



Good News of Grace

JANUARY 2011

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

The Light of Christ: Burning the Christmas Greens

On *Sunday, January 9*, all are welcome to gather outside to ring in the new year and the season of Epiphany (the season of Light) with the Burning of the Christmas Greens. This is an ancient tradition—new to Grace as of last year—for welcoming the new year with joy, prayer, and a sign of light and warmth in the midst of a dark and cold season.



Please bring in the leftovers from your live Christmas trees /wreaths/ garlands (cut into 1-2-foot long branches) anytime before 1/9; pile them up under the overhang on the rocks by the main entrance. We will gather around the fire after both the 8am and 10:30am service. All are welcome to join in the fun. Invite your friends!

Official Notice: **Annual Congregation Meeting** **Sunday, January 23, 2011** **9:15am**

The Congregation will receive the 2010 Annual Report, elect leaders for 2011, and consider a proposed Statement of Welcome prepared by the Reconciling in Christ working group and recommended to the Congregation by Council. All confirmed and active members of the congregation are encouraged to attend and vote. Friends of the congregation and those yet to be confirmed are also more than welcome to attend as visitors.

Worship and Education Schedule

Fall/Winter 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

Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

We are now in the “year of Matthew” in our cycle of Sunday readings from the Gospel of Matthew. Join Pr Jay for two different opportunities to deepen your encounter with this gospel:

Hearing the Story—from Beginning to End: On **Saturday, January 29**, from 9am-12pm, we will gather to read and hear the entire Gospel of Matthew, 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.

Brown Bag Bible Study: Beginning **Thursday, January 6**, we will gather weekly at 12pm for a study of the Gospel of Matthew. If you missed our study of Hebrews in the fall, now is a great time to jump in! Bring a lunch, a Bible, your brain, and some friends!

From the Pastor / Mutual Ministry Teams

The Epiphany of Our Lord

My in-laws have several beautiful nativity scenes or crèches at their home. They are displayed around the house with all of the other holiday decorations, but in an unusual way; the stable may rest on the coffee table, but the figurines of the shepherds and sheep are up on a book shelf “keeping watch over their flocks by night.” Mary and Joseph and the donkey journey a little bit closer to “Bethlehem” every day, but they don’t arrive on the coffee table until Christmas Eve, and the little baby Jesus is hidden from view until Christmas morning. (The lucky kid who finds the baby Jesus gets to open the first present). But even after all of the gifts are opened, after all of the relatives have gone home, and even after the New Year celebrations, the three kings are still in another room on some Eastern windowsill making their long trip by camel.

The McDivitt nativity tradition was a fun way to teach the Christmas story when Jay and his brother were small, but it also reminds me that the scene isn’t really complete until the Magi make it to the coffee table too—on January 6, the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany is the season after Christmas, and it is the season in which we discover that Christ’s light shines brightly for the whole world to see. Over each Sunday of Epiphany, we learn a little bit more about who Christ is for us and for all people.

The Magi are an important part of the story, and their gifts are symbols that help us know who the baby Jesus will grow to be: gold—a gift for kings, frankincense— ritually burned in the presence of a deity, and myrrh— an oil used to anoint priests and bodies at death. The Magi’s gifts proclaim that Jesus, the son of God, our king and priest died for our sake and for the sake of the whole world.

I hope that during these cold days, you feel the warmth of Christ’s light in your life.

Happy Epiphany,

Pastor Ann

Mutual Ministry Teams Meeting Soon

Both Pr Ann and Pr Jay have separate Mutual Ministry Teams, which exist in order to “tend to the relationship” between the pastors and the congregation. Their primary task is to share reflections on the joys and concerns they have regarding the pastor’s ministry, and to hear the pastor reflect on her/his joys and concerns as well.

The membership of these committees will shift after the January 23 Annual Meeting, but currently they are:

Pr Jay: Paul Tews (chair), Judy Button, Mary Karthaus, Tommy Martin, Lynn Moertl, Martin Panning, and John Walch.

Pr Ann: Jim Button (chair), Skip Joers, Brian Karthaus, Craig Koch, Debbie Tews, Diane Umhoefer, and Joyce Winghart.

If you have reflections to share with either of the pastor’s Mutual Ministry Team, please talk with one of these team members. Also, please note: Only under extraordinary circumstances will these teams receive anonymous feedback. Ministry is relational, and relationships cannot be formed, healed, or nurtured through anonymous feedback.

