

Thank you to everyone who donated socks during Socktober!
155 pairs of socks have been delivered to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.
These socks will help to keep so many who are in need warm this winter.

From your Evangelism Board We Share the Good News through: Lutheran Special School and Education Services

For over sixty years the Lutheran Special School and Education Services (LSSSES) has been providing quality, Christ-centered individualized instruction to students with unique learning challenges. The program of instruction is based on Wisconsin state standards for Math, English, Science, and Social Studies at each specific grade level. LSSSES works with students who have been identified with certain learning difficulties including: Learning Disability, Emotional Disturbance, Cognitive Disabled, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and mild autism spectrum disorders. They also work with slow learners and students with social and mild behavioral problems, along with children with some physical handicaps. LSSSES serves children from 2nd-8th grade; teacher consultants serve children three years of age through high school in various Lutheran school. In 2018 LSSSES partnered with Martin Luther High School, and is serving 9th and 10th graders.

Students come to LSSSES through referrals or recommendations from teachers of both private and public schools. Parents can also contact LSSSES directly with concerns and questions about their children.

LSSSES is a mission that Grace Day School supports through the children’s chapel offerings. If you would like to donate to this special mission, please contact Mr. Gettelman.

For more information please go to Lutheran Special School and Education Services website at: www.LSSSES.org.

Thank you Poinsettias for Christmas!

There will be 33 Poinsettias placed this year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>In Honor/Memory of</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>In Honor/Memory of</u>
Tony & Suzie Mirenda		Brandon & Tricia Dachel	
Janice Barret		Richard & Margaret Flower	Parents
Gloria Kilponen	John, Alicia, & Dorothy	Ernie & Pat Groth	Marilyn Compton
Pat Lemmer		Fred & Barb Praxel	
LeRoy Handle	Bonita Handle	Mike Zanardi	
Ronny & Gudrun Boyd	Helene Reinecke	Rachel Miliacca	Donald & Yvonne Soldner
Diane Pielsnik	Bernice James	Bob & Gail Olen	
Jenny Svcek		Donna Smith	
Barb & Mike Huber		Richard & Elizabeth Jackson	Rev. Robert Miskimen
Sandy Hamburger	Del Hamburger	Pastor & Susan Dummer	
Jennifer & Mark Olen	Susan Olen		
Bob & Joanne Morgan			
Lowell & Pat Johnson			
Leah Abelt	Alice Abelt		
Lori Kachelmeier	Norman Keesler, Jen & Steve Kachelmeier & Mike Tovar		



Trivia Night

Trivia nite was a success! 24 people in attendance made up 4 teams. Everyone had a good time- especially Bev's team- lots of laughter coming from that table.

\$260 was raised that will be split 50/50 between the endowment fund and school.



Winning Team- Beth Jackson, Heather Butler, Jan Barrett, Linda Groth and Dick Jackson

2020 FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

**Place flowers through Parkway Floral
or
Provide your own fresh cut flowers**

Parkway Floral will provide free delivery.

Call Parkway (762-0246) or have us place the order.

Average Cost: \$25

Providing your own arrangement?

All flowers will go in a special vase liner.

Pick one up from Rachel in the ECC, or Pastor.

Fill with your fresh flowers.

Thursday: Drop off at ECC and we'll take it from there.

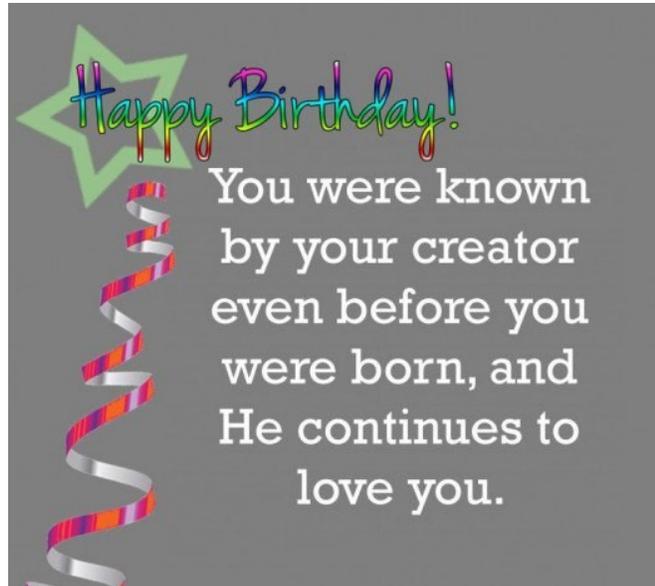
Sign up on the white board in the narthex at church

Or

Call the church office (414-762-8990 to sign up.

December Birthdays

Name	Month/Day
Dachel, Gabriel	12/1
Meyer, Wayne	12/1
Morgan, Joanne	12/1
Warmkessel, Janice	12/1
Iseli, Dennis	12/6
Kisley, Tim	12/7
Moeller, Sienna	12/8
Nowakowski, Gail	12/8
Cotter, Christine	12/11
Durant, Sara	12/11
Klipfel, Charlotte	12/11
Jackson, Richard	12/12
King, Madeline	12/12
Simmons, Michael	12/13
Heinen, Rita	12/14
Savarino, Ron	12/14
Koehn, Kenneth	12/15
Dotson, Glenn	12/18
Smith, Donna	12/21
Thurber, Carol	12/23
Morrisette, Laura	12/24
Steinborn, Arthur	12/24
Hobart, Wyatt	12/28
Zalar, Jacob	12/31



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.

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

INFORMATION LINKS

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

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

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

