

## Worship Services

Bible Class 9am

Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am

Contemporary 4:30 pm

## Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool

December 2025

### Upcoming:

Cares Committee—Dec. 10, noon—2 pm

Preschool Prep—Dec. 9 at 2:00pm

Children's Christmas Program—Dec. 14 at 10:30

Family Supper —Dec. 14 at 11:30am

Christmas Eve Worship— 8:00pm

Christmas Day Worship—10:00am



Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world." The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

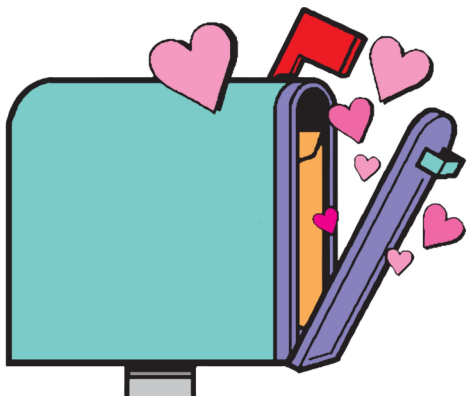
## CARES COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS

Please come join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** **from Noon till 2:00pm**

to prepare cards for our January, February and March 2026 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



## Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.

| Servants          | Dec. 7                    | Dec. 14       | Dec. 21                  | Dec.28        |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| ACOLYTES          | Caeden                    | Caeden        | Caeden                   | Caeden        |
| ALTAR COMM.       | Carolyn & Ann             | Carolyn & Ann | Carolyn & Ann            | Carolyn & Ann |
| SCRIPTURE READERS | Kristi Galbraith          | Dan Persse    | Sandie Miller            | Joan Gregory  |
| PIANIST           | Janet Mehus               | Janet Mehus   | Janet Mehus              | Janet Mehus   |
| ORGANIST          | Brent Johnson             | Brent Johnson | Brent Johnson            | Brent Johnson |
| COMM. ASST.       | Dick Johnson              |               | Sandie Miller            |               |
| USHERS            | Dan Persse<br>Jon Huffman | Bruce Shelton | Jim Higby<br>Jay Pukaluk | Caeden        |



On November 16th, Stewardship Sunday after the family dinner. Members of the Grace Lutheran family packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse. Appropriate since the gospel reading was from Luke that Sunday and detailed, the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Our good samaritans at Grace Lutheran packed 35 shoe boxes. These shoeboxes will be sent all over the world to spread the message of Jesus's love and gift of salvation.

Thank you to everyone who helped pack a shoebox. To help spread the light of Jesus's love to all quarters of the world. Those of you who could not help pack boxes this year can still help by praying for the children and families who receive the shoeboxes. Pray that they will open their hearts to the love of Jesus.

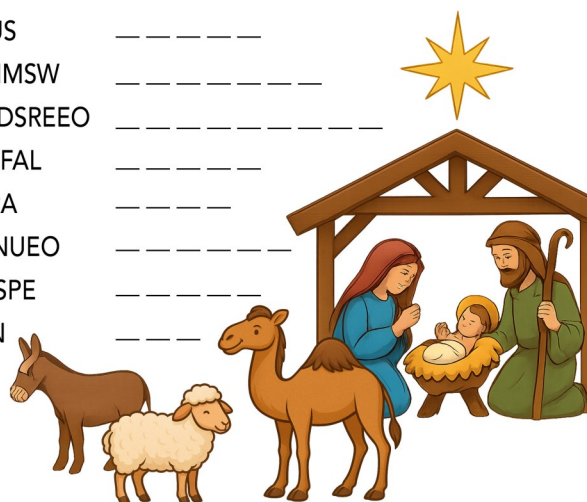


# Puzzle!

## The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) NEAGLO \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) NRMEDAG \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) ODEKSNY \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) AMGYZ \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) OHESJIP \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) EFJSUS \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) ITEENMSW \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) SPHDSREEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) EMCFAL \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) TLSRA \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) CSSNUEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (13) HEVSPE \_\_\_\_\_
- (14) ENIN \_\_\_\_\_



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1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 9    10    11    12    13    14  
 \_\_\_\_\_



# DECEMBER

| Sun  | Mon                              | Tue                     | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat   |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|-----|---|
|                             | 1<br>Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm  | 2                       | 3<br>Bible Study at Karen's 10am                            | 4<br>MEN'S Club 4:30pm  | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:30 Worship & Sunday School w. Communion<br>4:30 Contemporary                     | 9                                | 9<br>Preschool Prep 2pm | 10<br>Bible Study at Karen's 10am<br>Cares Committee noon—2 | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:30 Worship & Sunday School<br><b>Children's Program</b><br><b>Family Supper</b> | 15<br>Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm | 16<br>Preschool Program | 17<br>Bible Study at Karen's 10am                           | 18<br>MEN'S Club 4:30pm   | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:30 Worship & Sunday School w. Communion   | 22                               | 23                      | 24<br>Christmas Eve Worship 8:00pm                          | 25<br>Christmas Worship 10:00am   | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:30 Worship & Sunday School<br>4:30 Contemporary                                 | 29 — Pastor on Vacation —→       |                         |   |  |     | January 4<br>De-decorate and chili luncheon |

## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

|                              |                                 |                                  |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Marlissa Wahl              | 13 Seth Zuch                    | 28 Heather Haslip                | 1 Larry & Sharon Schell                      |
| 5 Bryan Wahl<br>Eddie Fontes | 14 Isaiah Zuch                  | Katlyn Carelton                  | 5 Michael & Rochelle Halldorson              |
| 10 Jean Cartwright           | 19 Victor Gervol                | Jason Higby                      | 16 Glen & Gloria Hagen<br>Eric & Becky Baker |
| 11 Curtis Whitney            | 22 Zane Rector                  | Elee Faulkner                    | 27 Steven & Laura Nelson                     |
| 12 Gladys Faulkner           | Lynne Shelton<br>Bette Mitchell | Lary Breitbarth                  |  |
|                              |                                 | 30 Meredith Mateer<br>(Markusen) |  |