Grace Lutheran Staff

Tel: 262-242-1174—Fax: 262-242-0009
Website: www.grace53092.org

Pr. Jay McDivitt

Cell: 262-397-7082

E-mail: pastorjay@grace53092.org

Pr. Ann Williams

Cell: 262-397-7083

E-mail: pastorann@grace53092.org

Parish Administrator: Laurel Rose

Office Hours: Mon—Thu: 9am-2pm

Music Coordinator: Brian Dearing

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Brooke Obregon

Nursery Attendant: Shonda Schaff

Custodians: Bill and Mary Murray

Social Concerns / Spotlight on the Endowment

Thank You from the Guest House

From the Social Concerns Board



Milwaukee is now the 4th poorest large city in the nation, with the poverty rate reaching 27% in 2009. The Guest House depends on your support now more than ever.

On any given night in Milwaukee, there are approximately 2 000 homeless individuals and families. In the news we heard reports that the average American is 3 paychecks away from homelessness. With record-high unemployment, it is no surprise the Guest House waiting list for shelter ranges between 20 to 40 people per night.

Our congregation donated **52 gift cards** and many urgently-needed items, like warm shirts, underwear, personal care items, and more to the Guest House. All your donations were delivered on Monday, December 13. There were smiles on the men's faces when they helped to unload the car. A great big "thank you" from the Guest House!

Cookie Sale a huge success!

From the Social Concerns Board

Thank you Cookie Bakers!

The cookie sale was a huge success. Social Concerns made \$1598 to support our partnerships in the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. The variety of cookies was outstanding. We actually had cookies left over this year, which were served at Coffee Fellowship and sent along with poinsettias to the people on our Home Care list.



Also a special thank you to all of you who helped with the cookie sale: Edie Peters, Frank Wolf, Ralph Buchweitz, Bob and Fran Grant, Rich and Craig Koch, Joyce Winghart, Shonda Schaff, Karen Larsen, Becky and Tommy Martin, Diane Umhoefer, Dean and Wendy Arneson, the Youth Group, Dawn Luebke, and Laurel Rose. (If we've forgotten anyone, we apologize.) Your help was greatly appreciated!

Spotlight on the Endowment

Throughout the year, we have been lifting up the many and various ministries and causes we have been able to support through a generous bequest from the estate of Avis Blank, as well as



the income generated by the full principal held in the Endowment—the gifts of many faithful people over many years. To close out the year, here is a summary of all the ministries that have received funds from



the Blank Estate and the Grace Endowment during 2010:

Luther Manor—River Oaks:	\$800
Interfaith Caregivers:	\$3,000
Family Sharing of Ozaukee County:	\$2,500
Ozaukee Family Services:	\$2,000
COPE Hotline:	\$1,900
St. Benedict Meal Program:	\$1,500
Guest House:	\$500
Grace Worship Arts:	\$400
Grace Capital Improvements:	\$15,500
Big Brothers/Big Sisters:	\$500
Mi Buen Jesus, El Salvador:	\$1,500
El Salvador Sister Parish Fees:	\$800
Outreach for Hope:	\$3,000
Grace Lutheran Scholarship Fund:	\$3,900
Grace's LWR Quilting Project:	\$500
UW-M Lutheran Campus Ministry:	\$500
Total:	\$38,800

Thanks be to God for the faithful witness of Avis Blank and all those who have funded



our capacity to touch lives, build relationships, and strengthen our ministry as a congregation that cares for all creation! If you would like any information on including Grace in your estate planning, talk with Red Benson (242.1942).



News and Notes

Reconciling in Christ: Next Steps

At its November meeting, the Church Council voted unanimously to recommend the following Welcome Statement for consideration at the



Annual Meeting

on January 23, 2011. This will complete a 13-year-long process of becoming officially recognized as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Proposed Welcome Statement: *Grace Lutheran Church is a religious community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a 'Reconciling in Christ' congregation, which means we welcome the participation of people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions - all who want to join us in serving God, proclaiming our faith, and caring for all creation.*

If you have any questions, please ask any member of the Reconciling in Christ Working Group, or **come to an open forum on January 16, 2011, at 9:15am.**

The members of the Group are: Leigh Benson, Mary and Paul Gieschen, Jerry and Mary Karthaus, Pr Jay McDivitt, Kim Nagel, Edie Peters, Bill Prueser, Janie Robbins, and Marcia and Marven Seehusen.

(A detailed explanation of this history and process, along with Frequently Asked Questions, was included in the December issue of the "Good News of Grace," available on the website or from the office upon request.)

