

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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PAID

Blaine, WA
Permit No. 41

Worship Services

Sunday 10:30 am

Bible Class & Sunday School 9am

Contemporary 4:30 pm

Upcoming:

Cares Committee—Dec. 6, noon to 3pm

Preschool Prep—Dec. 12 at 2:00pm

Children's Christmas Program—Dec. 17 at 10:30am

Family Dinner—Dec. 17 at 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Worship— 8:00pm

Christmas Day Worship—10:00am



Pastor's Message:



Times and Seasons—A Season of Hope—A Prayer Page for December

“To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.” Eccl. 3:1

Where are the signs of hope? Our society, our culture, gives us precious little reason to hope. Election time has reminded us that politicians cannot fulfill all our yearnings. A fluctuating economy is a constant reminder of our uncertain world. The seemingly endless wars are a reminder that hate is alive in the world. Into these grim reminders comes the fragile word of Advent. God gives us no iron-clad assurances, no guarantees as the world would want. Only the old promise that he will come as He has come. As He always comes to a world of dark reminders. Softly. Silently... to change things. Let us, therefore, hope.

A HYMN PRAYER

Oh, come, oh, come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE ADVENT SCRIPTURES: WORDS OF HOPE

Our King is coming! “He shall judge between the nations and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares; their spears into pruning hooks!” And so we hope!

“Besides this, you know what hour it is, how it is full time for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” And so we hope!

John said: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” And so we hope!

“Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” And so we hope!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

A LITANY OF HOPE

For we look in vain for signs of hope. Empty pledges, unkept promises, broken dreams and feeble plans. This world offers us only chance. But you, O Lord, can offer hope. Stir up, O Lord, your power and come. For we are weak in many ways. Weak to love you, weak to trust you, weak to serve you. Yet your promise, so evident in Advent as we await the coming of Christ, burns within. So, stir our hearts, O Lord, and come. For we are called to share your hope; to people broken, bowed and desolate; to sinful people, like ourselves, who struggle with their weakness and in their struggle forget you. Stir us as messengers of hope to the sick, the fatigued and those who wait for you. In all our times of joy and sorrow stir up your people, Lord, and come! Amen.

A BRIEF CLOSING PRAYER

Holy God, your presence is seen throughout our past. We thank you for your Spirit's guidance in the work that we have done and we ask for eyes of faith to see your mighty works in the future. Give us love for others, joy in serving, hope in living, and trusting hearts that rejoice in your love which graced the world in the gift of the Christ Child. Let us go forth in hope. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Peace to you! *Pastor*

CARES COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS

Please come join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 6th, from Noon till 3:00pm (or when we've finished), to prepare cards for our January, February and March 2024 birthdays, thinking of you, and get well cards. This is a great time for fellowship and for letting members of our church family know we're thinking of them. Extra greeting cards are always appreciated, so if you happen to have any that you're willing to part with, please bring them by the church. Everyone is welcome to join us, so please mark your calendars and come. Give me a call at (360) 332-7311, to let me know if you can make it, or if you have questions.

Blessings to you and thank you , Lenore Onyon

Servants	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31
ACOLYTES	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden
ALTAR COMM.	Carolyn & Ann	Carolyn & Ann	Carolyn & Ann	Carolyn & Ann	Carolyn & Ann
SCRIPTURE READERS	Steve Galbraith	Joan Gregory	Dan Persse	Lenore Onyon	Sandie Miller
PIANIST	Janet Mehus		Janet Mehus		
ORGANIST	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson		Brent Johnson
COMM. ASST.	Sandie Miller		Jon Huffman		
USHERS	Jon Huffman Dick Johnson	Jay Pukaluk	Jim Higby Dan Persse		Jon Huffman Jim Higby



Dear Grace family,

Thank you for packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas child. Our church family packed 58 boxes that will be sent all over the world and use to share the love of Jesus with all of God's children.

My family and I helped with the processing and community collection in Blaine.

