

Equippier

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



November 2020

Living Thankfully

Matthew 21:6 - *The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.*

During this month of November we are going to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. During this year of 2020 we may not think that we have much to be thankful for with Covid-19, rioting and violence throughout America, and another contentious Presidential Election season. But, as Christians we always have something to be thankful for. St. Paul instructs us 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* This November we will thank God for gifts great and small—for friends and family, for coffee and cheeseburgers—we naturally thank Him for the gift of His Son and the new creation He makes us through Jesus' shed blood on Calvary's Cross.

And as we're in the spirit of thankfulness, it's good to thank God for the gift of life—*time*, if you will, and what we make of it. As we watch another year speed by, it's a great time to consider how we'll live out the remaining weeks of the year. Do we make these final weeks of the year to finally get all those things done that have stalled for 2020? Later this month, we will probably be dealing with after-Thanksgiving Day fatigue—not to mention a lingering tryptophan coma—it might be tough to find the resolve for certain things right now. Then too, the last weeks of the year are typically a hustle-bustle of activities and scrambling's as we dart ahead on another high-speed race toward Christmas. So how are we to redeem the remaining hours of this calendar year?

Maybe a word from Scripture is in order. Our Bible passage is one of those simple, clear-cut statements we can carry forward into our own lives: *"The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them."* (Matt. 21:6) In this instance, the Savior wanted them to go to the next village and bring back a donkey and a colt for His use. Not too complicated, and in fact they accomplished their mission without a hitch. And from there, He rode into Jerusalem.

If that's all the disciples were ever called to do—simple requests like bring back an animal or grab a boat—following Jesus would be a cakewalk. But His purpose for His disciples—you and me—is so much more than that. Jesus wants us to live full and expansive lives—lives that are God-pleasing and that impact the world for the kingdom of God. First, He wants us to love God and our neighbor (see Matthew 22:37-39). He wants us to follow Him and encourage others to do the same (see Matthew 4:19). He wants us to love our enemies (see Matthew 5:44-46), forgive completely (see Matthew 18:21-22), and come to Him with any problem we might have (see Matthew 7:7-8). And, of course, He wants us to take the Gospel to the whole world (see Matthew 28:18-20).

Because we know the Gospel message and the grace of God in our lives, let us be doubly thankful this Thanksgiving that "*the disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.*" And in the remaining hours leading up to Christmas, may we give of ourselves to each other, mirroring God's self-giving love to us, best expressed in the Christ Child born to us on Christmas morn.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, during this month of November, on Thanksgiving Day, and as we approach the season of Advent, we praise You for the gift of service You give us to bless one another—just as Jesus' disciples have blessed us. In His Name. Amen.

See you in worship!
Pastor John M. Taggatz

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries-"God with Us"

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done-He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God's Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, "God with us."

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs-our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives. These special Advent Devotions will be available in the Church Sanctuary at Grace, which will include our Holiday Worship times at Grace. Please feel free to pick one up and share it with a neighbor, coworker, friend, or family member to invite them to worship with us at Grace during this Holiday Season as we celebrate the birth of our dear Savior Jesus Christ. To find these devotions on the internet please go to: <https://www.lhm.org/advent/>

What is Advent?

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the church. Beginning on Sunday, November 29, 2020, we will enter the season of the church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to Epiphany January 6th, 2021.

Advent Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

“O Come, Emmanuel: Come, We Pray”

On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church during the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek services. We will be following the Service of Prayer & Preaching from Lutheran Service Book. But, we will also be observing the theme for our Advent Midweek Services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and for our New Year's Eve Service.

The theme for our special Advent Midweek and Christmas services is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” derived from both the popular hymn version and the original antiphon version. Maybe a thousand years old or older, it was translated from Latin into rhymed poetry in the mid-nineteenth century by Anglican clergyman Rev. John Mason Neale. The popular version, translated by Rev. Neale in rhymed poetry, often departs from the original Latin. Originally, one antiphon was chanted on each of the seven days before Christmas. The first letter of each Latin title of Christ when put together and read in reverse order spells ERO CRAS, or “*Tomorrow I come.*” The antiphons generally derive from the prophecies of Isaiah. For centuries, one of the most beloved Advent or Christmas songs of the Church has been “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Not only is the common tune appropriate for the Advent and Christmas season, but so are the lyrics. Each stanza is a prayer for Christ to come according to attributes prophetically ascribed to him, largely in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. It is my prayer that the members of Grace Lutheran Church will be edified and grow to cherish our Savior Jesus who has come, who comes in Word and Sacrament, and who will come on the Last Day.

