



# Good News of Grace

## January 2012

Grace Lutheran Church  
330 Green Bay Road  
Thiensville, WI 53092

**“Reaching out to all people as Disciples of Christ, we serve God, proclaim our faith and care for all creation.”**

www.grace53092.org  
262-242-1174 FAX: 262-242-0009

### January Worship Happenings

#### *First Sunday after Christmas*

**January 1, 2012**

One festive worship service at 10am, centered around the visit of the holy family to see the holy man Simeon and the prophet Anna. Christmas carols and Holy Eucharist

#### *Epiphany of Our Lord*

**January 7 & 8, 2012**

*(regular worship schedule resumes)*

#### Worship

Epiphany (“revelation”) is the season when Jesus is revealed as the light of the world. It begins on January 6 (the twelfth day of Christmas), with the visit of the *magi* from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. We will be observing the feast of Epiphany at our Saturday and Sunday worship services, in addition to other traditions:



#### Burning the Christmas Greens

After worship on Sunday morning, we will celebrate the coming of the light by gathering around the fire-pit and burning the Christmas greens. This old-new tradition is fun for the whole family. Bring friends!

#### House Blessings

Another Epiphany tradition is house blessing. Remembering the visit of the *magi* to Mary and Joseph’s home in Bethlehem, many churches pray God’s blessings over people’s homes during this season as well.

A traditional house blessing includes inscribing these letters and numbers on the doorpost:

**+20 C M B 12+**

The sign of the cross and the numbers of the new year surround three initials, which have

### Worship and Education Schedule

#### Worship Schedule

**Sunday—8am & 10:30am**  
**1st and 3rd Saturday—5pm**



#### Education

**Sunday School & Adult Forum:**

**Sundays—9:15am**

**Youth Group/Confirmation:**

**Wednesdays—6pm**

**Brown Bag Bible Study:**

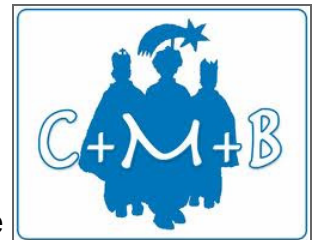
**Thursdays—12pm**

two different meanings:

**C**hristus **M**ansionem **B**enedicat  
(Christ Bless this Home, in Latin), *or*

**C**aspar **M**elchior **B**althazar  
(the traditional names for the three *magi*)

We will inscribe these letters and numbers (*in chalk*) on three different doorposts at the end of the Saturday service and the 8am Sunday service, and at the beginning of the 10:30am Sunday service.



Also, if you would like to have your own home blessed (it’s a great time to host a small gathering after the holiday rush) during the season of Epiphany (through February 21), one or both of the pastors would be happy to arrange a time to come over with chalk in hand! Just call or send an e-mail.

## From the Pastor—Another New Year

On December 1, 2011, Pr Ann and I celebrated the two-year anniversary of joining you in ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. Two years in, we can confidently say: Grace is a great place to be!

While I wouldn't encourage any other pastors to begin a new call in the hectic weeks leading up to Christmas, it is a kind of blessing to have the anniversary of our call so close to the end of one year and the beginning of another. New Years is a time for taking stock, for looking back and looking forward, for putting things behind us and dreaming about what might be possible in the future.

When we accepted this call, we told the Call Committee (and I will remind us all of this every year around this time!) that we do not have a pre-conceived notion of how long we will be with you in ministry. I do not believe there is a magic number for the perfect length of a pastor's ministry in one place. Rather, at the end of each year, we ask ourselves: Are we still growing in faith and life together? Do we still have a shared vision for God's mission for us? Are we still able to work together (albeit not without occasional differences of opinion) to become what God is calling us to be?

If the answer to those questions is "yes," then our mutual commitment to being in ministry together will continue. If the answer to any of those questions is "no," then we will work together to figure it out, or it may be time to consider a graceful transition.

This year has not been without its challenges, but I fully believe that we are moving forward **together** as a worshipping and serving community.

