

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Non-Profit Org.

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Blaine, WA

Permit No. 41

 *January*



Worship Services

Sunday 10:30 am

Bible Class & Sunday School 9am

Contemporary 4:30 pm

Upcoming:

January 7— Council Meeting

January 21—Family Dinner after 4:30pm service

Christmas peace to all!

As we near the end of the twelve days of Christmas what has it all meant to each of us?

The President of Concordia seminary wrote that It may seem a strange notion to think that we belong to the little baby in the manger. But those Christmas images are only part of the story. Jesus didn't come to remain a child; He came to reconcile us to God through His death and resurrection. He came to reign over us as our gracious Lord, giving us life, purpose, Hope and every good thing. He came to be our Lord now and forever. We were created to belong to Him, and belonging to Christ brings joy!

Christ was born for people of every walk of life, social class and ethnic heritage. "Fear not," the angel said, "for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10 ESV).

Consider the diversity of those who first worshiped and glorified the newborn King - a Galilean carpenter and his young wife... lowly shepherds tending flocks nearby...the heavenly host of angels...wealthy wise men from far away. God loved the world so much He sent His Son (John 3:16). Jesus has called His church to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20).

Thanks be to God for that! Because we all are sinners and we all need a Savior. As a church we look forward to the day when people from every race, tribe, language and nation will see Jesus with their own eyes and bow down and worship Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever.

Thank you for all your gifts and prayers and the way you serve our loving Christ child throughout the year. Blessings to you and yours throughout the new year.

Happy New Year! Love Pastor

Greetings!

The council has decided to send the newsletter by email instead of through the post office at the end of February 2024. To mail the newsletter each month the church buys a yearly \$400 bulk mail permit. Also, since we no longer have a maintenance contract for the copier, any maintenance and repairs are "out of pocket". This will save money, wear and tear on the copier, toner and paper. We will print a small number for people who do not have access to email. In the meantime, we will reach out to verify your email address so the changeover will be as seamless as possible. I am excited that we have the technology so we can save this money to use for other purposes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Galbraith, President

360-22-5420

Grace Budget Draft Summary	2023 Actual Jan—Nov	2023 Budget
Income	233,433	212,828
Expenses	238,869	233,013
Excess Revenue / (Shortfall)	(5,436)	(20,185)

Happy 2024! May this new year bring the ability of Christ's Light to make our lives light!

A new year a new theme! This year's theme will be, "I Have called you by name!" Isaiah 43:1

The idea that God has called each & everyone of us individually by name brings me great loving comfort, hope & peace. I love to contemplate this very thing! It is also wonderful to look at people that God has called by name & marvel at His use of each one!

This month let's talk about Joseph. Ya know, the brother who was favored & then sold into slavery & used to save a whole lot of people from starving to death, that guy. Let's talk about him. If you don't know who I am talking about there is a lovely synopsis of his fascinating life in the Bible (Genesis 37-50) check it out!

What I love about Joseph is his ability to forgive his brothers, who had sold him into slavery. I love that Joseph didn't give up. He worked super hard & became a very important worker in the leader's household. Then, he was shafted again, this time, by a married lady who wanted him & he said, "No, thank you!" That landed him in jail. Did he despair? No! He found favor with the jailers & was eventually released because of God's wisdom through Joseph enabling him to interpret the ruler's dreams. Which in turn provided him with a new job where he basically saved the region. Whoa!

I mean, this is an amazing picture of love, hope & forgiveness! He was wronged repeatedly & did not despair! He even says to those silly brothers of his, "You meant it for harm, but, God meant it for good!" His ability to see past his present circumstances is one

I've try to emulate in my life. It's not easy, but I try by keeping my eyes on Christ! In this new year may we all thrive despite our circumstances!

Hope, peace & love to you all,

Mrs. Z

Hello, friends!

We have had a wonderful time celebrating advent and anticipating Christmas together, and the children (and teachers!) will be on break along with the big schools in our community. The preschoolers did a great job at their Christmas Program, and we all enjoyed watching them and their cute performance! What a joy! On our last day before break we'll enjoy a pajama party together with a cozy movie, decorating sugar cookies, crafts, and games.

With January comes a brand new year, and the season of winter! We might have a chance to play in some snow outside, and inside we will be continuing to play and learn together in our classroom community. These kids are learning to be good friends and hard workers as they explore and adventure their way through the school year - we are very proud of them!

Thank you for all your support as we've had many events this holiday season. We so appreciate our wonderful volunteers - and your prayer support!

Miss Sandy



Learning to forgive

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it's a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, "Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Likewise, forgiveness doesn't simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it's "an act of volition," said Simon Wiesenthal, "and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision."

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. "You practically never hear sermons on forgiveness that are practical and give clear instructions on how to approach it," Professor Robert Enright tells the Washington Post.

Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. "Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power," she says. "On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward from the anger and resentment to be a better version of yourself."

First, contact

In *Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality and Mortality*, Richard Beck writes powerfully about Jesus healing a leper in Matthew 8:1-3. "What is intriguing about this story is the sequence. Jesus touches the leper first.

Then the command 'Be clean!' is offered. That is, Jesus' first move is into ritual defilement. By first touching the leper, Jesus ... [is] standing in solidarity with the unclean." Beck finds this "striking" because typically we expect purification before contact. But Jesus' actions reverse the pattern: "Contact occurs first."

How fortunate for us, too, that God didn't wait to reach out to us until he had cleansed us of sin. God didn't save us from afar and only *then* come to live among us. Rather, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV). And continuously, Jesus loves us, comes to us and touches our hearts, even when we are at our worst.

Servants	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
ACOLYTES	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden	Caeden
ALTAR COMMITTEE	Rika & Rafa	Rika & Rafa	Rika & Rafa	Rika & Rafa
SCRIPTURE READERS	April Mouw	Dan Persse	Sandie Miller	Caeden
COMMUNION AST.	Dennis Wildermuth		Sandie Miller	
PIANIST	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus	Janet Mehus
ORGANIST	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson	Brent Johnson
USHERS	Dan Persse Dick Johnson	Jay Pukaluk	Jon Huffman Jim Higby	Dan Persse



JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3	4	5 MEN'S Bible Study 3:30pm	6
7 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship w. Communion 4:30 Contemporary Council Meeting	8	9 Circuit Mtg. @ Grace Preschool Prep 2pm	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Contemporary	15 MLK Jr. Day	16	17	18	19 MEN'S Bible Study 3:30pm	20
21 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship w. Communion 4:30 Contemporary Family Dinner	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 Contemporary	29	30	31			

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kristi Galbraith
- 3 Athena Johnson
Kara Hinchey
Eadward Johnson
- 5 Todd Pomerening
- 8 Laura Nelson
Beckum Bleazard
- 10 Delray Carleton
Cynthia Thompson

- 11 Ruth Chiko
- 15 Jay Pukaluk
- 18 Charlene Liebert
- 19 Shane Thompson
- 21 Hunter Liebert
Adeline Tucker
- 22 Carol Delong
- 23 George Holmes
- 24 Kelsy Berg

- 25 Kelley Zuch
Jeremiah Tevelde

- 28 Richard Johnson
Rick Thompson

- 31 Cheryl Persse

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jason & Niki Wildermuth