Thanksgiving Day Service with Communion-Wednesday, November 25th @ 6:30pm

Thursday, Dec. 3rd 6:30pm-Advent Midweek 1

“O Come, Wisdom” Isaiah 11:2

Thursday, Dec. 10th 6:30pm-Advent Midweek 2

“O Come, Adonai” Isaiah 33:22

Thursday, Dec. 17th 6:30pm-Advent Midweek 3

“O Come, Branch of Jesse” Isaiah 11:1

Christmas Eve Services-Thursday, Dec. 24th 4pm, 5:30pm

“O Come, Key of David” Isaiah 22:22

Friday, Dec. 25th 9:30am w/Communion-Christmas Day

“O Come, Dayspring” Isaiah 9:2

Thursday, Dec. 31st 4:00pm-New Year's Eve

“O King of the Nations, You Have Come” Matthew 2:2



Stephen Ministers: The After People

Stephen Ministers are there:

.....after you've washed and returned the last casserole dish
.....after the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life
.....after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away---and the house suddenly seems incredibly empty
.....after you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
.....after the relationship has ended but the wounds are still bleeding and painful
.....after the doctors have said, "There's nothing more we can do"
.....after the door slammed shut---for the very last time
.....after the phone call you'd always hoped you'd never get
.....after you realize the hands on the gold watch you received at your retirement party move more slowly than you ever imagined
.....after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "welcome to your new home"
.....after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away
.....after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever dreamed possible
.....after you find the pink slip inserted with what is now your final paycheck
.....after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." We are ready to come alongside you---or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives---and provide comfort and support for as long "after" as we are needed.

How can you get a Stephen Minister? If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Tagatz 715-467-1231 or to one of the Stephen Leaders Jeanne Meyer 423-0010, Chris Cotter 324-9768, Lori Kachelmeier or one of our Stephen Ministers, Bob Morgan, Jan Barrett, Donna Wenzel, Beth or Richard Jackson, Adam Voss, Gail Olen, or Pauline Parker. Our Stephen Leaders are also Stephen Ministers.

No need that you have is too small, we are there for you, and will walk with you.

November Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS—Adult Bible Study will be held in the Entrance to our Church building from 9:15-10:15am. In the Adult Bible Study, we will be studying the Sunday morning Bible Readings for worship. Our Sunday School Students will be meeting in our Church Sanctuary from 9:15-10:15am. *Please sign up your children for Sunday School on the table to the entrance to our sanctuary, please also consider helping with Sunday School this year as a teacher or aide for this year. Let our Church Office know if you would like to help out with Sunday School this year.*

MLHS Music Boosters ARTISAN CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE

- One-of-a-kind Gifts • Jewelry
- Stained Glass • Home Décor
- Hand-sewn & Knit Crafts
- Artwork • Woodwork
- Soaps • Candles
- Photography
- and more!



**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14th**

9am to 3pm

Milwaukee Lutheran Gym
9700 W. Grantosa, Milwaukee

Only \$3 Admission

Seeking More Artisans - Handmade Crafts & Goods!
Please email mlhscraftfair@gmail.com for information!!

Thanksgiving Baskets

One of our favorite ways to serve our community is to work with our local Lutheran Food pantries and ministries to give families in need a Thanksgiving meal. This is Brookfield Lutheran Church's 20th year and their goal is to make and distribute 1006 baskets! Each basket includes a full turkey meal for 6 people. A suggested donation of \$30 per basket will be accepted through online giving.

bit.ly/blcthanksbasket



Help Us Decorate the Chancel for Christmas

Order Your Poinsettia Plant Now

Deadline to order flowers is: Wednesday, November 25th

Checks should be made payable to: **Grace Lutheran Church**



6" – 5 or more flowers - \$9.00
8.5" – 12-15 or more flowers - \$27.00
12" – Jumbo, 20 or more flowers - \$49.00

All flowers will be red with gold foil.

The sign-up sheet will be on the white board in the narthex.
Put your payment in the envelopes provided on the table in the back of church
and place in the basket.

In Memory OR Honor of will be included in the bulletin.

Flowers will be provided from ***Milaeger's***.

Stewardship Corner

God's economy is much different than the world's. The world tells us to make as much money as we can to buy as much as we can. We are told that we deserve and need the newest and best of everything, and happiness will come from having much. In contrast, God's Word tells us, "give, and it will be given to you...For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38). In God's economy, we receive by giving. Jesus tells us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The Apostle Paul wrote, "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). God gives us the capacity and the desire to give, and He promises to bless us through our generous giving (Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:10).

REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions for the *Equipper* please forward to Sarah Anderson at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.



Annual Panther Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone who came out and teed up!
We had 44 golfers participate this year!
A lot of fun was had by all!



GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM—When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits.

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership.

*****Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:**

Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice." **For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>**

LADIES GUILD

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Ladies you are invited to join us this month for our Bible study.

November 14 & 28

8am -9:30am at church

Our Way Home: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer by Daniel Paavola

Any questions, please contact:
Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740

Altar Guild

There are a few openings on the Linen Care and Communion Set-up team we are looking to fill for the upcoming year.

If you are interested in serving the Lord and Grace church in this way, please contact Jennifer Olen at 414.305.3740, olenjennifer@aol.com

Grace Ladies Guild Meeting

Saturday*November 14*10:00a.m.
At Church

- Reveal our Secret Sisters and pick new ones for the year
- Discuss Christmas service project instead of cookie packing

20th Annual Cookies by the Pound Sale...has been cancelled!