We are growing in faith and life. Some of that growth is measured in numbers, but more importantly, it is measured in relationships. I have grown to love and respect scores of people in this congregation, and so many of you have taken on new challenges, brought new passions, and offered your incredible gifts to help deepen our faith and expand our service.

We do have a shared vision for God's mission in this place. We long to be a place where all are welcome, where children are cherished,

where relationships are strengthened, and faith is shared.

We are able to work together to be what God is calling us to be. We occasionally stumble, and we don't always agree, but most of the time, we work together well. It's taken some of us a bit more time to get used to each other's style, quirks, and commitments, but in a world full of rancor and discord, Grace strives to be a place where we are united around what really matters (Word and Sacrament) and able to live with our differences without falling apart.

I'm not naïve—we have a long way to go to become the people God has called us to be. We will face challenges in the year to come, and there will be times when other "stuff" gets in the way of what is truly important: proclaiming Christ crucified and risen to a world that is literally dying to hear a word of hope. But Grace has been blessed with great people and a great God, and it is a privilege to look forward to another year of worship and service among you.

Peace,  
Pr Jay

### Grace Lutheran Staff

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**Pr. Ann Williams**

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E-mail: [pastorann@grace53092.org](mailto:pastorann@grace53092.org)

**Administrative Assistant: Sandy Luetzgen**

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri: 9am-2pm

**Music Coordinator: Brian Dearing**

**Youth/Family Coordinator:**

**Brooke Obregon**

**Nursery Attendant: Shonda Schaff**

**Custodians: Bill and Mary Murray**

## News from El Salvador / Mt Meru



*This month we feature one of the ten scholarship recipients from our sister church relationship in Usulután. Claudia is from Puerto Parada and active in the church at Mi Buen Jesús. She was also very active in the recent relief effort, delivering supplies to victims of the flooding from Tropical Depression 12-E. Blessings, and our best to you in your studies, Claudia!*

“My name is **Claudia Alicia Lara Ávalos** and I am 18 years old. I live in Caserío Amaya, Puerto Parada. I was born April 26, 1993, have two sisters, and live with my mom and dad. I’ve studied in the educational complex in Cantón Las Salinas and graduated with a general diploma in 2009.



“I’m a member of the community council at Mi Buen Jesús, and hold the position of secretary. Next year, I will begin my studies at the Institute of Specialized Higher Education for Salvadoran Healthcare Professionals (IEPROES). I will be studying to be a Nursing Technician, which is an area I really enjoy. When I finish my studies, I believe I’ll be able to help both my family and others who need it.



*Claudia helps distribute supplies after recent flooding*

“I also really enjoy sports and I’m a big fan of the soccer team Real Madrid. I love to listen to music and attend church, and I thank you very much for your generosity toward those who need it. Thanks to you, I’ll be able to continue studying, which is something I also enjoy very much.

“God bless you always, Claudia”

### Christmas Greetings “Krismasi salamu” From the Mt Meru Coffee Farmers

By Wendy Arneson

Krismasi salamu from the coffee farmers of the Meru diocese in Tanzania. These farmers work the crops on their small farms to bring sustenance to their families and in most cases coffee is their only cash crop. For the most part they understand that the Mt Meru Coffee Project has been their financial life line and is now their financial safety net. It is helping to bring income to their families that will help them to afford health care and their children’s education.



If they were here with us now they would tell you about the times when the only outlet for their coffee was through buyers for the large coffee traders that did not have the best interest of the small farmers at heart.

They understand that the justice based Mt Meru Coffee Project functions for their best interest and that the members of the Mt Meru Coffee Project congregations, and you who buy and drink their coffee are all on their side. About half the cost of the coffee goes directly back to the coffee farmers and their families. Thanks for buying Mt. Meru Coffee.