Dates to Remember:

**Forum on Reconciling in Christ
Sunday, January 16—9:15am**

**Consideration of the Welcome Statement
Sunday, January 23—9:15am**

Community Life Update: "Dinners for Eight"

If you haven't signed up for "Dinners for Eight" yet, please do so as soon as possible! We hope to have these groups of rotating dinner parties started in January. This is a great way to get to know a few other people from Grace in an informal setting and eat good food. Sign up is on the communications desk at church.

Annual Reports Due!

It's that time of year again! All committees, officers, groups, programs, ministries, etc., at Grace are encouraged to get an Annual Report of your 2010 work turned into Laurel in the office as soon as possible! We need to publish these early in January, so please be sure to get them in soon.



...to the Karthaus family and Donna Deutschmann for setting up the tree in the sanctuary! And to the Board of Worship for decorating the church for Christmas.

...to Gordy Petersen for putting up the Memorial Tree.

...to Karen Martin, Rachel and Becca Laabs, Jessica Kuenn, and Kelsey Wagner for coming on a Saturday to bake cookies for the sale.

...to all those who stepped forward to help lead worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

...to Brian Dearing and the scores of musicians at Grace who put together another wonderful Advent Lessons and Carols service.

News and Notes

Adult Forum News

January is a busy time between services. Adult Forum will meet **only once**, on Sunday, January 9. On that day, the Gideons will be here for a brief presentation about their ministry. The remainder of the time, we will play "Stump the Pastor" - come ready with any question you have about faith, life, and the Bible and see if you can stump Pr Jay—and each other—with your questions.

On Sunday, January 16, we will have a forum on being Reconciling in Christ; and on Sunday, January 23, we will have our Annual Congregation Meeting between services. On January 30, we will have an "All Church Activity." In February, we will begin a tour through the places, history, and current events in the Holy Land.

"Over 55" News

Someone said the "55 and Over" group was going out in January. Not really! The planning committee learned of a small bus and also about the Shauer Theater in Hartford. There were only a few seats available for the play. The planning committee decided to "try" the bus and theater knowing only a few could attend. We asked a couple of regular attendees to fill the last few seats. We have reached a point where we do not want to take the responsibility of driving people to events and we often cannot fill a large bus. Assuming the results are good, we will schedule the same trip (different play) at a future date for all who want to attend. We apologize to anyone that would have liked to attend and we couldn't accommodate.

But keep you calendars open, we're working on a brunch in February-March (it probably won't be February 20 as originally indicated) a boat and lunch tour in May and our annual picnic in August, and don't forget Drury Lane in the fall. We'll keep you posted. We're trying to find some things to do in the area so that we don't have to be gone for the whole day.

Book Club

We will be reading *Have a little Faith*, by Mitch Albom. Please Note: We have changed the meeting date to **Friday, January 28, at 4:30pm**, at the Bensons' home.



January Birthdays!

Name	Date
Grace Nemcek	1
Leah Tews	3
Aliisa Sampe	9
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
Lynn Nemcek	20
Jennifer Gehr	21
Lydia Names	22
Martin Panning	23
Nancy Perez	23
Robert Raymond	28
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!

In Memoriam

Shirley Kudlaty completed her baptismal journey on Saturday, Dec. 4, surrounded by family. Funeral service was held at Krause Funeral Home on Monday, Dec. 6th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Church Financial Update—FYTD

(October 1 through Nov. 31 2010)

Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 43,994
Actual Income:	\$ 45,874
Actual Expenses:	\$ 40,917
Difference: Inc. less Exp.:	\$ 4,957

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

**Grace Lutheran Church
303 Green Bay Road
Thiensville, WI 53092**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Worship:

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

Education:

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



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

2010 Christmas Program—Sound the Bells!



We had another fabulous Christmas program this year, complete with 35 kids in the play, 15 youth in the string and wind ensembles, and 11 folks playing in the Saved by Grace Band. Huge thanks to all who helped



to pull this off, especially: Cindy Karthaus (director) and Alex Gieske and Becky Martin (assistant directors). They were assisted by Marcia Seehusen, Maren Stahle, Diane Umhoefer, Aliisa Sampe, Katherine Petersen, Jenny Gehr, Dawn Omernik-Nimmer, and Cara Tock.

After the Program, we enjoyed a wonderful potluck, organized by Suzy Wagner and Jennifer Bogli. Lots of folks brought food, helped set-up, served, and cleaned up. Thank you!

Also, a huge note of thanks to Neal Karthaus, who every year provides a bag full of goodies for all the Sunday School kids to enjoy!



JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

GREETERS

8:00		10:30 a.m.
2		The Arnesons
9	The Bensons	Joyce Winghart
16	Ross Greinke	Cindy Karthausen Family
23	JoAnn Holdmann	Brent Miller & Alex Catena
30	The Gieschens	

ASSISTANT MINISTERS

8:00		10:30 a.m.
2	1.	1. Abbie Bogli
9	1. Dan Umhoefer	1. Kelsey Wagner
16	1. Ross Greinke	1. Alex Gieske
23	1. Leila Chambers	1. Craig Koch
30	1. Paul Gieschen	1.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:00		10:30 a.m.
2	Gordy and Karen Petersen	1 Shirley Warber 2 Debbie Tews
9	1 Jim Schoebeck 2 Lorraine Blaubach	1 Paul and Mary Gieschen
16	1 Kathy Ranallo 2 Pat Ellner	1 2
23	1 Chris and Karen Larsen	1 Jessica Kuenn 2 Becca Laabs
30	Dan and Theresa Umhoefer	1 Jenna Miller 2 Becky Martin

ACOLYTES

8:00		10:30 a.m.
2	Usher	Jackson Bogli
9	Usher	Maddie Gehr
16	Usher	Grace Nemcek
23	Usher	Sara Kamarainen
30	Usher	

READERS

8:00		10:30 a.m.
2		Wendy Arneson
9	Leigh Benson	Joyce Winghart
16	Ross Greinke	Cindy Karthausen
23	JoAnn Holdmann	Ellie Bettridge
30	Mary Gieschen	

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

2	
9	Suzy Wagner
16	Holly Grassin-Kremmel and Karen Petersen
23	Karen Larsen
30	Bobbi Jimenez

(SEE DIANE UMHOEFER TO SIGN UP FOR COMM. SET-UP)

COMMUNION SET-UP 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

2	Helga Ickert	Ross Greinke
9	Elsbeth Bruhnke	Holly Grassin-Kremmel
16	Karen Petersen	Angela Thom
23	JoAnn Holdmann	Shirley Warber
30	Karen Larsen	Diane Umhoefer

FLOWERS

USHERS


8:00 a.m.	Dieter Bruhnke ©, Dorene Achterberg, Ewald Ickert, Marven Seehusen
10:30 a.m.	Ralph Buchweitz ©, Bill Luebke, Shirley Warber, Frank Wolf

COUNTERS

Jan. 3	Walter Kremmel and Holly Grassin-Kremmel
Jan. 10	Ralph and Christa Buchweitz
Jan. 17	Martin Panning & John Walch
Jan. 24	Alice Neitzel & Carol Raymond
Jan. 31	Marven and Marcia Seehusen

JANUARY 2010

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day No Worship Service
2 8:00 am WORSHIP/COM. 9:15 am NO Sunday School or Forum 10:30 am WORSHIP/COM.	3	4	5 No SBG Rehearsal 4pm—Youth Group goes to St Ben's	6 12pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Choir 8:00 pm Bell Choir	7	8 8 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Men of Grace
9 8:00 am WORSHIP/COM. <i>Burning the Greens</i> 9:15 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL/FORUM 10:30 am WORSHIP/COM. <i>Burning the Greens</i>	10 7 pm Banquet Comm Mtg.	11 7 pm Council Mtg.	12 5:00 pm SBG Reh. 6:00 pm Youth Event	13 9 am Quilting 12pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Choir 8:00 pm Bell Choir	14	15 5:00 pm WORSHIP
16 8:00 am WORSHIP/COM. 9:15 am Chancel Choir 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL/ RICFORUM 10:30 am WOSHIP/COM. 11:30am Pr Jay Mutual Ministry 11:30 am BOE Mtg.	17	18 7 pm Shalom	19 5:00 pm SBG Reh. 6:00 pm Youth Event	20 12pm Bible Study 3:00 pm Worship Arts Mtg. 6:30 pm Grace Choir 8:00 pm Bell Choir	21	22
23 8:00 am WORSHIP/COM. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Annual Congregation Meeting 10:30 am WORSHIP/COM. 11:30 am BOW Mtg.	24	25	26 5:00 pm SBG Reh. 6:00 pm Youth Event	27 9 am Quilting 12pm Bible Study 2:00 pm Lettuce 5:00 St. Ben's 6:30 p.m. Grace Choir 8:00 p.m. Bell	28	29 9am-12pm Hearing the Gospel of Matthew
30 8:00 am WORSHIP/COM. 9:15 am All Church Activity 10:30 am WORSHIP/COM.	31					