This was to be the **final** year of the cookie sale. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this GREAT event. Your enthusiasm and support for this event was AMAZING!

All of your smiling faces, delicious cookies and your love of Christ made this sale the success it was year after year. Not only was money raised for church, but we were also given the opportunity to share the Christmas spirit with those who walked into our building.

What a blessing it was to wish them all a Merry Christmas! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

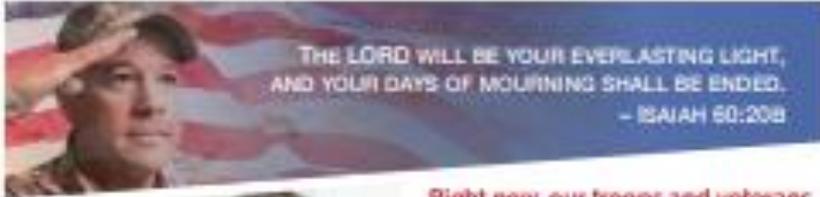
Merry Christmas to all the cookie elves... Jennifer Olen



***A HUGE thank you to my husband Mark, who not only understood that the 1st week in December was Cookie Week in our house (and he wasn't allowed to eat any of them) but also, played the part of a blue cookie loving monster, was willing to get dressed up as cookies and took down the old cookie sign on cold December nights in the dark.

MILITARY BIBLESTICK

A ministry of Faith Comes By Hearing®



THE LORD WILL BE YOUR EVERLASTING LIGHT,
AND YOUR DAYS OF MOURNING SHALL BE ENDED.
- ISAIAH 60:20B



You can be a champion for our servicemen and women – a hero to our heroes in uniform!

Recent months have put our service members and veterans through trials unlike any other:

- Deployments in dangerous places have been extended, sometimes for months.
- Significant manpower and resources are being poured into containing the virus, affecting training schedules and readiness.
- Quarantines, travel restrictions, and COVID-19 outbreaks are severely impacting necessary recruitment numbers and crucial relocations of troops and their families.

Right now, our troops and veterans face fear and isolation. They need stability, strength, and peace – and this is what the audible Word of God brings them.

Your partnership is crucial. Chaplains are working hard to provide God's Word during these dark times, and we receive requests for 12,000 more Military BibleSticks per month. Your gift provides these BibleSticks to our military heroes, plus an invitation to request free Audio Scriptures for their family back home. Your gift will let them know: wherever they are, whatever they are facing, YOU are with them in spirit, praying and caring for them.

“The Military BibleStick allows me to utilize all my downtime to focus my mind on Jesus Christ.”

» SSGT AIR FORCE

“The Military BibleStick has grounded me in the Bible. Drawn me back to God and what really matters with respect to my morals and taking care of my family. Thank you and God bless.”

» E-4 ARMY

Thank you for reaching out to bless our troops and veterans in a practical way by providing God's Word through Military BibleSticks.

\$25 sponsors one service member and their family.

Please make checks payable to the church.

MilitaryBibleStick.com | info@MilitaryBibleStick.com
2421 Aztec Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107 | 800.545.6552

181224

The Military Bible Stick Program - Grace Lutheran Church

If you would like to donate to this mission project, please take an envelope from the table in the Narthex.

Thank you for your generosity and support of God's Kingdom work among our nation's military personnel.

You can put that envelope in the offering plate at church and it will go to this designated mission.

Grace's Social Media Corner

Why is Grace Lutheran on Facebook and Instagram?

Aren't those just for funny cat videos and political rants?

We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.

However, most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using this technology to continue the work of spreading the
Good News of God's Riches At Christ's Expense!

Join us in this work!

LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!



Facebook:

*Grace Lutheran Church School &
Early Childhood Center, Oak Creek,
WI*



Instagram:

gracelutheran_oakcreek

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 James Block
- 2 Lori Kachelmeier
- 3 Rebecca Koehn
- 3 Kelsea Parker
- 4 Nick Norton
- 6 Leksie Poellet 😊
- 8 Jesse Dotson
- 8 Patricia Toman
- 9 Rachel Miliacca
- 10 Rick Weeks
- 14 Caleb Beekman
- 14 Madeline Durant
- 15 Genevieve Pankow
- 16 Jeanne Meyer
- 17 Molly Pulkownik
- 18 Larry Herte
- 20 Bernice Byklum
- 21 Diane Ohm
- 21 Laura Urbaniak
- 22 Kaitlyn Barboza
- 22 Reagan Svcek
- 25 Erica Vitek
- 27 Delores Riemer
- 28 Lynn Serdynski
- 29 Kennedy Gettelman
- 29 Morgan Parker
- 29 Donna Wenzel



Anniversaries



- 11/1 Mark & Jennifer Olen
- 11/3 Glenn & Donna Dotson
- 11/10 Dean & Phyllis Berglund
- 11/12 Aaron & Sarah Schmidt
- 11/23 Steve & Jen Gettelman
- 11/24 Alan & Pam Umaske

Radio Worship Service

"*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.



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 if our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC
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