(Note: Mt Meru coffee and Lutheran World Relief’s line of “Divine” fair trade chocolate products are **always** on sale in the narthex near the Social Concerns drop-off bins. Since instituting this “on your honor” system, sales have gone up considerably. Thank you for continuing to support farmers around the world by providing a living wage for their hard work! If you notice that a product is missing, please alert the office and/or Pr Jay.)

# Social Concerns

## Cookie Sale Another Great Success!

The 13th annual Social Concerns Cookie Sale on December 10 was a rousing success. We raised over \$1,300 and sold out of cookies before 11am!



These funds, together with Thrivent Choice dollars (see below), are the bulk of the resources available to the Board of Social Concerns in all our various endeavors to respond to a world in need. In addition, we also sold several bags of Mt Meru coffee and LWR chocolate. **Thank you** to everyone who helped—baking cookies, setting up and cleaning up, selling cookies and welcoming neighbors to the sale.

## Have You Directed Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Yet?



Thrivent Choice replaced the old Thrivent matching program at the beginning of 2011. This system allows individual members with a certain level of investment or insurance products to direct “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to the charity of their

choice. Over the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year, we received \$4,703 from Thrivent Choice. In the first three months of the current Fiscal Year **alone**, we have already received **\$1,529!** Thank you to all who of you who have made Grace your choice! If you have Thrivent products, we encourage you to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to Grace, if you haven't already. Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> to get started.

## All Peoples' Church Ministry Focus

During January and February, we will be learning more about our partners in Milwaukee at All Peoples' Church.



There will be an **Adult Forum** series on 1/8, 1/15, 2/5, and 2/12, with guest speakers from APC talking about various aspects of their history and ministry.

On Wednesday, February 1, we are scheduled to provide the meal and join in worship at APC's **Wednesday Night Alive**. All are welcome to join us!



On Sunday, February 5, we will again participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, with all proceeds benefiting the food and health ministries of

APC. Bring a cash or check offering and/or some non-perishable food items (watch the blue sheets for specific needs).

You are invited to join us for any and all of these opportunities to learn more about and strengthen our bonds with our partners in the Harambee neighborhood of Milwaukee.

## Thank You for Sharing the Joy!

Thank you for all who participated in purchasing gifts for Lasata, All Peoples, Guest House, and/or World Hunger Appeal animals.



Ralph Buchweitz reported that we purchased more gift cards for the Guest House than ever before—**65!**

Thank you for your generosity and caring.

## Prayers for Alejandra

Alejandra Chavez Aguilar, the youngest daughter of Pr Julio of *Mi Buen Jesus*, is recovering from eye surgery to repair a congenital eye defect. Pr Julio has asked us to keep her in our prayers, which we are happy to do!

# News and Notes

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## Youth Update: Parents' Night Out

By Brooke Obregon

Parents Night Out is scheduled for Friday, January 6th from 5-8pm. Any children ages 3-10 are invited to come for an evening of fellowship run by the older youth of Grace! This is a great opportunity for you to connect with other parents at Grace, or to have a date night. Free will donations are appreciated and will help fund the high school Mission Trip to Joplin this summer!

## Worship Volunteers Needed

Anyone can do it! There are lots of ways to be involved in helping lead us in worship: ushers and greeters, readers and acolytes, assisting ministers and communion assistants. Just sign up and we'll get you trained if you've never done it before.

Coffee fellowship could also use some new hosts. It is especially easy if you team up with other friends to make coffee, bring treats, serve and clean up.

It is very helpful to the office staff if you can sign up a month in advance for any and all of these service opportunities. Sign up sheets are on the communications desk, or you can call or e-mail Sandy in the office. Thanks!

## Children's Christmas Program Thanks

This year's Christmas Program was another wonderful delight for all ages. Huge thanks to:

Cindy Karthaus, Marcia Seehusen, and all the Sunday School teachers for putting together a great program!

Lisa Miller and the Board of Education, for hosting a fabulous potluck!

The Karthaus family for beautiful decorations and bags of Christmas goodies for the kids!