It has been a blessed year for shoes boxes. Thank you. Remember to pray for the boxes and the children who receive them.

Jenny Funderberg

D is for December. D is for Deity. D is for Delightful!

This is the month we prepare & celebrate! In particular we prepare for & celebrate our Diadem of Beauty (Isaiah 28:5), our Delightful Deity, our Love Come Down! We prepare for & celebrate our Savior's birth & the tremendous gift God gave the world that day!

May we delight in our Delightful Deity who came & dwelt among us so we may dwell with Him forever! May we remember & live His Love & be His Light for all to see! Mrs. Z

Preschool Happenings—

Happy holidays! We celebrate and are thankful for our friends, our school, and our families this month. Christmas is just around the corner! We will be working together to pack shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, a hands-on opportunity for our students to actively practice giving and helping other children around the world.

Soon we will be celebrating the season together with our Christmas program. Preschoolers have been learning the story of Jesus' birth through the story *Angel! Angel! What Do You See?*, and we have been singing some fun Christmas songs together as well. We can't wait to share their hard work (and super cuteness!) with their families.

Our kiddos have been doing a great job of learning expected classroom behavior and practicing the social and emotional skills they will continue to develop in "big school." At this point in the year, we have introduced eight letter names and sounds, numbers 1-10, and have enjoyed lots of fun science and art projects together. We will be reviewing concepts through our last couple of weeks before Winter Break begins.

As always we are so thankful for your support! Blessed holidays and Merry Christmas to you!

Miss Sandy



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
					— Advent Decorating —	
3 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Communion 4:30 Contemporary	4 Secretary Out of office	5	6 Cares Committee noon—3pm	7	8	9
10 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Contemporary	11	12 Preschool <u>Prep 2pm</u> Preschool Christmas Program 6:30pm	13	14 Music Meeting 2pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 MEN'S Bible <u>Study 8 am</u> Children's Rehearsal 10am
17 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Communion 10:30 Children's Program Family Dinner	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship 8:00pm	25 Christmas Worship 10:00am	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30
			— Pastor on Vacation —			
31 10:30 Worship						

BIRTHDAYS

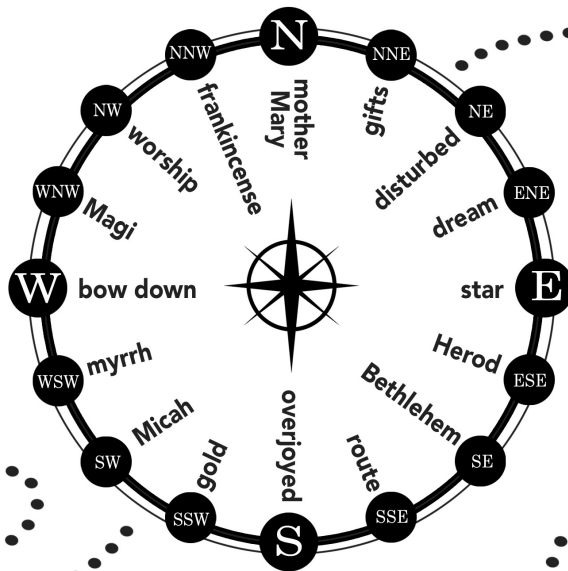
1 Marlissa Wahl		
5 Bryan Wahl Eddie Fontes	13 Seth Zuch	28 Heather Haslip Katlyn Carelton
10 Jean Cartwright	14 Isaiah Zuch	Jason Higby Elee Faulkner Lary Breitbarth
11 Curtis Whitney	19 Victor Gervol	
12 Russell Carleton Gladys Faulkner Susan Holmes	22 Zane Rector Lynne Shelton Bette Mitchell	30 Meredith Mateer (Markusen)

ANNIVERSARIES

5 Michael & Rochelle Halldorson
16 Glen & Gloria Hagen Eric & Becky Baker
27 Steven & Laura Nelson



Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
_____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; 12. frankincense; 13. gifts; 14. dream; 15. route

LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
 2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
 3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!