Brian Dearing, Brooke Obregon, and all the wonderful musicians who played and sang us into the season!



## Official Notice: Annual Meeting January 29, 2012, 9:15am

The agenda for the Annual Meeting this year will include:

- \* Receiving the Annual Report for ministry in 2011

- \* Elections: new officers and members of Council, Nominating Committee, Endowment Board, Synod Assembly, and Audit Committee

- \* First consideration of Amendments to the Constitution (see below)

- \* Resolution regarding refinancing the mortgage (see below)

All voting members (confirmed and active) are encouraged to attend; all other guests and friends are more than welcome as well.

**Constitution:** A forum was held on December 11 to introduce the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Following that meeting, two additional minor amendments (as well as some more grammar and formatting suggestions) were added after consideration by the *ad hoc* team and a vote by Council. New copies are available on the Communication Desk.

**Mortgage Refinance:** In October, the current mortgage note at M&I bank matured. As a result, the Finance Committee researched other options. The team found a refinancing option with Thrivent, which will shorten the amortization period and lower the interest rate, while keeping our monthly payments at essentially the same level as is currently budgeted. To execute this transaction, Thrivent requires a resolution to be passed by the Congregation.

More information on both the Constitution and the Mortgage resolution will be available at a second forum on **Sunday, January 22, at 9:15am in the Luther Room.**

In the meantime, contact: Red Benson, Jim Button, Chris Larsen, Martin Panning, John Richmond, Dan Umhoefer, and/or Pr Jay regarding the constitution, or Steven Names regarding the mortgage.

# News and Notes

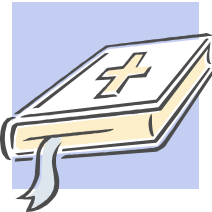
## Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

We are now in the “year of Mark” in our cycle of Sunday readings from the Gospel of Matthew. To help deepen your encounter with this gospel, we will gather (as we did last year for Matthew) for

**Hearing the Story—from Beginning to End:** On **Saturday, January 28**, from 9am-11:30am, we will gather to read and hear the entire Gospel of Mark, from start to finish. We will brew coffee, dress comfortably, and take occasional breaks. At the conclusion, we will talk briefly about the experience of hearing the whole story. This was a very meaningful event last year—bring a friend!

## “You shall be my witnesses”: The Acts of the Apostles

Are you hungry for the Word? Starting January 5, all are welcome to join Pr Jay as we study the weird and wonderful world of Acts. This weekly Bible study (Thursdays at Noon) is a great opportunity to deepen your faith and build relationships with other members of our community.



Think about joining in the fun this year—a new year resolution to study scripture is one you can actually keep!



**Families work together to make Advent wreaths for their homes on November 27.**

## The Betty Dixon Tree

By Mary Gieschen

Over 30 years ago, Betty became an ambassador to save this evergreen and prevailed. However, this winter, it was determined by arborists that the tree is dying and is in danger of falling down. Therefore, plans have been made to have the tree removed (along with other trees on the property) for safety reasons. The Betty Dixon tree has come full circle.



A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.....

by Joyce Kilmer

## Over 55" Event

By Karen Petersen

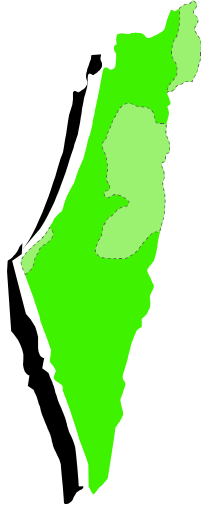
The "Over 55" group is planning to take a tour of Luther Manor. The date is January 19 and will include lunch. We will tour the independent living area and the assisted living area. Please watch the bulletin for further information, but put the date on your calendar. We would leave the church about 9:45 AM and return mid-afternoon.



# News and Notes

## Israel Pilgrimage 2012

St. Matthew's (Wauwatosa) and Fox Point Lutheran churches are teaming up to go to the Holy Lands next May 2012 for a Pilgrimage tour. A trip like this brings scripture to life before your very eyes. Also as a bonus, Dan Bice, the Journal Sentinel columnist will be joining the trip as one of our leaders. As focused as Dan is on politics for his column, his real personal passion is Biblical Archeology. Dan often draws large crowds to hear him during St. Matthew's Adult Education classes.



There are several spots still open and available for anyone who would like to attend, but space is limited and running out, so act soon and join us on a pilgrimage tour of the Holy Lands. For more details about the trip, check out the St. Matthew's web site here....

<http://www.stmattslutheran.org/education/israel2012.html> Also, Costs, details about the trip and registration forms can be found on <http://www.stmattslutheran.org/Docs/Israel2012>. Send forms care of Pastor Chris Manke's attention.

## January Birthdays!

Name	Date
Grace Nemcek	1
Leah Tews	3
Aliisa Sampe	9
Justin Ellis	11
Luke Neusen	11
Paul Gieschen	12
Ewald Ickert	13
Helen Marie Lohr	13
Cathy Carney	14
Bobbi Jo Jimenez	16
Hildegard Quaegber	17
Phyllis Beilke	18
Orthelia Wippert	19
Lynne Nemcek	20
Jenny Gehr	21
Lydia Names	22
Martin Panning	23
Nancy Perez	23
Elyse Chambers	25
Sadie Ferguson	26
Bob Raymond	28
Andrea Richmond	28
James Kubanek	29
Audrey Bierman	30
Ann Stoker	31

*If you have a birthday this month and your name is not listed, we apologize. Please call the church office so that we may update our records.*

*Thank you!*



## Book Drive

Hailey Ellis is collecting new and gently used children's books for a children's literacy service project through the Girl Scouts. Look for a collection box in the narthex. Thank you for helping Hailey - and for spreading the joy of reading!



## Endowment News

In response to bequests to the Grace Endowment Fund, the Endowment Committee was able to donate \$600 to St. Ben's Meal Program and \$600 to the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Outreach for Hope Fund.

We give thanks to God for all those who through their donations have enabled us to touch lives, build relationships and strengthen our ministry as a congregation. If you would like more information on including the Grace Endowment Fund in your estate planning, please contact Red Benson 262-242-2942.

## Church Financial Update—FYTD (October 1, 2011 thru November 30, 2011)

Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 44,473
Actual Income:	\$ 50,137
Actual Expenses:	\$ 42,431
Difference: Inc. less Exp.:	\$ 7,706

Thank you for continuing respond to God's call to give generously to our ministry!

Grace Lutheran Church  
303 Green Bay Road  
Thiensville, WI 53092

January 2012  
GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Worship:**

Worship with Holy Communion  
Sundays: 8 & 10:30am  
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 5pm

**Education:**

Bible Study—Thursdays: 12pm  
Sunday School for All Ages  
9:15 am  
Youth Night—Wednesdays: 6pm-8pm



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



***Advent Icon Redux***

During Advent, many of our members worked to piece together an icon of Mary and Jesus using scraps of Christmas commercial advertisements.

The Icon, together with an artist's statement, is hanging in the narthex and will be on display throughout the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany.

“Redux” is a Latin word that means “brought back, restored, revisited.” Thank you to all who helped to bring back, restore, and revisit the patient waiting and hopeful anticipation of the Advent season.



# JANUARY LEADERS

## GREETERS

	8:00 am	10:30 a.m.
1	<b>10:00am</b>	
8		
15	Alice Neitzel	
22		
29		

## ASSISTANT MINISTERS

	8:00 am	10:30 am
1	<b>10:00 am</b> Leila Chambers	
8		Debbie Tews
15	Karen Petersen	
22		
29	Leila Chambers	

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

	8:00 am	10:30 am
1	<b>10:00 am</b> 1 2	
8	1 Elsbeth Bruhnke 2 Helga Ickert	1 Karen Petersen 2 Gordy Petersen
15	1 2	1 2
22	1 2	1 2
29	1 2	1 2

## ACOLYTES

	8:00 am	10:30 am
1	<b>10:00 am</b> USHER	
8	USHER	
15	USHER	
22	USHER	
29	USHER	

Pews: Karen & Gordy Petersen, Holly & Walt Kremmel

## READERS

	8:00 am	10:30 am
1	<b>10:00 am</b> Tom Gauthier	
8	Leigh Benson	
15	Dean Arneson	
22		
29		JoAnn Holdmann

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP (sign up with a buddy!)

1	
8	
15	
22	
29	

### (COMMUNION SET-UP (See Diane Umhoefer to sign up))

Jan 1 10:00 a.m. Christa Buchweitz

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Jan 8	Isbeth Bruhnke	Karen Petersen
Jan 15	Karen Larsen	Shirley Warber
Jan 22	Helga Ickert	Angela Thom
Jan 29	Holly Grassin-Kremmel	Ross Greinke

### FLOWERS

#### USHERS

<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	Dick Reuter©, Mike Brauckhoff, Rich Koch
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Diane Umhoefer©, David Rauth, Art Habemann, Tom Martin

#### COUNTERS

Jan 2	Carol Raymond* and Alice Neitzel
Jan 9	Walter Kremmel* and Holly Grassin-Kremmel
Jan 16	Ralph Buchweitz* and Christa Buchweitz
Jan 23	Marven* and Marcia Seehusen
Jan 30	Martin Panning* and John Walch

### Help us Serve!

**Please help us out in the office by signing up well in advance to be a worship volunteer. Sign-up sheets are on the Communication Desk. Try something new! We'll get you trained and ready to go!**

# JANUARY 2012

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**303 GREEN BAY ROAD, THIENSVILLE**  
**262-242-1174**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 1</b>  <b>10:00 am Worship/Com.</b>	2	3	4	5  9:30 Postscripts Bridge  12:00 pm Bible Study  6:30 pm Grace reh. 8:00 pm Bells reh.	6	7          <b>5:00 pm Worship/Com.</b>
<b>Epiphany 8</b> <b>8:00 am Worship/Com.</b> 9:15 am Sunday School/ Adult Forum 9:15 am Chancel Reh. <b>10:30 am Worship/Com.</b>  <i>Burning the Greens and            House Blessing</i>	9          7:30pm Endowment Comm. meeting	10	11          5:00 pm Youth Band Practice 6:00 pm Youth Night	12          9:00 am Quilting 12:00 pm Bible Study 3:00 pm Worship Arts 6:30 pm Grace reh. 8:00 pm Bells reh.	13	14          8:00 am Men's Bible Study
15          <b>8:00 am Worship/Com.</b> 9:15 am Sunday School/ Adult Forum 9:15 am Chancel Reh. <b>10:30 am Worship/Com.</b>	16	17	18          8:30 am Guest House Sandwiches  5:00 pm SBG Practice 6:00 pm Youth Night	19          12:00 pm Bible Study  6:00 pm Social Conc. 6:30 pm Grace reh. 8:00 pm Bells reh.	20	21          9:00am SBG Practice  3:00 pm Goniu Wedding <b>5:00 pm Worship/Com.</b>
22          <b>8:00 am Worship/Com.</b> 9:15 am Sunday School/Const. Forum 9:15 am Chancel <b>10:30 am Worship/Com.</b> 11:30 am BOW meeting	23	24          7:00 pm Council Mtg.	25          5:00pm Youth Band Practice 6:00pm Youth Night	26          9:00 am Quilting 12:00 pm Bible Study  3:00 pm Worship Arts 5:00 pm St. Ben's 6:30 pm Grace reh. 8:00 pm Bells reh.	27	28          9:00am The Gospel of Mark
29          <b>8:00 am Worship/Com.</b> 9:15 Sunday School/ Congregation Mtg. <b>10:30 am Worship/Com.</b> 11:00 am Wagner Brunch	30	31				